

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5591

To establish a pilot program to convert blighted buildings into housing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a pilot program to convert blighted buildings
into housing.

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 “Revitalizing Empty
5 Structures Into Desirable Environments Act” or the “RE-
6 SIDE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. BLIGHTED BUILDING TO HOUSING CONVERSION**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ATTAINABLE HOUSING.—The term “attain-
2 able housing” means housing that—

3 (A) serves households earning not more
4 than 100 percent of the area median income, if
5 a majority of the housing units are affordable
6 to households earning not more than 80 percent
7 of the area median income; or

8 (B) serves households earning not more
9 than 120 percent of the area median income, if
10 the majority of the housing units are affordable
11 to households earning not more than 60 percent
12 of the area median income.

13 (2) CONVERTED HOUSING UNIT.—The term
14 “converted housing unit” means a housing unit that
15 is created using a covered grant.

16 (3) COVERED GRANT.—The term “covered
17 grant” means a grant awarded under the Pilot Pro-
18 gram.

19 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
20 ty” means a participating jurisdiction, as that term
21 is defined in section 104 of the Cranston-Gonzalez
22 National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
23 12704).

24 (5) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PRO-
25 GRAM.—The term “HOME Investment Partnerships

1 Program” means the program under subtitle A of
2 title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Afford-
3 able Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.).

4 (6) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
5 gram” means the Blighted Building to Housing
6 Conversion Program carried out under subsection
7 (b).

8 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

10 (8) VACANT AND ABANDONED BUILDING.—The
11 term “vacant and abandoned building” means a
12 property—

13 (A) that was constructed for use as a
14 warehouse, factory, mall, strip mall, or hotel, or
15 for another industrial or commercial use; and

16 (B)(i) with respect to which—

17 (I) a code enforcement inspection has
18 determined that the property is not safe;
19 and

20 (II) not less than 90 days have
21 elapsed since the owner was notified of the
22 deficiencies in the property and the owner
23 has taken no corrective action; or

24 (ii) that is subject to a court-ordered re-
25 ceivership or nuisance abatement related to

1 abandonment pursuant to State or local law or
2 otherwise meets the definition of an abandoned
3 property under State law.

4 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal years 2027
5 through 2031, if the amounts made available to carry out
6 the HOME Investment Partnerships Program exceed
7 \$1,350,000,000, the Secretary may use not more than
8 \$100,000,000 of the excess amounts to carry out a pilot
9 program, to be known as the “Blighted Building to Hous-
10 ing Conversion Program”, under which the Secretary
11 awards grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities
12 to convert vacant and abandoned buildings into attainable
13 housing.

14 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—For any fiscal year for
16 which \$100,000,000 is available to carry out the
17 Pilot Program pursuant to subsection (b), the
18 amount of a covered grant shall be not less than
19 \$1,000,000 and not more than \$10,000,000.

20 (2) FISCAL YEARS WITH LOWER FUNDING.—

21 For any fiscal year for which less than
22 \$100,000,000 is available to carry out the Pilot Pro-
23 gram pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall
24 seek to maximize the number of covered grants
25 awarded.

1 (d) RELATION TO HOME INVESTMENT PARTNER-
2 SHIPS PROGRAM FORMULA ALLOCATION.—A covered
3 grant awarded to an eligible entity shall be in addition
4 to, and shall not affect, the formula allocation for the eligi-
5 ble entity under the HOME Investment Partnerships Pro-
6 gram.

7 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Sec-
8 retary shall give priority to an eligible entity that—

9 (1) will use the covered grant in a community
10 that is experiencing economic distress;

11 (2) will use the covered grant in a qualified op-
12 portunity zone (as defined in section 1400Z–1(a) of
13 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

14 (3) will use the covered grant to construct hous-
15 ing that will serve a need identified in the com-
16 prehensive housing affordability strategy and com-
17 munity development plan of the eligible entity under
18 part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or
19 any successor regulation (commonly referred to as a
20 “consolidated plan”); or

21 (4) has enacted ordinances to reduce regulatory
22 barriers to conversion of commercial or industrial
23 properties to housing, which shall not include any al-
24 teration of an ordinance that governs safety and
25 habitability.

1 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a
2 covered grant for—

3 (1) property acquisition;

4 (2) demolition;

5 (3) health hazard remediation;

6 (4) site preparation;

7 (5) construction, renovation, or rehabilitation;

8 or

9 (6) the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of community land trusts.

11 (g) APPLICABILITY OF HOME REQUIREMENTS.—

12 The requirements for rental, sale, and resale of housing
13 under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program shall
14 apply to rental, sale, and resale of converting housing
15 units under the Pilot Program.

16 (h) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In administering covered
17 grants, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative re-
18 quirements for, any statute or regulation that the Sec-
19 retary administers in connection with the obligation by the
20 Secretary or the use by eligible entities of covered grant
21 funds (except for requirements related to fair housing,
22 nondiscrimination, labor standards, or the environment)
23 if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause
24 exists for the waiver or alternative requirement.

1 (i) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the termination of the Pilot Program, the Secretary shall
3 study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of
4 the Pilot Program on—

5 (1) improving the tax base of local commu-
6 nities;

7 (2) increasing access to affordable housing, es-
8 pecially for elderly individuals, disabled individuals,
9 and veterans;

10 (3) increasing homeownership; and

11 (4) removing blight.

