

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2761

To amend section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide flexibility to the definition of rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2011

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

A BILL

To amend section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide flexibility to the definition of rural areas.

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. DEFINITION OF RURAL AREA.**

4 Section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.
5 1490) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “As used” and inserting “(a) IN
7 GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), as
8 used”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

1 “(b) AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY TO INCLUDE
2 OTHER AREAS.—

3 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may provide
4 that a place, town, village, or city that does not meet
5 the requirements under subsection (a) for consider-
6 ation as ‘rural’ or a ‘rural area’ shall be considered
7 ‘rural’ or a ‘rural area’ for purposes of this title for
8 the period provided in paragraph (3) if such place,
9 town, village, or city—

10 “(A) has a population not exceeding
11 35,000; and—

12 “(B) demonstrates to the satisfaction of
13 the Secretary that—

14 “(i) such place, town, village, or city
15 is experiencing economic distress, which
16 may be evidenced by any factors of eco-
17 nomic distress as the Secretary may pro-
18 vide, which may include factors such as—

19 “(I) an unemployment rate that
20 is higher than the national average;

21 “(II) an average wage that is
22 lower than the national wage;

23 “(III) an average home sale price
24 that is less than the national average;

25 or

1 “(IV) any other factor evidencing
2 economic distress as the Secretary
3 may provide; and

4 “(ii) eligibility of such place, town, vil-
5 lage, or city for the programs under this
6 title would be of significant value in help-
7 ing such place, town, village, or city re-
8 cover from such economic distress.

9 “(2) REQUEST FOR TREATMENT AS RURAL; DE-
10 TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall provide for
11 communities to submit requests for consideration of
12 treatment as rural and a rural area pursuant to this
13 subsection and the Secretary shall make a deter-
14 mination with respect to any such request not later
15 that the expiration of the 90-day period beginning
16 upon receipt of such request.

17 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—A place, town, village, or
18 city treated as rural and a rural areas pursuant to
19 this subsection shall be so treated until the receipt
20 of data from the first decennial census occurring
21 after the determination pursuant to this sub-
22 section.”.

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