

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5230

To require a revision of criteria, policies, and practices regarding the provision of housing to National Park Service employees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 1994

Mr. VENTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require a revision of criteria, policies, and practices regarding the provision of housing to National Park Service employees.

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 “National Park Service
5 Employee Housing Program Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PROVISION OF HOUS-**
7 **ING TO EMPLOYEES.**

8 The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred
9 to as the “Secretary”), acting through the Director of the

1 National Park Service, shall, in accordance with this Act
2 and section 5911 of title 5, United States Code—

3 (1) provide housing to employees of the Na-
4 tional Park Service only when and where such hous-
5 ing is necessary and justified; and

6 (2) ensure that such housing, if necessary and
7 justified, is available and adequate.

8 **SEC. 3. REVIEW AND REVISION OF HOUSING CRITERIA.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the enactment of this Act,
10 the Secretary shall review and revise the existing criteria
11 under which housing is provided to employees of the Na-
12 tional Park Service. The review and revision shall include
13 consideration of the following criteria:

14 (1) Required occupancy (whether and under
15 what circumstances the Park Service requires, as a
16 condition of employment, that an employee live at a
17 particular site or in a specific geographic area). For
18 each instance in which occupancy is required, full
19 consideration shall be given to the concept of ade-
20 quate response time.

21 (2) Availability and adequacy of non-Federal
22 housing in the geographic area, including consider-
23 ation of the degree of isolation (the time and dis-
24 tance that separate other potential housing from the
25 workplace of a Park Service employee).

1 (3) Category of employment (seasonal or per-
2 manent).

3 (4) Any other factor that the Secretary consid-
4 ers appropriate.

5 (b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—A report detailing the
6 results of the revisions required by subsection (a) shall be
7 submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
9 and Natural Resources of the Senate not later than 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The re-
11 port shall include justifications for keeping, or for chang-
12 ing, each of the criteria or factors used by the Department
13 of the Interior with regard to the provision of housing to
14 employees of the National Park Service.

15 **SEC. 4. REVIEW OF CONDITION OF AND COSTS RELATING**
16 **TO HOUSING.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Using the revised criteria devel-
18 oped under section 3, the Secretary shall undertake a re-
19 view, for each unit of the National Park System, of exist-
20 ing government-owned housing provided to employees of
21 the National Park Service. The review shall include an as-
22 sessment of the physical condition of such housing and
23 the suitability of such housing to effectively carry out the
24 missions of the Department of the Interior and the Na-
25 tional Park Service. For each unit of such housing, the

1 Secretary shall determine whether the unit is needed and
2 justified. The review shall include estimates of the cost
3 of bringing each such unit that is needed and justified into
4 usable condition that meets all applicable legal housing re-
5 quirements or, if the unit is determined to be obsolete but
6 is still warranted to carry out the missions of the Depart-
7 ment of the Interior and the National Park Service, the
8 cost of replacing the unit.

9 (b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT AND PROPOSED
10 PLAN.—The Secretary shall submit a report detailing the
11 results of the review required by subsection (a), and a pro-
12 posed plan to meet the housing needs of employees of the
13 National Park Service, to the Committee on Natural Re-
14 sources of the House of Representatives and the Commit-
15 tee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate not
16 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 5. ALTERNATIVES TO MEET HOUSING NEEDS.**

19 (a) AUTHORIZATION FOR HOUSING AGREEMENTS.—
20 For those units of the National Park Service for which
21 the review required by section 4 has been completed, the
22 Secretary is authorized to enter into housing agreements
23 with housing entities under which such housing entities
24 may develop, construct, rehabilitate, or manage housing,
25 located on or off public lands, for rent or lease to National

1 Park Service employees who meet the housing eligibility
2 criteria developed by the Secretary pursuant to this Act.
3 In entering such housing agreements, the Secretary may
4 guarantee to such entities a reasonable rate of occupancy
5 of rental units. The authority granted by this subsection
6 is in addition to the authorities of the Secretary to acquire
7 or construct housing for employees of the National Park
8 Service using appropriated funds.

9 (b) LIMITATION ON PLACEMENT OF HOUSING.—
10 Housing made available on public lands pursuant to sub-
11 section (a) shall be located only in areas designated for
12 administrative use.

13 (c) PROHIBITION OF ACQUISITION WITHOUT CON-
14 SENT.—No private lands, or interests therein, located out-
15 side the boundaries of a Federally administered area may
16 be acquired pursuant to this Act without the consent of
17 the owner thereof.

18 (d) STUDY REGARDING HOUSING ALLOWANCES.—
19 The Secretary shall undertake a study to determine the
20 feasibility of providing eligible employees of the National
21 Park Service with housing allowances rather than govern-
22 ment housing. If the Secretary finds, pursuant to the
23 study, that the provision of such allowances would be ben-
24 eficial to the Federal Government, the Secretary is author-

1 ized to institute a program for the provision of the allow-
2 ances, subject to the availability of funds.

3 (e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
4 term “housing entity” means an individual who, or a pub-
5 lic or private corporation or organization that, the Sec-
6 retary finds is qualified to provide and capable of provid-
7 ing housing.

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
10 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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