



March 20, 2007

Legislative Digest

H.R. 1227 – Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 1227, the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007, was introduced by Representative Waters (D-CA) on February 28, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Financial Services, by a recorded vote of 50 to 16, on March 16, 2007.

The bill is being considered on the floor under a structured rule on March 20, 2007. The rule:

- Provides one hour of debate equally divided and Controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Financial Services.
- Provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill as amended shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read. (Please see section on the Manager's amendment below)
- Waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for clause 9 (earmarks) and 10 (PAYGO) of Rule XXI.
- Makes in order only those amendments print in Part B of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report except for clause 9 (earmarks) and 10 (PAYGO) of Rule XXI.
- Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Background

During the summer of 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused \$67 billion in damage to housing in the Gulf Coast region. The impact of these hurricanes caused major or severe damages to approximately 265,000 homes and apartments in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Many were affected by the devastation caused by these hurricanes, and families with exceptionally low incomes resided in 44 percent of the damaged housing. Many of these families are still waiting to rebuild or return to permanent housing.

The recovery process has taken time. Serious questions have been raised and lawmakers, residents (both former and current), and many in the philanthropic community are ready for a long-term solution for rebuilding efforts. The rebuilding process has taken time due to the severe destruction, the need to sustain any further flooding, and the need to coordinate rebuilding efforts through both the private sector and various levels of government.

Since the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Federal Government has committed more than \$110 billion to support the Gulf Coast; specifically \$16.7 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In addition, individual states were asked to submit to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) detailed state plans outlining how they intended to use the funds.

Summary

TITLE 1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

Flexibility of Federal Funds for Road Home Program (Section 101)

- This section provides that \$1.175 billion in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grants Program (HMGP) funds previously made available to the State of Louisiana are now made available under terms of the CDBG funds to the State of Louisiana for use under the Road Home Program.
- Requires the State of Louisiana to submit reports regarding the Road Home Program to the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. Each report shall describe and analyze the implementation, status, and effectiveness of the Road Home Program and include the following information, for the applicable reporting period and for the entire period of the program:
 - The number of applications submitted for assistance under the program;
 - The number of households for which assistance has been provided under the program;
 - The average amount of assistance provided for each household under the program and the total amount of assistance provided under the program;
 - The number of personnel involved in executing all aspects of the program; and
 - Actions taken to improve the program and recommendations for further such improvements.

- Requires the first report to be submitted no later than the expiration of the 30-day period that begins upon the date of the enactment of this Act and reports shall be submitted not later than the expiration of each successive 30-day period thereafter during the term of the program.
- Creates a New Orleans Redevelopment Authority Pilot Program in which the Secretary of HUD is authorized to make \$15 million of the \$1.175 billion available to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority used only for carrying out the pilot program.
 - The pilot program is authorized to fund the purchase or costs associated with the acquisition of individual parcels of land in New Orleans, Louisiana, by the Redevelopment Authority to be aggregated, assembled, and sold for the purpose of development by private entities only in accordance with, and subject to, the Orleans Parish Recovery Plan, developed and adopted by the City of New Orleans;
 - The Secretary of HUD is authorized to make funds available to the Redevelopment Authority in the determination of the Secretary that the Redevelopment Authority –
 - Has the authority to purchase land for resale for the purpose of development in accordance with the pilot program;
 - Has the bonding authority or has the credit enhancements sufficient to support public/private financing to acquire land for the purposes of the pilot program;
 - Has the authority and capacity to ensure clean title to land sold under the pilot program and to indemnify against environmental and other liabilities;
 - Will provide a first right to purchase any land acquired by the Redevelopment Authority to the seller who sold the land to the Redevelopment Authority; and
 - Has in place sufficient internal controls to ensure that the funds made available will not be used to fund salaries or other administrative costs of the employees of the Redevelopment Authority.
 - In carrying out the pilot program the Redevelopment Authority is required:
 - to sell land acquired under the pilot program only as provided;
 - to use any proceeds from the sale of such land to replenish funds available for use under the pilot program for the purpose of

