

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1707

To exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes.

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 “Vulnerable Veterans
5 Housing Reform Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM INCOME.**

2 Section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and any amounts” and insert-
5 ing “, any amounts”;

6 (2) by striking “or any deferred” and inserting
7 “, any deferred”; and

8 (3) by inserting after “prospective monthly
9 amounts” the following: “, and any expenses related
10 to aid and attendance as detailed under section 1521
11 of title 38, United States Code”.

12 **SEC. 3. UTILITY ALLOWANCES AND DATA.**

13 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
14 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
16 following new subparagraph:

17 “(D) UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In determining
19 the monthly assistance payment for a fam-
20 ily under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the
21 amount allowed for tenant-paid utilities
22 shall not exceed the appropriate utility al-
23 lowance for the family unit size as deter-
24 mined by the public housing agency re-
25 gardless of the size of the dwelling unit
26 leased by the family.

1 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN FAMI-
 2 LIES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),
 3 upon request by a family that includes a
 4 person with disabilities, an elderly family,
 5 or a family that includes any person who
 6 is less than 18 years of age, the public
 7 housing agency shall approve a utility al-
 8 lowance that is higher than the applicable
 9 amount on the utility allowance schedule,
 10 except that in the case of a family that in-
 11 cludes a person with disabilities, the agen-
 12 cy shall approve such higher amount only
 13 if a higher utility allowance is needed as a
 14 reasonable accommodation to make the
 15 program accessible to and usable by the
 16 family member with a disability.”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 18 paragraph:

19 “(21) UTILITY DATA.—

20 “(A) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall,
 21 to the extent that data can be collected cost ef-
 22 fectively, regularly publish such data regarding
 23 utility consumption and costs in local areas as
 24 the Secretary determines will be useful for the

1 establishment of allowances for tenant-paid util-
2 ities for families assisted under this subsection.

3 “(B) USE OF DATA.—The Secretary shall
4 provide such data in a manner that—

5 “(i) avoids unnecessary administrative
6 burdens for public housing agencies and
7 owners; and

8 “(ii) protects families in various unit
9 sizes and building types, and using various
10 utilities, from high rent and utility cost
11 burdens relative to income.”.

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