

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4742

To amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, 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 “Military Housing
5 Readiness Council Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY HOUSING**
2 **READINESS COUNCIL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 88 of title 10, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1781c
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 1781d. Department of Defense Military Housing**
7 **Readiness Council**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department of
9 Defense the Department of Defense Military Housing
10 Readiness Council (in this section referred to as the
11 ‘Council’).

12 “(b) MEMBERS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be com-
14 posed of the following members:

15 “(A) The Assistant Secretary of Defense
16 for Energy, Installations, and Environment,
17 who shall serve as chair of the Council and who
18 may designate a representative to chair the
19 Council in the absence of the Assistant Sec-
20 retary.

21 “(B) One representative of each of the
22 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and
23 Space Force, each of whom shall be a member
24 of the armed force to be represented and not
25 fewer than two of which shall be from an en-
26 listed component.

1 “(C) One spouse of an active component
2 member of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force,
3 Marine Corps, and Space Force, not fewer than
4 two of which shall be the spouse of an enlisted
5 component member.

6 “(D) One individual appointed by the Sec-
7 retary of Defense among representatives of the
8 International Code Council.

9 “(E) One individual appointed by the Sec-
10 retary of Defense among representatives of the
11 Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restora-
12 tion Certification.

13 “(F) One individual appointed by the
14 Chair of the Committee on Armed Services of
15 the Senate who is not described in subpara-
16 graph (B) or (C) and is not a representative of
17 an organization specified in subparagraph (D)
18 or (E).

19 “(G) One individual appointed by the
20 Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed
21 Services of the Senate who is not described in
22 subparagraph (B) or (C) and is not a rep-
23 resentative of an organization specified in sub-
24 paragraph (D) or (E).

1 “(H) One individual appointed by the
2 Chair of the Committee on Armed Services of
3 the House of Representatives who is not de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (B) or (C) and is not
5 a representative of an organization specified in
6 subparagraph (D) or (E).

7 “(I) One individual appointed by the Rank-
8 ing Member of the Committee on Armed Serv-
9 ices of the House of Representatives who is not
10 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) and is not
11 a representative of an organization specified in
12 subparagraph (D) or (E).

13 “(2) TERMS.—The term on the Council of the
14 members specified under subparagraphs (B) through
15 (H) of paragraph (1) shall be two years and may be
16 renewed by the Secretary of Defense.

17 “(3) ATTENDANCE BY LANDLORDS.—The chair
18 of the Council shall extend an invitation to each
19 landlord for one representative of each landlord to
20 attend such meetings of the Council as the chair
21 considers appropriate.

22 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less
23 often than four times each year.

24 “(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall in-
25 clude the following:

1 “(1) To review and make recommendations to
2 the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for
3 privatized military housing, including inspections
4 practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of
5 medical bills for residents of housing units that have
6 not maintained minimum standards of habitability,
7 and access to maintenance work order systems.

8 “(2) To monitor compliance by the Department
9 with and effective implementation by the Depart-
10 ment of statutory improvements to policies for
11 privatized military housing, including the Military
12 Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of
13 Rights developed under section 2890 of this title and
14 the complaint database established under section
15 2894a of this title.

16 “(3) To make recommendations to the Sec-
17 retary of Defense to improve collaboration, aware-
18 ness, and promotion of accurate and timely informa-
19 tion about privatized military housing, accommoda-
20 tions available through the Exceptional Family
21 Member Program of the Department of Defense,
22 and other support services among policymakers,
23 service providers, and targeted beneficiaries.

24 “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—

1 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS.—Subject
 2 to section 552 of title 5 (commonly known as the
 3 ‘Freedom of Information Act’), the records, reports,
 4 transcripts, minutes, appendices, working papers,
 5 drafts, studies, agenda, and other documents made
 6 available to or prepared for or by the Council shall
 7 be available for public inspection and copying at a
 8 single location in a publicly accessible format on a
 9 website of the Department of Defense until the
 10 Council ceases to exist.

11 “(2) MINUTES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Detailed minutes of
 13 each meeting of the Council shall be kept and
 14 shall contain—

15 “(i) a record of the individuals
 16 present;

17 “(ii) a complete and accurate descrip-
 18 tion of matters discussed and conclusions
 19 reached; and

20 “(iii) copies of all reports received,
 21 issued, or approved by the Council.

22 “(B) CERTIFICATION.—The chair of the
 23 Council shall certify the accuracy of the min-
 24 utes of each meeting of the Council.

25 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1
2 each year, the Council shall submit to the Secretary
3 of Defense and the congressional defense committees
4 a report on privatized military housing readiness.

5 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this sub-
6 section shall include the following:

7 “(A) An assessment of the adequacy and
8 effectiveness of the provision of privatized mili-
9 tary housing and the activities of the Depart-
10 ment of Defense in meeting the needs of mili-
11 tary families relating to housing during the pre-
12 ceding fiscal year.

13 “(B) A description of activities of the
14 Council during the preceding fiscal year, includ-
15 ing—

16 “(i) analyses of complaints of tenants
17 of housing units;

18 “(ii) data received by the Council on
19 maintenance response time and completion
20 of maintenance requests relating to hous-
21 ing units;

22 “(iii) assessments of dispute resolu-
23 tion processes;

24 “(iv) assessments of overall customer
25 service for tenants;

1 “(v) assessments of results of housing
 2 inspections conducted with and without no-
 3 tice; and

4 “(vi) any survey results conducted on
 5 behalf of or received by the Council.

6 “(C) Recommendations on actions to be
 7 taken to improve the capability of the provision
 8 of privatized military housing and the activities
 9 of the Department of Defense to meet the needs
 10 and requirements of military families relating to
 11 housing, including actions relating to the alloca-
 12 tion of funding and other resources.

13 “(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each report
 14 under this subsection shall be made available in a
 15 publicly accessible format on a website of the De-
 16 partment of Defense.

17 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) LANDLORD.—The term ‘landlord’ has the
 19 meaning given that term in section 2871 of this
 20 title.

21 “(2) PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.—The
 22 term ‘privatized military housing’ means housing
 23 provided under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of this
 24 title.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
3 after the item relating to section 1781c the following new
4 item:

“1781d. Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council.”.

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