

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3541

To explicitly authorize religious organizations and organizations having religious purposes to participate in certain housing assistance programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To explicitly authorize religious organizations and organizations having religious purposes to participate in certain housing assistance programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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 “New Hope in Housing  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBLE PROJECT OWNERS UNDER HOUSING PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS**  
3 **WITH DISABILITIES.**

4 (a) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.—Sec-  
5 tion 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q)  
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (f), by inserting after and  
8 below paragraph (7) the following:

9 “The selection criteria used by the Secretary shall specifi-  
10 cally provide that religious organizations and organiza-  
11 tions having religious purposes that qualify under sub-  
12 section (k)(4) as private nonprofit organizations, may own  
13 projects assisted under this section.”;

14 (2) in subsection (j), by adding at the end the  
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(9) ELIGIBILITY OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-  
17 TIONS AS PROJECT OWNERS.—The Secretary may  
18 not prohibit religious organizations or organizations  
19 having religious purposes that, under subsection  
20 (k)(4) qualify as private nonprofit organizations,  
21 from owning projects assisted under this section be-  
22 cause of their status as such religious organiza-  
23 tions.”; and

24 (3) in subsection (k)(4), by inserting after the  
25 period at the end the following: “Such term also in-  
26 cludes a religious organization or an organization

1       having religious purposes, that meets the require-  
2       ments of this paragraph, not including subparagraph  
3       (B)(i).”.

4       (b) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DIS-  
5 ABILITIES.—Section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez Na-  
6 tional Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013) is  
7 amended—

8           (1) in subsection (f), by inserting after and  
9       below paragraph (7) the following:

10 “The selection criteria used by the Secretary shall specifi-  
11 cally provide that religious organizations and organiza-  
12 tions having religious purposes, that qualify under sub-  
13 section (k)(6) as private nonprofit organizations may own  
14 projects assisted under this section.”;

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

17           “(8) ELIGIBILITY OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-  
18 TIONS AS PROJECT OWNERS.—The Secretary may  
19       not prohibit religious organizations or organizations  
20       having religious purposes that, under subsection  
21       (k)(6) qualify as private nonprofit organizations,  
22       from owning projects assisted under this section be-  
23       cause of their status as such religious organiza-  
24       tions.”; and

1           (3) in subsection (k)(6), by inserting after and  
2 below subparagraph (D) the following:

3           “Such term includes a religious organization or an  
4 organization having religious purposes, that meets  
5 the requirements of this paragraph, not including  
6 subparagraph (C).”.

7 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES UNDER HOME PROGRAM AND**  
8 **CDBG PROGRAM.**

9           (a) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PRO-  
10 GRAM.—Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Af-  
11 fordable Housing Act is amended—

12           (1) in section 202(10) (42 U.S.C. 12721(10)),  
13 by inserting “religious organizations,” after “trade  
14 unions,”; and

15           (2) in section 212 (42 U.S.C. 12742), by add-  
16 ing at the end the following new subsection:

17           “(h) ELIGIBLE SUBRECIPIENTS.—Funds made avail-  
18 able under this subtitle may be provided to religious orga-  
19 nizations, or organizations having religious purposes, for  
20 carrying out secular activities that qualify under this sec-  
21 tion as eligible uses for such funds.”.

22           (b) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRO-  
23 GRAM.—Section 105 of the Housing and Community De-  
24 velopment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305) is amended by  
25 adding at the end the following new subsection:

1       “(i) ELIGIBLE SUBRECIPIENTS.—Grant amounts  
2 under this title may be provided to religious organizations,  
3 or organizations having religious purposes, for carrying  
4 out secular activities that are eligible under this section  
5 to be assisted under this title.”.

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