

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2723

To provide transitional housing assistance for victims of domestic violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11 (legislative day, JULY 10), 2002

Mr. LEAHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To provide transitional housing assistance for victims of
domestic violence.

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 “Transitional Housing
5 Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

7 The Attorney General, in consultation with the Sec-
8 retary of Housing and Urban Development and the Sec-
9 retary of Health and Human Services, shall award grants
10 under this Act to organizations, States, units of local gov-
11 ernment, and Indian tribes (referred to in this Act as the

1 “recipient”) to carry out programs to provide assistance
 2 to individuals, and the dependents of individuals—

3 (1) who are homeless or in need of transitional
 4 housing or other housing assistance as a result of
 5 fleeing a situation of domestic violence; and

6 (2) for whom emergency shelter services or
 7 other crisis intervention services are unavailable or
 8 insufficient.

9 **SEC. 3. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.**

10 Grants awarded under this Act may be used for pro-
 11 grams that provide—

12 (1) short-term housing assistance, including
 13 rental or utilities payments assistance and assistance
 14 with related expenses such as payment of security
 15 deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to
 16 transitional housing for persons described in section
 17 2; and

18 (2) support services designed to enable an indi-
 19 vidual, or dependent of an individual, who is fleeing
 20 a situation of domestic violence to—

21 (A) locate and secure permanent housing;
 22 and

23 (B) integrate into a community by pro-
 24 viding that individual or dependent with serv-
 25 ices, such as transportation, counseling, child

1 care services, case management, employment
2 counseling, and other assistance.

3 **SEC. 4. DURATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
5 (b), an individual, or dependent of an individual, who re-
6 ceives assistance under this Act shall receive that assist-
7 ance for not more than 18 months.

8 (b) WAIVER.—The recipient of a grant under this Act
9 may waive the restriction under subsection (a) for not
10 more than an additional 6 month period with respect to
11 any individual, or dependent of an individual, who—

12 (1) has made a good-faith effort to acquire per-
13 manent housing; and

14 (2) has been unable to acquire permanent hous-
15 ing.

16 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a
18 grant under this Act shall submit an application to the
19 Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and ac-
20 companied by such information as the Attorney General
21 may reasonably require.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursu-
23 ant to subsection (a) shall—

24 (1) describe the activities for which assistance
25 under this Act is sought; and

1 (2) provide such additional assurances as the
 2 Attorney General determines to be essential to en-
 3 sure compliance with the requirements of this Act.

4 (c) APPLICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be
 5 construed to require—

6 (1) victims to participate in the criminal justice
 7 system in order to receive services; or

8 (2) domestic violence advocates to breach client
 9 confidentiality.

10 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

11 (a) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under
 13 this Act shall annually prepare and submit to the
 14 Attorney General a report describing—

15 (A) the number of individuals and depend-
 16 ents assisted under this Act; and

17 (B) the types of housing assistance and
 18 support services provided under this Act.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report prepared and
 20 submitted under paragraph (1) shall include infor-
 21 mation regarding—

22 (A) the amount of housing assistance pro-
 23 vided to each individual, or dependent of an in-
 24 dividual, assisted under this Act and the reason
 25 for that assistance;

1 (B) the number of months each individual,
2 or dependent of an individual, received assist-
3 ance under this Act;

4 (C) the number of individuals and depend-
5 ents of those individuals who—

6 (i) were eligible to receive assistance
7 under this Act; and

8 (ii) were not provided with assistance
9 under this Act solely due to a lack of avail-
10 able housing; and

11 (D) the type of support services provided
12 to each individual, or dependent of an indi-
13 vidual, assisted under this Act.

14 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Attorney General
15 shall annually prepare and submit to the Committee on
16 the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the
17 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that
18 contains a compilation of the information contained in the
19 report submitted under subsection (a).

20 (c) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—In order to coordi-
21 nate efforts to assist the victims of domestic violence, the
22 Attorney General shall transmit a copy of the report sub-
23 mitted under subsection (b) to—

1 (1) the Office of Community Planning and De-
2 velopment at the United States Department of
3 Housing and Urban Development; and

4 (2) the Office of Women's Health at the United
5 States Department of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
8 priated to carry out this Act \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal
9 years 2003 through 2006.

10 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amount made available to
11 carry out this Act in any fiscal year, not more than 3 per-
12 cent may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and
13 administrative expenses.

14 (c) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
16 graph (2), unless all eligible applications submitted
17 by any States, units of local government, Indian
18 tribes, or organizations within a State for a grant
19 under this Act have been funded, that State, to-
20 gether with the grantees within the State (other
21 than Indian tribes), shall be allocated in each fiscal
22 year, not less than .75 percent of the total amount
23 appropriated in the fiscal year for grants pursuant
24 to this Act.

1 (2) EXCEPTION.—The United States Virgin Is-
2 lands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern
3 Mariana Islands shall each be allocated .25 percent
4 of the total amount appropriated in the fiscal year
5 for grants pursuant to this Act.

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