

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5064

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public 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 “Public Housing Fire  
5 Safety Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1           (1) the term “automatic sprinkler system” has  
2 the meaning given the term in section 31(a) of the  
3 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
4 (15 U.S.C. 2227(a));

5           (2) the term “Capital Fund” means the Capital  
6 Fund established under section 9(d) of the United  
7 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d));

8           (3) the term “exempted public housing project”  
9 means a public housing project that—

10           (A) is not a newly constructed multifamily  
11 property, as defined in section 31(c)(2)(A)(ii) of  
12 the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of  
13 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(c)(2)(A)(ii)); and

14           (B) is not subject to the requirements  
15 under section 31(c) of the Federal Fire Preven-  
16 tion and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
17 2227(c));

18           (4) the terms “public housing” and “public  
19 housing agency” have the meanings given those  
20 terms in section 3(b) of the United States Housing  
21 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)); and

22           (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
23 of Housing and Urban Development.

1 **SEC. 3. INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to inspections of  
3 public housing conducted by the Secretary, including  
4 through the Real Estate Assessment Center, the Secretary  
5 shall report on the presence or absence of automatic sprin-  
6 kler systems in the public housing.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
8 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, based on  
9 inspections of public housing conducted during the 3-year  
10 period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, sub-  
11 mit to Congress a report on the presence or absence of  
12 automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, in par-  
13 ticular in exempted public housing projects, which shall  
14 include recommendations to improve fire safety in exempt-  
15 ed public housing projects.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
17 tion shall be construed to require a public housing agency  
18 to install an automatic sprinkler system in an exempted  
19 public housing project.

20 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM TO RETROFIT PUBLIC HOUSING**  
21 **WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
23 a competitive grant program under which the Secretary  
24 shall award grants to public housing agencies to install  
25 automatic sprinkler systems in exempted public housing  
26 projects.

1       (b) LIMITATION.—A public housing agency may not  
2 use amounts received under this section to install auto-  
3 matic sprinkler systems in a rebuilt multifamily property,  
4 as defined in section 31(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Federal Fire  
5 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
6 2227(c)(2)(B)(iii)).

7       (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
8 tion to amounts appropriated to the Capital Fund under  
9 any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appro-  
10 priated to the Capital Fund \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal  
11 years 2024 through 2033 to carry out this section.

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