

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 265

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Public Housing Fire  
5       Safety Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act—

8               (1) the term “automatic sprinkler system” has  
9       the meaning given the term in section 31(a) of the

1 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
2 (15 U.S.C. 2227(a));

3 (2) the term “Capital Fund” means the Capital  
4 Fund established under section 9(d) of the United  
5 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d));

6 (3) the term “exempted public housing project”  
7 means a public housing project that—

8 (A) is not a newly constructed multifamily  
9 property, as defined in section 31(c)(2)(A)(ii) of  
10 the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of  
11 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(c)(2)(A)(ii)); and

12 (B) is not subject to the requirements  
13 under section 31(c) of the Federal Fire Preven-  
14 tion and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
15 2227(c));

16 (4) the terms “public housing” and “public  
17 housing agency” have the meanings given those  
18 terms in section 3(b) of the United States Housing  
19 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)); and

20 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
21 of Housing and Urban Development.

22 **SEC. 3. INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to inspections of  
24 public housing conducted by the Secretary, including  
25 through the Real Estate Assessment Center, the Secretary

1 shall report on the presence or absence of automatic sprin-  
2 kler systems in the public housing.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, based on  
5 inspections of public housing conducted during the 3-year  
6 period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, sub-  
7 mit to Congress a report on the presence or absence of  
8 automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, in par-  
9 ticular in exempted public housing projects, which shall  
10 include recommendations to improve fire safety in exempt-  
11 ed public housing projects.

12 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
13 tion shall be construed to require a public housing agency  
14 to install an automatic sprinkler system in an exempted  
15 public housing project.

16 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM TO RETROFIT PUBLIC HOUSING**  
17 **WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
19 a competitive grant program under which the Secretary  
20 shall award grants to public housing agencies to install  
21 automatic sprinkler systems in exempted public housing  
22 projects.

23 (b) LIMITATION.—A public housing agency may not  
24 use amounts received under this section to install auto-  
25 matic sprinkler systems in a rebuilt multifamily property,

1 as defined in section 31(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Federal Fire  
2 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
3 2227(c)(2)(B)(iii)).

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
5 tion to amounts appropriated to the Capital Fund under  
6 any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appro-  
7 priated to the Capital Fund \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal  
8 years 2022 through 2031 to carry out this section.

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