

## 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 5135

To give priority in allocation of rental assistance vouchers under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to areas having the largest populations of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Ms. Barragán introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

## A BILL

- To give priority in allocation of rental assistance vouchers under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to areas having the largest populations of homeless veterans, 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 "Housing Homeless
  - 5 Veterans Act of 2019".

## 1 SEC. 2. ALLOCATION OF HUD-VASH VOUCHERS.

2	(a) Amendment to VASH Program.—Paragraph
3	(19) of section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
4	1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding at
5	the end the following new subparagraphs:
6	"(D) Allocation criteria.—Notwith-
7	standing any other provision of law (including
8	paragraph (6) under the heading 'Public and
9	Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assist-
10	ance' in title II of division K of Public Law
11	115-31), in making amounts for assistance
12	under this paragraph available among public
13	housing agencies in each fiscal year, the Sec-
14	retary shall give priority to public housing
15	agencies that—
16	"(i) serve areas having the highest
17	numbers of homeless veterans; and
18	"(ii) have fully utilized their available
19	funds under this paragraph for the pre-
20	ceding fiscal year and have a demonstrated
21	need for incremental assistance under this
22	paragraph.
23	"(E) REALLOCATION OF UNUSED VOUCH-
24	ERS FOR VASH ASSISTANCE.—

1	"(i) Recapture and realloca-
2	TION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3	sion of law, the Secretary shall—
4	"(I) recapture from any public
5	housing agency described in clause (ii)
6	any amounts of assistance provided
7	under this paragraph to the agency
8	that are not—
9	"(aa) under lease after 24
10	months;
11	"(bb) committed under an
12	agreement to enter into a hous-
13	ing assistance payments contract;
14	or
15	"(ce) committed, under a
16	commitment of award letter that
17	has been approved by the board
18	of governors or other similar gov-
19	erning body of the public housing
20	agency, for project-based voucher
21	assistance for a project; and
22	"(II) reallocate any recaptured
23	amounts to public housing authorities
24	that have leased their entire allocation
25	of assistance under this paragraph.

1	"(ii) Agencies subject to recap-
2	TURE.—An agency described in this clause
3	is an agency whose jurisdiction is located
4	within an area within which the homeless
5	population has decreased, according to the
6	point-in-time information of the Secretary
7	for the two most recent reporting periods
8	for such information.".
9	(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
10	section (a) shall apply to amounts made available—
11	(1) by paragraph (6) under the heading "Public
12	and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assist-
13	ance" in title II of division K of Public Law 115-
14	31, to the extent such amounts remain unobligated
15	as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and
16	(2) by any other provision of law enacted after
17	the date of the enactment of this Act.

 $\bigcirc$