

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 614

To require each owner of a dwelling unit assisted under the section 8 rental assistance voucher program to remain current with respect to local property and school taxes and to authorize a public housing agency to use such rental assistance amounts to pay such tax debt of such an owner, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require each owner of a dwelling unit assisted under the section 8 rental assistance voucher program to remain current with respect to local property and school taxes and to authorize a public housing agency to use such rental assistance amounts to pay such tax debt of such an owner, 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 “Protect Our Schools
5 from Tax Delinquents Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. OBLIGATION FOR OWNERS OF ASSISTED UNITS TO**
2 **REMAIN CURRENT ON LOCAL PROPERTY AND**
3 **SCHOOL TAXES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (o) of section 8 of the
5 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o))
6 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
7 graph:

8 “(21) OBLIGATION FOR OWNERS TO REMAIN
9 CURRENT ON LOCAL PROPERTY AND SCHOOL
10 TAXES.—

11 “(A) OBLIGATION.—Each housing assist-
12 ance payments contract entered into by a public
13 housing agency and the owner of a dwelling
14 unit shall provide that the owner of the dwelling
15 unit assisted under the contract shall pay, on a
16 timely basis, all covered taxes validly assessed
17 against the property in which such dwelling
18 unit is located.

19 “(B) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR USE OF
20 ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS TO PAY DELINQUENT
21 TAXES.—A housing assistance payments con-
22 tract entered into by a public housing agency
23 and the owner of a dwelling unit may provide
24 that, upon notification by a taxing authority
25 that the owner of a dwelling unit assisted under
26 this subsection is delinquent with respect to

1 payment of any covered taxes assessed by such
2 taxing authority against the property in which
3 such dwelling unit is located and identification
4 of the amount of such delinquency—

5 “(i) the public housing agency shall
6 abate all of the assistance amounts under
7 this subsection with respect to such prop-
8 erty until the transfer of amounts pursu-
9 ant to subparagraph (B) is completed; and

10 “(ii) the agency shall transfer to such
11 taxing authority, on a monthly basis, an
12 amount equal to the monthly assistance
13 amounts under this subsection with respect
14 to such dwelling unit (or such lesser
15 amount as may be agreed to by the agency
16 and such authority) until the delinquency
17 identified in such notification is eliminated
18 (or for such shorter period, as may be
19 agreed to by the agency and such author-
20 ity).

21 “(C) REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES.—

22 The Secretary shall establish such requirements
23 as may be necessary to implement the require-
24 ments of subparagraphs (A) and (B), including,
25 with respect to subparagraph (B), such require-

1 ments regarding any notification and transfer
2 of amounts as may be necessary to ensure that
3 amounts are not so transferred except for ac-
4 tual and confirmed taxes assessed to and owed
5 by an owner of a dwelling unit to ensure—

6 “(i) that no amounts are transferred
7 in excess of the amount of such taxes
8 owed; and

9 “(ii) the timely commencement and
10 termination of such transfer.

11 “(D) TREATMENT OF TENANTS.—Nothing
12 in this paragraph may be construed to author-
13 ize, or establish any cause or grounds for, the
14 termination of the tenancy of any tenant from
15 any dwelling unit assisted under this sub-
16 section.

17 “(E) DATABASE.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
19 shall maintain a database of information
20 regarding—

21 “(I) owners of dwelling units as-
22 sisted under this subsection whose
23 housing assistance payments contracts
24 have been terminated for failure to
25 comply with subparagraph (A); and

1 “(II) owners of such dwelling
2 units with respect to whom assistance
3 amounts have been abated and trans-
4 ferred to a taxing authority pursuant
5 to subparagraph (B).

6 “(ii) CONTENTS.—Such database
7 shall include information that identifies the
8 owner, the property for which such assist-
9 ance was provided, the amount transferred,
10 and the period over which such abatement
11 and transfer occurred.

12 “(iii) INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC
13 HOUSING AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall
14 require public housing agencies to submit
15 information regarding the abatement and
16 transfer of assistance amounts pursuant to
17 subparagraph (B) sufficient for the Sec-
18 retary to maintain such database.

19 “(F) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
20 paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

21 “(i) COVERED TAXES.—The term
22 ‘covered taxes’ means any tax under the
23 law of a State or any political subdivision
24 of a State that is assessed upon real prop-
25 erty or the revenue of which is dedicated

1 for use only for schools or for costs of edu-
2 cation.

3 “(ii) TAXING AUTHORITY.—The term
4 ‘taxing authority’ means any State or po-
5 litical subdivision of a State, including any
6 agency or authority thereof, having author-
7 ity to assess and collect covered taxes.”.

8 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and
9 Urban Development shall issue any regulations necessary
10 to carry out this Act.

○