

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1978

To amend title 10, United States Code, to develop requirements for military tenant advocates for privatized military housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2023

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to develop requirements for military tenant advocates for privatized military housing, 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 “Military Tenant Advo-
5 cacy Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY TENANT ADVOC-**
7 **CATES FOR PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 169 of
9 title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
10 section 2890 the following new section:

1 **“§ 2890a. Military tenant advocates**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
3 ensure that each installation of the Department of De-
4 fense at which military housing under subchapter IV of
5 this chapter is offered has a military tenant advocate em-
6 ployed by the military department concerned.

7 “(b) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.—(1) The Sec-
8 retary shall implement a uniform training and certification
9 program for all individuals serving or selected to serve as
10 a military tenant advocate under subsection (a).

11 “(2) The training and certification program under
12 paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, instruction on
13 the following:

14 “(A) The authority of the Secretary to provide
15 military housing under subchapter IV of this chap-
16 ter.

17 “(B) The role, authority, and responsibility of
18 housing management offices.

19 “(C) The Military Housing Privatization Initia-
20 tive Tenant Bill of Rights developed under section
21 2890 of this title.

22 “(D) The dispute resolution process under sec-
23 tion 2894 of this title.

24 “(E) The resources available to tenants of mili-
25 tary housing under subchapter IV of this chapter to
26 ensure that all such tenants are living in housing

1 that meets the standards described in the Military
 2 Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of
 3 Rights.

4 “(F) Relevant national, State, and local hous-
 5 ing, disability, and environmental laws.

6 “(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct public
 7 outreach and education at each installation of the Depart-
 8 ment with a military tenant advocate under subsection (a)
 9 to provide members of the armed forces and their families
 10 with information on the identity, role, and authority of
 11 the military tenant advocate.

12 “(d) HIRING.—When hiring or selecting individuals
 13 to serve in the role of military tenant advocate under sub-
 14 section (a), no preferential consideration shall be given to
 15 individuals currently or previously employed by—

16 “(1) a housing management office;

17 “(2) a garrison command; or

18 “(3) a housing provider or manager owning or
 19 operating military housing under subchapter IV of
 20 this chapter.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 23 tions at the beginning of such subchapter is amend-
 24 ed by inserting after the item relating to section
 25 2890 the following new item:

“2890a. Military tenant advocates.”.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

2 (A) RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF
3 TENANTS.—Section 2890(b) of title 10, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (i) in paragraph (5), by inserting
6 “under section 2890a of this title” after
7 “advocate”; and

8 (ii) in paragraph (8), by striking “, as
9 provided in section 2894(b)(4) of this
10 title,” and inserting “under section 2890a
11 of this title”.

12 (B) DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS.—Sec-
13 tion 2894(b)(4) of such title is amended by
14 striking “military housing advocate employed by
15 the military department concerned” and insert-
16 ing “military tenant advocate under section
17 2890a of this title”.

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