

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2938

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a loan repayment program for certain architects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. NOLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a loan repayment program for certain architects, 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 “National Design Serv-
5 ices Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ARCHITECT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Title I of the Housing and Community Development
3 Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by add-
4 ing at the end the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 5322. ARCHITECT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may establish
7 and carry out a loan repayment program for eligible archi-
8 tects (in this section referred to as the ‘loan repayment
9 program’) who provide eligible design services on behalf
10 of a Community Design Center.

11 “(b) CONTRACT.—To be eligible to participate in the
12 loan repayment program, an eligible architect shall enter
13 into a written contract with the Secretary that contains—

14 “(1) an agreement under which—

15 “(A) the eligible architect agrees to provide
16 eligible design services on behalf of a Commu-
17 nity Design Center for a period of not shorter
18 than 1 year; and

19 “(B) the Secretary agrees to make pay-
20 ments on the principal and interest of quali-
21 fying educational loans of the eligible architect
22 in an amount to be determined by the Secretary
23 for the period of time the eligible architect pro-
24 vides such eligible design services;

25 “(2) a provision that any financial obligation of
26 the United States arising out of a contract entered

1 into under this subsection and any obligation of the
2 eligible architect which is conditioned thereon, is
3 contingent upon funds being appropriated for the
4 loan repayment program under this section; and

5 “(3) a statement of the damages to which the
6 United States is entitled under subsection (f) if the
7 eligible architect breaches the contract.

8 “(c) ELIGIBLE DESIGN SERVICES.—The term ‘eligi-
9 ble design services’ means research or design services as
10 follows:

11 “(1) The design, including the preparation of
12 construction documents, of housing facilities,
13 schools, health clinics, libraries, community centers,
14 and other public facilities (except for buildings used
15 for the general conduct of government).

16 “(2) The development of comprehensive long-
17 range community development plans.

18 “(3) The development of plans for neighbor-
19 hoods that are appropriate for rehabilitation or con-
20 servation activities, including neighborhoods that are
21 blighted, deteriorated, or deteriorating.

22 “(4) The preservation or rehabilitation of his-
23 toric sites.

24 “(5) The design, including the preparation of
25 construction documents, of building retrofits for en-

1 energy and water efficiency and conservation improve-
2 ments.

3 “(6) Assessment of the safety of structures that
4 are in disrepair or have been damaged as the result
5 of natural or manmade disasters.

6 “(7) The design of improvements that remove
7 architectural barriers which restrict the mobility of
8 elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities.

9 “(8) Plans for the redevelopment of traditional
10 main streets and business districts.

11 “(9) Other activities as the Secretary may de-
12 termine.

13 “(d) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall provide for
14 an eligible architect to submit an application to participate
15 in the loan repayment program to the Secretary at such
16 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
17 the Secretary may require which shall include—

18 “(1) proof of employment by a Community De-
19 sign Center for a period of not less than 1 year;

20 “(2) a statement of the amount of compensa-
21 tion the eligible architect will receive from the Com-
22 munity Design Center; and

23 “(3) a contract entered into pursuant to sub-
24 section (b).

1 “(e) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select, from
2 applications submitted under subsection (d), eligible archi-
3 tects to participate in the loan repayment program.

4 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

5 “(1) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Sec-
6 retary may enter into a contract with another Fed-
7 eral agency to assist in the administration of this
8 program.

9 “(2) BREACH.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A contract described
11 in subsection (b) shall provide remedies for any
12 breach of such contract by an eligible architect,
13 including repayment or partial repayment of fi-
14 nancial assistance received with interest.

15 “(B) AMOUNTS RECOVERED.—Funds re-
16 covered under this paragraph shall be credited
17 to the account available to carry out this sec-
18 tion and shall remain available until expended.

19 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may grant
20 a waiver of any repayment obligation for breach
21 of contract in the event of extreme hardship or
22 extreme need, as determined by the Secretary.

23 “(3) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall develop
24 regulations to determine the amount of loan repay-
25 ment for 1 year of service by an eligible architect.

1 In making the determination, the Secretary shall
2 maximize the number of contracts that can be pro-
3 vided under the program from the amounts appro-
4 priated for such contracts.

5 “(4) QUALIFYING EDUCATIONAL LOANS.—Loan
6 repayments provided under this section may consist
7 of payments on behalf of eligible architects of the
8 principal and interest on government and commer-
9 cial loans received by the eligible architect for at-
10 tendance at an accredited masters program in archi-
11 tecture, which loans were made for—

12 “(A) tuition expenses;

13 “(B) all other reasonable educational ex-
14 penses, including fees, books, technology, and
15 studio expenses incurred by the eligible archi-
16 tect; or

17 “(C) reasonable living expenses as deter-
18 mined by the Secretary.

19 “(5) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary
20 may contract with an eligible architect’s loan pro-
21 vider for the payment to the loan provider, on behalf
22 of the eligible architect, of the amount of a loan re-
23 payment described in paragraph (3).

24 “(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
25 be construed to allow a Community Design Center to pre-

1 pare building plans or construction documents that do not
2 comply with applicable State and local laws and regula-
3 tions related to building codes and permits.

4 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following
5 definitions shall apply:

6 “(1) COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER.—The term
7 ‘Community Design Center’ means a non-profit or-
8 ganization operated and managed by a licensed ar-
9 chitect that conducts research and provides eligible
10 design services for community development projects.

11 “(2) ELIGIBLE ARCHITECT.—The term ‘eligible
12 architect’ means an individual who—

13 “(A) has completed an accredited masters
14 program in architecture; or

15 “(B) is an intern architect who has com-
16 pleted an accredited masters program in archi-
17 tecture and is enrolled in the Intern Develop-
18 ment Program of the National Council of Archi-
19 tectural Registration Boards.

20 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
21 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any
22 territory or possession of the United States.

23 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out this sec-

1 tion such sums as may be necessary, to remain available
2 until expended.”.

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