

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7071

To reform the programs of the Secretary of Agriculture for housing for rural farmworkers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2018

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

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## A BILL

To reform the programs of the Secretary of Agriculture for housing for rural farmworkers, 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 “Farmworker Housing  
5 Improvement Act of 2018”.

**6 SEC. 2. REFORMS TO FARMWORKER HOUSING PROGRAMS.**

7       Section 514 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.  
8 1484) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
9 subsections:

## 1       “(j) COORDINATION WITH LOW-INCOME HOUSING

## 2 TAX CREDIT.—

3           “(1) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-  
4       sult with the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue  
5       Service and take such actions as are appropriate in  
6       conjunction with such consultation to simplify the  
7       coordination of rules, regulations, forms, and ap-  
8       proval requirements for multifamily housing projects  
9       for which assistance is provided by the Secretary in  
10      conjunction with any low-income housing tax credits  
11      under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
12      1986 or tax-exempt housing bonds.

13          “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In implementing  
14      the changes required under this subsection, the Sec-  
15      retary shall solicit recommendations regarding such  
16      changes from project owners and sponsors, investors  
17      and stakeholders in housing tax credits, State and  
18      local housing finance agencies, public housing agen-  
19      cies, tenant advocates, and other stakeholders in  
20      such projects.

21          “(3) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of  
22      the 9-month period beginning on the date of the en-  
23      actment of this subsection, the Secretary shall sub-  
24      mit a report to the Committee on Financial Services  
25      of the House of Representatives and the Committee

1       on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Sen-  
2       ate that—

3               “(A) identifies the actions taken by the  
4               Secretary to comply with this subsection;

5               “(B) includes information regarding any  
6               resulting improvements in the expedited ap-  
7               proval for multifamily housing projects;

8               “(C) identifies recommendations made pur-  
9               suant to paragraph (2); and

10              “(D) makes recommendations for any leg-  
11               islative changes that are needed to facilitate  
12               prompt approval of assistance for such projects.

13        “(k) FUNDING CAPS.—Upon the enactment of this  
14        subsection, the Secretary shall increase the maximum  
15        amount of a loan or grant that may be made under this  
16        section or section 516 to \$3,000,000 and may not estab-  
17        lish a maximum funding amount that is lower than such  
18        amount.

19        “(l) NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY.—Any no-  
20        tice of funding availability relating to assistance under this  
21        section or section 516 shall provide for a period for appli-  
22        cation for such funding having a duration not shorter than  
23        60 days.

24        “(m) ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF AWARDS OF ASSIST-  
25        ANCE.—The Secretary shall establish and implement an

1 annual schedule for notice of funding, submission of appli-  
2 cations, and awards of funding for assistance under this  
3 section and section 516.

4 “(n) PUBLICATION OF SELF-SCORING ASSESS-  
5 MENTS.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on  
6 a website of the Department, with respect to assistance  
7 under this section and section 516—

8           “(1) the self-scoring form and assessment for  
9 such assistance of the applicant;

10          “(2) a summary of the applications for such as-  
11 sistance and such loans made and grants awarded;  
12 and

13          “(3) a description of the compliance procedures,  
14 mechanisms, and activities used by the Department  
15 to monitor compliance and performance of such bor-  
16 rowers and grantees.

17 “(o) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
18 shall provide that any person not ineligible for financial  
19 assistance by reason of section 214 of the Housing and  
20 Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a)  
21 may not be denied occupancy in housing assisted under  
22 this title or for housing assistance under this title by rea-  
23 son of such person’s citizenship or alien status.”.

1   **SEC. 3. CONSISTENCY BETWEEN PROGRAMS.**

2       Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.  
3   1486) is amended—

4               (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding  
5       paragraph (1), by inserting “or any limited partner-  
6       ship in which the general partner is a nonprofit enti-  
7       ty,” after “or any Indian tribe,”; and

8               (2) in subsection (k)(7)(A), by striking “any”  
9       and inserting “limited partnership in which the gen-  
10      eral partner is a nonprofit entity, or”.

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