

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6382

To provide assistance for fair housing enforcement activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for fair housing enforcement activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 “Fair Housing Enforce-  
5 ment Emergency Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY PERIOD.**

7 For purposes of this Act, the term “COVID-19 emer-  
8 gency period” means the period that begins upon the date

1 of the enactment of this Act and ends upon the date of  
2 the termination by the Federal Emergency Management  
3 Agency of the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by  
4 the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.)  
6 relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
7 pandemic.

8 **SEC. 3. FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES.**

9 (a) FHIP; FHAP.—

10 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
11 ensure that fair housing organizations and State and  
12 local civil rights agencies have sufficient resources to  
13 deal with expected increases in fair housing com-  
14 plaints, to investigate housing discrimination, includ-  
15 ing financial scams that target protected classes, as-  
16 sociated with or resulting from the COVID-19 pan-  
17 demic, and during such pandemic, there is author-  
18 ized to be appropriated for contracts, grants, and  
19 other assistance—

20 (A) \$55,000,000 for the Fair Housing Ini-  
21 tiatives Program under section 561 of the  
22 Housing and Community Development Act of  
23 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a); and

1 (B) \$35,000,000 for the Fair Housing As-  
2 sistance Program under the Fair Housing Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

4 Amounts made available pursuant to this paragraph  
5 may be used by such organizations and agencies to  
6 establish the capacity to and to carry out activities  
7 and services by telephone and online means, includ-  
8 ing for individuals with limited English proficiency  
9 and individuals with a disability in accordance with  
10 requirements under the Americans With Disabilities  
11 Act of 1990.

12 (2) PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE.—In  
13 entering into contracts for private enforcement ini-  
14 tiatives under 561(b) of the Housing and Commu-  
15 nity Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a(b))  
16 using amounts made available pursuant to para-  
17 graph (1)(A) of this subsection, the Secretary of  
18 Housing and Urban Development shall give priority  
19 to applications from qualified fair housing enforce-  
20 ment organizations that have at least 2 years of fair  
21 housing testing experience.

22 (3) 3-YEAR AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts made  
23 available pursuant paragraph (1) that are allocated  
24 for a grantee and remain unexpended upon the expi-

1       ration of the 3-year period beginning upon such allo-  
2       cation shall be recaptured by the Secretary.

3       (b) OFFICE OF FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPOR-  
4       TUNITY.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
5       \$200,000,000 for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal  
6       Opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban  
7       Development for costs of fully staffing such Office to en-  
8       sure robust enforcement of the Fair Housing Act during  
9       the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that—

10           (1) assistance provided under this Act is pro-  
11           vided and administered in a manner that affirma-  
12           tively furthers fair housing in accordance with the  
13           Fair Housing Act;

14           (2) such Office has sufficient capacity for in-  
15           take of housing discrimination complaints by tele-  
16           phone and online mechanisms, including for individ-  
17           uals with limited English proficiency and individuals  
18           with a disability in accordance with requirements  
19           under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990  
20           and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
21           (29 U.S.C. 794); and

22           (3) such Office has the capacity to respond to  
23           all housing discrimination complaints made during  
24           the COVID-19 pandemic within time limitations re-  
25           quired under law.

1 In the hiring of staff using amounts made available pursu-  
2 ant to this subsection, the Secretary of Housing and  
3 Urban Development shall consider and hire, at all levels  
4 of employment and to the greatest extent possible, a di-  
5 verse staff, including by race, ethnicity, gender, and dis-  
6 ability status. The Secretary shall submit a report to the  
7 Congress describing compliance with the preceding sen-  
8 tence on a quarterly basis, for each of the first 4 calendar  
9 quarters ending after the date of the enactment of this  
10 Act.

11 **SEC. 4. FAIR HOUSING GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION OF SHOWINGS.—Not later than the  
13 expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date of  
14 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and  
15 Urban Development shall issue guidance for owners of  
16 dwelling units assisted under housing assistance programs  
17 of the Department prohibiting, during the COVID-19  
18 emergency period, of any showings of occupied assisted  
19 dwelling units to prospective tenants.

20 (b) EDUCATION.—There is authorized to be appro-  
21 priated \$10,000,000 for the Office of Fair Housing and  
22 Equal Opportunity of the Department of Housing and  
23 Urban Development to carry out a national media cam-  
24 paign to educate the public of increased housing rights  
25 during COVID-19 emergency period, that provides that

1 information and materials used in such campaign are  
2 available—

3           (1) in the languages used by communities with  
4       limited English proficiency; and  
5           (2) to persons with disabilities.

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