

A RESOLUTION

23-613

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to reauthorize the extension of the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency's Reverse Mortgage Insurance and Tax Payment Program

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Reverse Mortgage Insurance and Tax Payment Program Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. (a) The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency's ("DCHFA") Reverse Mortgage Insurance and Tax Payment Program ("ReMIT") was initiated as an 18-month pilot program in the Reverse Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Amendment Act of 2018, effective October 30, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-168; D.C. Official Code § 42-2703.07a), and funded with \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2019. The pilot program was extended by emergency Council action on March 31, 2020 but expires on January 28, 2021.

(b) ReMIT is an assistance program for seniors who are facing foreclosure on a reverse mortgage. ReMIT provides assistance in the form of a subsidy payment for reverse mortgage borrowers who are in the process of losing their homes to foreclosure from unpaid property taxes, insurance, and condominium and homeowner association fees. Qualified homeowners can receive up to \$25,000 to help them pay delinquent property taxes and homeowners insurance.

(c) ReMIT provides much needed foreclosure prevention assistance, while at the same time placing a lien on the house to ensure the District recoups its investment once the house is sold.

(d) Unless ReMIT is extended, DCHFA would be prevented from offering any further assistance to other seniors facing foreclosure due to delinquent taxes or insurance, including at least 15 applicants who are currently seeking funding.

(e) It is important that these changes be made to the ReMIT program so that the program may be extended for another 12 months and the program may continue to help needy District residents avoid foreclosure.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the

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Reverse Mortgage Insurance and Tax Payment Program Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.