

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5330

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council, 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. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY HOUS-**
4 **ING READINESS COUNCIL.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 88 of
6 title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
7 section 1781c the following new section:

1 **“§ 1781d. Department of Defense Military Housing**
2 **Readiness Council**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department of
4 Defense the Department of Defense Military Housing
5 Readiness Council (in this section referred to as the
6 ‘Council’).

7 “(b) MEMBERS.—(1) The Council shall be composed
8 of the following members:

9 “(A) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for
10 Energy, Installations, and Environment, who shall
11 serve as chair of the Council and who may designate
12 a representative to chair the Council in the absence
13 of the Assistant Secretary.

14 “(B) One representative of each of the Army,
15 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force—

16 “(i) each of whom shall be a member of
17 the armed force to be represented; and

18 “(ii) not fewer than two of whom shall be
19 enlisted members.

20 “(C) One spouse of a member of each of the
21 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space
22 Force on active duty, not fewer than two of whom
23 shall be the spouse of an enlisted member.

24 “(D) One representative that possesses exper-
25 tise in State and Federal housing standards from
26 each of the following areas:

1 “(i) Plumbing.

2 “(ii) Electrical.

3 “(iii) Heating, ventilation, and air condi-
4 tioning.

5 “(iv) Certified home inspection.

6 “(v) Roofing.

7 “(vi) Structural engineering.

8 “(vii) Window fall prevention and safety.

9 “(E) Two representatives of organizations that
10 advocate on behalf of military families with respect
11 to military housing.

12 “(F) One individual appointed by the Secretary
13 of Defense among representatives of the Inter-
14 national Code Council.

15 “(G) One individual appointed by the Secretary
16 of Defense among representatives of the Institute of
17 Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification.

18 “(H) One individual appointed by the Secretary
19 of Defense among representatives of a voluntary
20 consensus standards body that develops construction
21 standards (such as building, plumbing, mechanical,
22 or electrical).

23 “(I) One individual appointed by the Secretary
24 of Defense among representatives of a voluntary
25 consensus standards body that develops personnel

1 certification standards for building maintenance or
2 restoration.

3 “(J) Two individuals appointed by the Chair of
4 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate,
5 each of whom is not described in subparagraph (B),
6 (C), or (D) and is not a representative of an organi-
7 zation specified in subparagraph (E), (F), (G), (H),
8 or (I).

9 “(K) Two individuals appointed by the Ranking
10 Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the
11 Senate, each of whom is not described in subpara-
12 graph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a representative
13 of an organization specified in subparagraph (E),
14 (F), (G), (H), or (I).

15 “(L) Two individuals appointed by the Chair of
16 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
17 Representatives, each of whom is not described in
18 subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a rep-
19 resentative of an organization specified in subpara-
20 graph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

21 “(M) Two individuals appointed by the Ranking
22 Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the
23 House of Representatives, each of whom is not de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not

1 a representative of an organization specified in sub-
2 paragraph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

3 “(2) The term on the Council of the members speci-
4 fied under subparagraphs (B) through (M) of paragraph
5 (1) shall be two years and may be renewed by the Sec-
6 retary of Defense.

7 “(3) The chair of the Council shall extend an invita-
8 tion to all landlords for one representative of each landlord
9 to attend such meetings of the Council as the chair con-
10 siderers appropriate.

11 “(4) Each member of the Council under paragraph
12 (1)(D) may not be affiliated with—

13 “(A) any organization that provides privatized
14 military housing; or

15 “(B) the Department of Defense.

16 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet two times
17 each year.

18 “(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall in-
19 clude the following:

20 “(1) To review and make recommendations to
21 the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for
22 privatized military housing, including inspections
23 practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of
24 medical bills for health conditions of residents of
25 housing units resulting from lack of maintenance of

1 minimum standards of habitability, and access to
2 maintenance work order systems.

3 “(2) To monitor compliance by the Department
4 of Defense with, and effective implementation by the
5 Department of, statutory and regulatory improve-
6 ments to policies for privatized military housing, in-
7 cluding the Military Housing Privatization Initiative
8 Tenant Bill of Rights developed under section 2890
9 of this title and the complaint database established
10 under section 2894a of this title.

11 “(3) To make recommendations to the Sec-
12 retary of Defense to improve collaboration, aware-
13 ness, and promotion of accurate and timely informa-
14 tion about privatized military housing, accommoda-
15 tions available through the Exceptional Family
16 Member Program of the Department, and other sup-
17 port services among policymakers, service providers,
18 and targeted beneficiaries.

19 “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—(1) Subject to section
20 552 of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Infor-
21 mation Act’), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes,
22 appendices, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, and
23 other documents made available to or prepared for or by
24 the Council shall be available for public inspection and
25 copying at a single location in a publicly accessible format

1 on a website of the Department of Defense until the Coun-
2 cil ceases to exist.

3 “(2)(A) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the
4 Council shall be kept and shall contain—

5 “(i) a record of the individuals present;

6 “(ii) a complete and accurate description of
7 matters discussed and conclusions reached; and

8 “(iii) copies of all reports received, issued, or
9 approved by the Council.

10 “(B) The chair of the Council shall certify the accu-
11 racy of the minutes of each meeting of the Council.

12 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) Not later than March
13 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit
14 to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense
15 committees a report on privatized military housing readi-
16 ness.

17 “(2) Each report under this subsection shall include
18 the following:

19 “(A) An assessment of the adequacy and effec-
20 tiveness of the provision of privatized military hous-
21 ing and the activities of the Secretary of Defense in
22 meeting the needs of military families relating to
23 housing during the preceding fiscal year.

24 “(B) A description of activities of the Council
25 during the preceding fiscal year, including—

1 “(i) analyses of complaints of tenants of
2 privatized military housing;

3 “(ii) data received by the Council on main-
4 tenance response time and completion of main-
5 tenance requests relating to privatized military
6 housing;

7 “(iii) assessments of dispute resolution
8 processes;

9 “(iv) assessments of overall customer serv-
10 ice for tenants;

11 “(v) assessments of results of housing in-
12 spections conducted with and without notice;
13 and

14 “(vi) any survey results conducted on be-
15 half of or received by the Council.

16 “(C) Recommendations on actions to be taken
17 to improve the capability of the provision of
18 privatized military housing and the activities of the
19 Department of Defense to meet the needs and re-
20 quirements of military families relating to housing,
21 including actions relating to the allocation of fund-
22 ing and other resources.

23 “(3) Each report under this subsection shall be made
24 available in a publicly accessible format on a website of
25 the Department of Defense.

1 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) The terms ‘landlord’ and ‘tenant’ have the
3 meanings given, respectively, in section 2871 of this
4 title.

5 “(2) The term ‘privatized military housing’
6 means housing provided under subchapter IV of
7 chapter 169 of this title.”.

8 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than March 1, 2024, the
9 Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional de-
10 fense committees a briefing on the annual report required
11 under subsection (f) of section 1781d of title 10, United
12 States Code, as added by subsection (a).

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