

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3895

To amend title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. JINDAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To amend title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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 “Rural Housing Hurri-  
5 cane Relief Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISASTER AUTHORITY.**

7 Section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.  
8 1490q) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 541. DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
3 vision of this title, in the event of a disaster declared by  
4 the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
5 and Emergency Assistance Act, the Secretary may, during  
6 the period described in subsection (c), exercise any author-  
7 ity described in subsection (b) with respect to the counties  
8 designated as disaster areas and the counties contiguous  
9 to such counties and for any individuals who resided in  
10 such counties at the time of the disaster.

11       “(b) SPECIAL AUTHORITIES.—The authorities de-  
12 scribed in this subsection are as follows:

13               “(1) CONVERSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—  
14       The Secretary may convert rental assistance under  
15       section 521 allocated for a property that is not in-  
16       habitable because of the disaster into—

17                       “(A) housing voucher assistance authorized  
18                       under section 8(o) of the United States Hous-  
19                       ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

20                       “(B) rural housing vouchers authorized  
21                       under this title.

22               “(2) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary may re-  
23       program funds appropriated to carry out any activi-  
24       ties authorized under this title to conduct any other  
25       activity authorized under this title.

1           “(3) WAIVER OF RURAL AREA REQUIRE-  
2           MENTS.—The Secretary may waive the application  
3           of the provisions of section 520 with respect to as-  
4           sistance provided under this section, as the Sec-  
5           retary considers appropriate.

6           “(c) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The period de-  
7           scribed in this subsection is, for a major disaster, the 6-  
8           month period that begins on the date that the disaster  
9           is declared by the President.

10          “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-  
11          dition to funds otherwise available to carry out this sec-  
12          tion, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
13          as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

14          **SEC. 3. RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER AUTHORITY.**

15          Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.  
16          1490r) is amended—

- 17                  (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;
- 18                  (2) in the first sentence, by striking “very”;
- 19          and
- 20                  (3) by striking subsection (b).

21          **SEC. 4. GUARANTEED LOANS FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOUS-**  
22                  **ING.**

23          Section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42  
24          U.S.C. 1472(h)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “or construct”  
2           and inserting “, construct, repair, or rehabilitate”;  
3           and

4           (2) in paragraph (14)(A), by striking “made  
5           under this section or guaranteed under this sub-  
6           section” and inserting “used to acquire or construct  
7           a single-family residence that meets the require-  
8           ments of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of para-  
9           graph (4)”.

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