

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7701

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to reduce rent in public housing for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to reduce rent in public housing for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

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 “Public Housing Rent
5 Reduction for First Responders Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING AFFORDABILITY AND SAFETY FOR**
7 **PUBLIC SERVANTS.**

8 Section 3(a) of the United States Housing Act of
9 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as
2 provided in paragraph (2)” and inserting “Except as
3 provided in paragraphs (2) and (4)”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (4)—

5 (A) in the heading, by striking “OCCU-
6 PANCY BY POLICE OFFICERS” and inserting,
7 “OCCUPANCY BY POLICE OFFICERS, FIRE-
8 FIGHTERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNI-
9 CIANS”;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
11 subparagraph (D);

12 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
13 the following:

14 “(C) RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Notwith-
15 standing paragraph (1), a family of which one
16 or more members are a police officer, fire-
17 fighter, or emergency medical technician shall
18 pay as rent for a dwelling unit assisted under
19 this Act the highest of the following amounts,
20 rounded to the nearest dollar:

21 “(i) 15 per centum of the family’s
22 monthly adjusted income; or

23 “(ii) 5 per centum of the family’s
24 monthly income”; and

1 (D) by amending subparagraph (D), as so
2 redesignated, to read as follows:

3 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) POLICE OFFICER.—The term ‘po-
5 lice officer’ means any person determined
6 by a public housing agency to be, during
7 the period of residence of that person in
8 public housing, employed on a full-time
9 basis as a duly licensed professional police
10 officer by a Federal, State, or local govern-
11 ment or by any agency thereof (including
12 a public housing agency having an accred-
13 ited police force).

14 “(ii) FIREFIGHTER.—The term ‘fire-
15 fighter’ means any person determined by a
16 public housing agency to be, during the pe-
17 riod of residence of that person in public
18 housing, employed on a full-time basis as
19 a firefighter by a fire department or emer-
20 gency medical services responder unit of
21 the Federal Government, a State, unit of
22 general local government, or an Indian
23 tribal government.

24 “(iii) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHN-
25 CIAN.—The term ‘emergency medical tech-

1 nician’ means any person determined by a
2 public housing agency to be, during the pe-
3 riod of residence of that person in public
4 housing, employed on a full-time basis as
5 an emergency medical technician by a fire
6 department or emergency medical services
7 responder unit of the Federal Government,
8 a State, unit of general local government,
9 or an Indian tribal government.”.

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