

Union Calendar No. 560

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7432

[Report No. 119–643, Part I]

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

MAY 11, 2026

Additional sponsors: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT,
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. LAWLER

MAY 11, 2026

Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

MAY 11, 2026

Committee on Financial Services discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 9, 2026]

A BILL

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care.

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 “Foster Youth Housing*
5 *Opportunity Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FOSTER**
7 **YOUTH.**

8 *Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677)*
9 *is amended—*

10 *(1) in subsection (a)(1)—*

11 *(A) by striking “and preventive” and in-*
12 *serting “preventive”; and*

13 *(B) by inserting “, and access to housing*
14 *for youth age 18 or older” before the semicolon;*

15 *(2) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “current*
16 *and” before “former”;*

17 *(3) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “, in-*
18 *cluding by collaborating with public housing agencies*
19 *that administer Federal housing programs serving*
20 *foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United*
21 *States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to*
22 *partner with public child welfare agencies to serve*
23 *youth who have experienced foster care” before the pe-*
24 *riod;*

1 (4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “not
 2 more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the
 3 State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a fis-
 4 cal year” and inserting “an average of not more than
 5 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its
 6 allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fiscal years
 7 covered by the application submitted by the State
 8 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection”;

9 (5) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
 10 following:

11 “(6) *HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.*—

12 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—A State may use
 13 amounts from its allotment under subsection (c)
 14 to provide supportive services to assist eligible
 15 youth who experienced foster care to obtain or re-
 16 tain suitable housing.

17 “(B) *DEFINITIONS.*—

18 “(i) *ELIGIBLE YOUTH.*—In this sub-
 19 section, the term ‘eligible youth’ means an
 20 individual who receives assistance provided
 21 under section 8(x) of the United States
 22 Housing Act of 1937.

23 “(ii) *SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.*—The
 24 term ‘supportive services’ may include—

1 “(I) basic life skills information
2 and counseling on financial literacy,
3 use of credit, and money management;

4 “(II) counseling on rental lease
5 contracts and assistance with rental
6 insurance; and

7 “(III) assistance with security de-
8 posits, utility connection fees, moving
9 costs, and other fees associated with es-
10 tablishing tenancy.

11 “(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in accord-
12 ance with this paragraph shall not be considered
13 expenditures for room and board for purposes of
14 subsection (b)(3)(B).

15 “(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Notwith-
16 standing subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State may
17 use funds from its allotment under subsection (c)
18 to provide supportive services to eligible youth
19 who have not attained 26 years of age for the
20 purpose of supporting continued access to hous-
21 ing.”; and

22 (6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “access to
23 housing,” before “and personal”.

1 **SEC. 3. JOINT AGENCY GUIDANCE.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Within 1 year after the date of the
3 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
4 Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
5 ment, shall develop and issue joint guidance to State public
6 child welfare agencies and public housing authorities to im-
7 prove alignment and coordination of housing supportive
8 services provided under section 477 of the Social Security
9 Act and housing assistance provided under section 8(x) of
10 the United States Housing Act of 1937.

11 (b) *CONTENTS.*—The joint guidance shall include the
12 following:

13 (1) *Clarification and alignment of Federal poli-*
14 *cies to improve access to housing for youth who have*
15 *experienced foster care, including youth who are in*
16 *independent living arrangements while in extended*
17 *foster care.*

18 (2) *Guidance on State use of funds provided*
19 *under section 477 of the Social Security Act for sup-*
20 *portive services (as defined in subsection (d)(6) of*
21 *such section) to improve access to housing programs*
22 *administered by the Department of Housing and*
23 *Urban Development.*

24 (3) *Best practices for building partnerships be-*
25 *tween public child welfare agencies and public hous-*

1 *ing authorities, including ways to improve access to*
2 *supportive services.*

3 *(4) Additional information the Secretaries deem*
4 *necessary to effectively coordinate Federal programs*
5 *serving current and former foster youth.*

6 *(c) PRODUCTION.—The Secretary of Health and*
7 *Human Services shall designate an official of the Depart-*
8 *ment of Health and Human Services to lead development*
9 *of the joint guidance in collaboration with the Department*
10 *of Housing and Urban Development.*

11 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

12 *Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this*
13 *Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in con-*
14 *sultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-*
15 *opment shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means*
16 *and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of*
17 *Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the*
18 *Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the*
19 *Senate a report that sets forth—*

20 *(1) aggregate data on the number of eligible*
21 *youth who have experienced foster care who are re-*
22 *ceiving Federal housing assistance;*

23 *(2) a description of the outcomes for the youth,*
24 *including the extent to which youth are able to access*
25 *stable housing and rates of homelessness;*

1 (3) *the findings from any evaluations of State*
2 *programs conducted pursuant to section 477(g)(1) of*
3 *the Social Security Act; and*

4 (4) *statutory recommendations for improving co-*
5 *ordination between public child welfare agencies and*
6 *Federal housing programs.*

7 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 *This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall*
9 *take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the*
10 *enactment of this Act.*

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