

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1696

To amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself and Mr. TORRES of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937.

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 “Puerto Rico Low-In-
5 come Housing Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME FAMI-**
7 **LIES.**

8 Clause (i) of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the United States
9 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(C)(i)) is
10 amended—

1 (1) by striking “Puerto Rico or any other” and
2 inserting “any”; and

3 (2) by inserting before the closing parentheses
4 the following: “other than Puerto Rico and in the
5 case of public housing agencies and projects located
6 in Puerto Rico, the same poverty guidelines as used
7 for the contiguous 48 States and the District of Co-
8 lumbia shall apply”.

9 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON LOW INCOME HOUSING ACCESS IN**
10 **PUERTO RICO.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall,
12 not later than 180 day after the date of the enactment
13 of this section, submit a report to the Congress about ef-
14 forts made by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
15 opment, in collaboration with the Government of Puerto
16 Rico, to connect low-income families residing in Puerto
17 Rico with—

18 (1) housing assistance available in Puerto Rico;
19 and

20 (2) affordable dwelling units, including dwelling
21 units that are part of a housing project assisted
22 under the United States Housing Act of 1937.

23 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under sub-
24 section (a) shall include—

1 (1) an assessment of how the Secretary of
2 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the
3 Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration
4 (PRPHA) identify and address housing needs for ex-
5 tremely low-income families that reside in Puerto
6 Rico;

7 (2) an assessment how the Secretary of Hous-
8 ing and Urban Development uses Federal disaster
9 recovery funds to rebuild and expand low-income
10 housing after natural disasters in Puerto Rico, in-
11 cluding hurricanes and earthquakes; and

12 (3) recommendations to improve the effective-
13 ness of Federal and local housing programs that
14 serve extremely low-income families that reside in
15 Puerto Rico.

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