

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7701

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to reduce rent in public housing for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to reduce rent in public housing for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

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 Rent  
5 Reduction for First Responders Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING AFFORDABILITY AND SAFETY FOR**  
7 **PUBLIC SERVANTS.**

8 Section 3(a) of the United States Housing Act of  
9 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as  
2 provided in paragraph (2)” and inserting “Except as  
3 provided in paragraphs (2) and (4)”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (4)—

5 (A) in the heading, by striking “OCCU-  
6 PANCY BY POLICE OFFICERS” and inserting,  
7 “OCCUPANCY BY POLICE OFFICERS, FIRE-  
8 FIGHTERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNI-  
9 CIANS”;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as  
11 subparagraph (D);

12 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)  
13 the following:

14 “(C) RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Notwith-  
15 standing paragraph (1), a family of which one  
16 or more members are a police officer, fire-  
17 fighter, or emergency medical technician shall  
18 pay as rent for a dwelling unit assisted under  
19 this Act the highest of the following amounts,  
20 rounded to the nearest dollar:

21 “(i) 15 per centum of the family’s  
22 monthly adjusted income; or

23 “(ii) 5 per centum of the family’s  
24 monthly income”; and

1 (D) by amending subparagraph (D), as so  
2 redesignated, to read as follows:

3 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) POLICE OFFICER.—The term ‘po-  
5 lice officer’ means any person determined  
6 by a public housing agency to be, during  
7 the period of residence of that person in  
8 public housing, employed on a full-time  
9 basis as a duly licensed professional police  
10 officer by a Federal, State, or local govern-  
11 ment or by any agency thereof (including  
12 a public housing agency having an accred-  
13 ited police force).

14 “(ii) FIREFIGHTER.—The term ‘fire-  
15 fighter’ means any person determined by a  
16 public housing agency to be, during the pe-  
17 riod of residence of that person in public  
18 housing, employed on a full-time basis as  
19 a firefighter by a fire department or emer-  
20 gency medical services responder unit of  
21 the Federal Government, a State, unit of  
22 general local government, or an Indian  
23 tribal government.

24 “(iii) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHN-  
25 CIAN.—The term ‘emergency medical tech-

1           nician’ means any person determined by a  
2           public housing agency to be, during the pe-  
3           riod of residence of that person in public  
4           housing, employed on a full-time basis as  
5           an emergency medical technician by a fire  
6           department or emergency medical services  
7           responder unit of the Federal Government,  
8           a State, unit of general local government,  
9           or an Indian tribal government.”.

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