

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7419

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the quality of overseas covered military unaccompanied housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Ms. JACOBS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the quality of overseas covered military unaccompanied 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 “Foreign Overseas Resi-
5 dence Conditions Enhancement Act” or the “FORCE
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) According to a September 2023 Government
10 Accountability Office report (23–107038) that sur-

1 veyed 31 military installations within the United
2 States, the Department of Defense does not reliably
3 assess the conditions of barracks on installations,
4 many of which are substandard and pose potentially
5 serious health and safety risks to residents.

6 (2) The Department of Defense also does not
7 have complete visibility into the funding needed for
8 construction and maintenance of unaccompanied
9 housing facilities.

10 (3) The Department of Defense does not con-
11 duct sufficient oversight needed to address long-
12 standing challenges with conditions in barracks.

13 (4) The purview of this report related to bar-
14 racks on installations within the United States, but
15 did not survey any overseas barracks facilities oper-
16 ated by the Department of Defense.

17 (5) It is the opinion of Congress that American
18 servicemembers deserve the highest possible quality
19 of residential facilities that do not endanger mission
20 readiness or capability.

21 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON OVERSEAS COVERED MILITARY UNAC-**
22 **COMPANIED HOUSING.**

23 (a) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on

1 Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives a report on the quality of all covered military unac-
3 companied housing not located in the United States that
4 shall include the following:

5 (1) The results of an evaluation the condition
6 of such housing using the uniform index developed
7 under section 2838 of the National Defense Author-
8 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–
9 31).

10 (2) A explanation of how the standards for hab-
11 itability established under section 2856b of title 10,
12 United States Code (as added by section 2832 of the
13 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
14 2024 (Public Law 118–31)), are applied to such
15 housing.

16 (3) An assessment to determine the funding
17 needed to apply the standards for habitability de-
18 scribed in paragraph (2) to such housing.

19 (4) An assessment of how habitability stand-
20 ards and the condition of such housing affect force
21 readiness, broken down by combatant command.

22 (b) COVERED MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING
23 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered military

- 1 unaccompanied housing” has the meaning given in section
- 2 2856 of title 10, United States Code.

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