- acquiring new parcels of land or to repay any private financing for such purchases;
- to sell land only to purchasers who agree to develop such sites for sale to the public or to purchasers who will provide a first right to purchase any land acquired by the Redevelopment Authority to the seller who sold the land to the Redevelopment Authority; and
 - in the case of a purchaser who will provide a first right to purchase any land acquired by the Redevelopment Authority to the seller who sold the land to the Redevelopment Authority, ensure that the developer of any adjacent parcels sold by the Redevelopment Authority makes an offer to the purchases to develop such land for a fee.
- Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of the pilot program to determine the effectiveness and the limitations of, and potential improvements for the program, two years from the date of the enactment of this Act.
 - Within 90 days of the survey's completing, the Comptroller General is required to submit a report regarding the results of the study to the House Financial Services Committee and to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.
- The Comptroller General is required to submit quarterly reports to the House Financial Services Committee and to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee regarding the funds that are being spent under the Road Home Program of the LRA, and that will identify any waste, fraud, or abuse involved in any of the expenditures. The Comptroller General will be required to certify if the amount of waste, fraud, and abuse represents at least 10 percent of the expended funds. If at any time the Comptroller General submits a report certifying such waste, fraud, and abuse:
- Each Committee is required to hold a hearing within 60 days to identify the misuse; and
 - The Comptroller General will also submit a report to the Committees and the Secretary of HUD within 90 days recommending actions to be taken to prevent further waste, fraud, and abuse of expenditures.

Treatment of Benefits from Other Programs Under Road Home Program (Section 102)

- Establishes that funds made available are used by the LRA under the Road Home Program, and the procedures preventing duplication of benefits established do not apply with respect to any benefits received from hazard insurance, flood insurance, or disaster payments from the FEMA, except to the extent that the

inapplicability of such procedures would result in a windfall gain under the Road Home Program to any person.

Elimination of Prohibition of use for Match Requirement (Section 103)

- Authorizes any amounts made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for activities under the CDBG Program for expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the areas impacted or distressed by hurricane Katrina, Rita, Wilma, or Dennis, in states which the President declared a major disaster to be used by a State or locality as a matching requirement, share, or contribution for any other Federal program.

**Note: Allows all CDBG supplemental funds that were provided for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma to be used as a match fund for other federal programs (including FEMA).*

- Eliminates the requirement for all future disasters to have two sets of environmental reviews performed – one by FEMA and one by the local government.

Reimbursement of CDBG amounts used for Rental Housing Assistance (Section 104)

- Authorizes appropriations, from any amount previously made available by FEMA before the enactment of this Act, relating to the consequences of hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, or Dennis, that remain unobligated to metropolitan cities and urban counties, to provide rental housing assistance for families residing in cities or counties that evacuated their residencies because of such hurricanes, and for the Secretary of HUD to provide each city and county with an amount equal to the aggregate amount of previous assistance.

**Note: Allows for reimbursement of regular CDBG funds that cities or counties used to provide rental assistance for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, or Dennis evacuees.*

TITLE II. PUBLIC HOUSING

Survey of Public Housing Residents (Section 201)

- Authorizes the Secretary of HUD to provide for the conducting of a survey, using scientific research methods, by an independent entity or organization to determine how many of the households as of August 28, 2005, resided in public housing that were operated or administered by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) finding:

- Which and how many such households intend to return to residence in dwelling units described in Section 202 of this Act, when presented with the options of:
 - Returning to residence in a repaired public housing or comparable dwelling unit in New Orleans; or
 - Continuing to receive rental housing assistance from the Federal Government; and
 - When such households intend to return.

Requires the Secretary of HUD to solicit recommendations from resident councils and residents of public housing operated or administered by HANO in designing and conducting the survey, to submit the full research design of the proposed document to be used in conducting the survey to the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, no less than 10 days before the survey begins; and to submit a report detailing the results of the survey conducted no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

Right of Return for Previous Residents of Public Housing (Section 202)

- Requires HANO to make available by August 1, 2007, not less than the greater of 3,000 dwelling units or the number of households who indicated in the survey conducted that they intend to return to residence in public housing operated or administered by HANO.
- Establishes that HANO public housing residents as of August 28, 2005, have a right to return to a HANO dwelling unit or comparable unit.
- Establishes that a tenant exercising their right to occupy a dwelling unit must provide a notice to HANO of their intent and provide a date that the tenant intends to occupy the unit; the right to occupy must be done no later than October 1, 2007.
- Establishes preference to those that select to come back to a HANO dwelling unit in the following locations, in the following order:
 - A dwelling unit in the same public housing project occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005, if available;
 - A dwelling unit in the same census tract in which the public housing unit was occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005, if available;
 - A dwelling unit in a census tract adjacent to the census tract in which the located public housing unit was occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005, if available;
 - A dwelling unit in the neighborhood where the unit was occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005, if available.

