H. R. 482

To nullify certain regulations and notices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mr. Gosar (for himself, Mr. Babin, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Blum, Mr. Buck, Mr. Burgess, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Duncan of South Carolina, Mr. Duncan of Tennessee, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Groatman, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Massie, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Poe of Texas, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Yoho, and Mr. Brat) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To nullify certain regulations and notices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Local Zoning Decisions Protection Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. NULLIFICATION OF RULES AND NOTICES.

(a) Final Rule.—The final rule of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled “Affirma-
tively Furthering Fair Housing”, published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 42272; Docket No. FR–5173–F–04), and any successor rule that is substantially similar to such final rule shall have no force or effect.

(b) NOTICE.—The notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool, published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 81840; Docket No. FR–5173–N–07), and any successor notice or rule substantially similar to such notice shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used to design, build, maintain, utilize, or provide access to a Federal database of geospatial information on community racial disparities or disparities in access to affordable housing.

SEC. 4. FEDERALISM CONSULTATION AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall jointly consult with State officials, local government officials, and officials of public housing agencies to develop recommendations, consistent with applicable rulings of the Supreme Court of the
United States, to further the purposes and policies of the
Fair Housing Act.

(b) Consultation Requirements.—In developing
the recommendations required under subsection (a), the
Secretary shall—

(1) provide State officials, local government of-
ficials, and officials of public housing agencies with
notice and an opportunity to participate in the con-
sultation process required under subsection (a);

(2) seek to consult with State officials, local
government officials, and officials of public housing
agencies that represent a broad cross-section of re-
gional, economic, and geographic perspectives in the
United States;

(3) emphasize the importance of collaboration
with and among the State officials, local government
officials, and officials of public housing agencies;

(4) allow for meaningful and timely input by
State officials, local government officials, and offi-
cials of public housing agencies;

(5) promote transparency in the consultation
process required under subsection (a); and

(6) explore with State officials, local govern-
ment officials, and officials of public housing agen-
cies whether Federal objectives under the Fair
Housing Act can be attained by means other than through new regulations.

(c) Reports.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a draft report describing the recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) Consensus requirement.—The Secretary may include a recommendation in the draft report only if consensus has been reached with regard to the recommendation among the Secretary, the State officials, local government officials, and officials of public housing agencies consulted pursuant to subsection (a).

(3) Failure to reach consensus.—If the Secretary, State officials, local government officials, and officials of public housing agencies consulted under subsection (a) fail to reach consensus on a regulatory proposal, the draft report shall identify that consensus was not reached and shall describe—

(A) the areas and issues with regard to which consensus was reached;
(B) the areas and issues of continuing disagreement that resulted in the failure to reach consensus; and

(C) the reasons for the continuing disagreements.

(4) Public review and comment period.—The Secretary shall make the draft report available for public review and comment for a period of not fewer than 180 days.

(5) Final report.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the State officials, local government officials, and officials of public housing agencies, address any comments received pursuant to paragraph (4) and shall prepare a final report describing the final results of the consultation process under subsection (a).

(d) Submission of final report.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make publicly available online the final report prepared pursuant to subsection (e)(5).

(e) Definitions.—In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.—The term “local government official” means an elected or professional official of a local government or an official of a regional or national organization representing local governments or officials.

(3) STATE OFFICIAL.—The term “State official” means an elected or professional official of a State government or an official of a regional or national organization representing State governments or officials.

(4) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term “public housing agency” has the meaning given such term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).