

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8642

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish the Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Ms. JACOBS of California (for herself, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. RYAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish the Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council, 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. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY HOUS-**  
4 **ING READINESS COUNCIL.**

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

1 **“§ 1781d. Department of Defense Military Housing**  
2 **Readiness Council**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department of  
4 Defense the Department of Defense Military Housing  
5 Readiness Council (in this section referred to as the  
6 ‘Council’).

7 “(b) MEMBERS.—(1) The Council shall be composed  
8 of the following members:

9 “(A) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for  
10 Energy, Installations, and Environment, who shall  
11 serve as chair of the Council and who may designate  
12 a representative to chair the Council in the absence  
13 of the Assistant Secretary.

14 “(B) One representative of each of the Army,  
15 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force,  
16 each of whom shall be a member of the armed force  
17 to be represented and not fewer than two of which  
18 shall be from an enlisted component.

19 “(C) One spouse of an active component mem-  
20 ber of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine  
21 Corps, and Space Force, not fewer than two of  
22 which shall be the spouse of an enlisted component  
23 member.

24 “(D) One individual appointed by the Secretary  
25 of Defense among representatives of the Inter-  
26 national Code Council.

1           “(E) One individual appointed by the Secretary  
2 of Defense among representatives of the Institute of  
3 Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification.

4           “(F) One individual appointed by the Chair of  
5 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate who  
6 is not described in subparagraph (B) or (C) and is  
7 not a representative of an organization specified in  
8 subparagraph (D) or (E).

9           “(G) One individual appointed by the Ranking  
10 Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the  
11 Senate who is not described in subparagraph (B) or  
12 (C) and is not a representative of an organization  
13 specified in subparagraph (D) or (E).

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

19           “(I) One individual appointed by the Ranking  
20 Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the  
21 House of Representatives who is not described in  
22 subparagraph (B) or (C) and is not a representative  
23 of an organization specified in subparagraph (D) or  
24 (E).

1       “(2) The term on the Council of the members speci-  
2 fied under subparagraphs (B) through (H) of paragraph  
3 (1) shall be two years and may be renewed by the Sec-  
4 retary of Defense.

5       “(3) The chair of the Council shall extend an invita-  
6 tion to each landlord for one representative of each land-  
7 lord to attend such meetings of the Council as the chair  
8 considers appropriate.

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

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

13               “(1) To review and make recommendations to  
14 the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for  
15 privatized military housing, including inspections  
16 practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of  
17 medical bills for residents of housing units that have  
18 not maintained minimum standards of habitability,  
19 and access to maintenance work order systems.

20               “(2) To monitor compliance by the Department  
21 with and effective implementation by the Depart-  
22 ment of statutory improvements to policies for  
23 privatized military housing, including the Military  
24 Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of  
25 Rights developed under section 2890 of this title and

1 the complaint database established under section  
2 2894a of this title.

3 “(3) To make recommendations to the Sec-  
4 retary of Defense to improve collaboration, aware-  
5 ness, and promotion of accurate and timely informa-  
6 tion about privatized military housing, accommoda-  
7 tions available through the Exceptional Family  
8 Member Program of the Department of Defense,  
9 and other support services among policymakers,  
10 service providers, and targeted beneficiaries.

11 “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—(1) Subject to section  
12 552 of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Infor-  
13 mation Act’), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes,  
14 appendices, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, and  
15 other documents made available to or prepared for or by  
16 the Council shall be available for public inspection and  
17 copying at a single location in a publicly accessible format  
18 on a website of the Department of Defense until the Coun-  
19 cil ceases to exist.

20 “(2)(A) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the  
21 Council shall be kept and shall contain—

22 “(i) a record of the individuals present;

23 “(ii) a complete and accurate description of  
24 matters discussed and conclusions reached; and

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

3           “(B) The chair of the Council shall certify the accu-  
4           racy of the minutes of each meeting of the Council.

5           “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) Not later than March  
6           1 each year, the Council shall submit to the Secretary of  
7           Defense and the congressional defense committees a re-  
8           port on privatized military housing readiness.

9           “(2) Each report under this subsection shall include  
10          the following:

11           “(A) An assessment of the adequacy and effec-  
12          tiveness of the provision of privatized military hous-  
13          ing and the activities of the Department of Defense  
14          in meeting the needs of military families relating to  
15          housing during the preceding fiscal year.

16           “(B) A description of activities of the Council  
17          during the preceding fiscal year, including—

18           “(i) analyses of complaints of tenants of  
19          housing units;

20           “(ii) data received by the Council on main-  
21          tenance response time and completion of main-  
22          tenance requests relating to housing units;

23           “(iii) assessments of dispute resolution  
24          processes;

1           “(iv) assessments of overall customer serv-  
2           ice for tenants;

3           “(v) assessments of results of housing in-  
4           spections conducted with and without notice;  
5           and

6           “(vi) any survey results conducted on be-  
7           half of or received by the Council.

8           “(C) Recommendations on actions to be taken  
9           to improve the capability of the provision of  
10          privatized military housing and the activities of the  
11          Department of Defense to meet the needs and re-  
12          quirements of military families relating to housing,  
13          including actions relating to the allocation of fund-  
14          ing and other resources.

15          “(3) Each report under this subsection shall be made  
16          available in a publicly accessible format on a website of  
17          the Department of Defense.

18          “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

24          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
25          at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

- 1 after the item relating to section 1781c the following new
- 2 item:

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

