

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5135

To give priority in allocation of rental assistance vouchers under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to areas having the largest populations of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Ms. BARRAGÁN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To give priority in allocation of rental assistance vouchers under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to areas having the largest populations of homeless veterans, 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 “Housing Homeless
5 Veterans Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALLOCATION OF HUD-VASH VOUCHERS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT TO VASH PROGRAM.—Paragraph
3 (19) of section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
4 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following new subparagraphs:

6 “(D) ALLOCATION CRITERIA.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision of law (including
8 paragraph (6) under the heading ‘Public and
9 Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assist-
10 ance’ in title II of division K of Public Law
11 115–31), in making amounts for assistance
12 under this paragraph available among public
13 housing agencies in each fiscal year, the Sec-
14 retary shall give priority to public housing
15 agencies that—

16 “(i) serve areas having the highest
17 numbers of homeless veterans; and

18 “(ii) have fully utilized their available
19 funds under this paragraph for the pre-
20 ceding fiscal year and have a demonstrated
21 need for incremental assistance under this
22 paragraph.

23 “(E) REALLOCATION OF UNUSED VOUCH-
24 ERS FOR VASH ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(i) RECAPTURE AND REALLOCA-
2 TION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, the Secretary shall—

4 “(I) recapture from any public
5 housing agency described in clause (ii)
6 any amounts of assistance provided
7 under this paragraph to the agency
8 that are not—

9 “(aa) under lease after 24
10 months;

11 “(bb) committed under an
12 agreement to enter into a hous-
13 ing assistance payments contract;
14 or

15 “(cc) committed, under a
16 commitment of award letter that
17 has been approved by the board
18 of governors or other similar gov-
19 erning body of the public housing
20 agency, for project-based voucher
21 assistance for a project; and

22 “(II) reallocate any recaptured
23 amounts to public housing authorities
24 that have leased their entire allocation
25 of assistance under this paragraph.

1 “(ii) AGENCIES SUBJECT TO RECAP-
2 TURE.—An agency described in this clause
3 is an agency whose jurisdiction is located
4 within an area within which the homeless
5 population has decreased, according to the
6 point-in-time information of the Secretary
7 for the two most recent reporting periods
8 for such information.”.

9 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
10 section (a) shall apply to amounts made available—

11 (1) by paragraph (6) under the heading “Public
12 and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assist-
13 ance” in title II of division K of Public Law 115-
14 31, to the extent such amounts remain unobligated
15 as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

16 (2) by any other provision of law enacted after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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