- Requires that the HANO or any other manager of replacement dwelling units will not prevent any household from occupying a replacement housing unit, with the exception of any other pre-existing Federal law that prohibits occupancy or tenancy of a household in a replacement dwelling unit, through the application of a waiting list or eligibility, screening, occupancy, or other policy or practice.
- Describes replacement Dwelling Units as a:
 - Dwelling unit in public housing operated or administered by the HANO; or
 - Dwelling unit in other comparable housing for which the amount required to be contributed by the tenant for rent is comparable to the amount required to be contributed by the tenant for rental of a comparable public housing dwelling unit.
- Provides for relocation assistance by HANO.

One-for-One Replacement of all Public Housing Dwelling Units (Section 203)

- Establishes conditions of demolition so that after the enactment of this Act, the HANO may not demolish or dispose of any dwelling unit of public housing operated or administered by HANO, including any uninhabitable unit and any unit previously approved for demolition, unless a plan for replacement of those units is in accordance with and approved by the Secretary of HUD.
- Establishes plan requirements so that the Secretary of HUD may not approve a plan that provides for demolition or disposition of any dwelling unit of public housing unless:
 - The plan is developed with the active participation of residents, the City of New Orleans, and HANO, at every phase of the planning and approval process, through a process that provides opportunity for comment on specific proposals for redevelopment, demolition, or disposition;
 - HANO has convened and conducted a public hearing regarding the demolition or disposition proposed in the plan, no later than 60 days before the date of the approval for the plan;
 - Each plan provides for an additional dwelling unit for any plan that requires the demolition or disposition of a dwelling unit through:
 - The acquisition or redevelopment of additional public housing dwelling units; or
 - The acquisition, development, or contracting of additional dwelling units that are subject to the same eligibility requirements and comparable in rent.

- The plan provides: for the implementation of section 202 right of return provisions; in making units available to residents as identified in Section 201; the proposed demolition or disposition and relocation will be carried out in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing.
- Requires the Secretary of HUD to provide for the appropriate amount of field offices of the Department to monitor and supervise enforcement of Section 203, and to consult with residents, the City of New Orleans, and HANO.

Protection for Public Housing Residents in Hurricane Areas (Section 204)

- Establishes that during the two year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, a public housing agency may not transfer ownership of any public housing dwelling unit unless the transferee enters into such binding commitments as the Secretary of HUD considers necessary to maintain.
- Requires public housing agencies to not dispose or demolish any dwelling units unless a plan for replacement of those units is in accordance with, and approved by the Secretary of HUD.
- Requires the Secretary of HUD to not approve a plan that provides for demolition or disposition of any dwelling unit of public housing unless such a plan complies with section 203 of this TITLE.
- Establishes that a public housing agency will provide to each household relocated due to a plan for demolition or disposition of their housing unit, assistance for relocation to their new residence.
- Establishes that a public housing agency administering or operating public housing dwelling units has the obligation to:
 - Use its best efforts to locate tenants displaced from such public housing as a result of hurricanes Katrina or Rita; and
 - Provide such residents occupancy in public housing dwelling units that are available for occupancy, and to ensure such residents a means to exercise their right to return.
- Establishes that a public housing agency may not displace a tenant from any public housing dwelling unit that is administered or operated by such agency unless the agency provides a suitable and comparable dwelling unit for the tenant in the same local community as such public housing dwelling unit.

Reports on Proposed Conversions of Public Housing Units (Section 205)

- Requires the Secretary of HUD to submit a detailed report identifying all public housing projects located in areas impacted by hurricanes Katrina or Rita of 2005, to the House Financial Services Committee and to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Development Committee no later than 15-days from the date of the enactment of this Act.

The reports shall include the following information for each project:

- The name and location.
- The number of dwelling units.
- The proposed new owner.
- The existing income eligibility and rent provisions.
- Duration of existing affordability restrictions.
- The proposed date of transfer.
- Any other relevant information regarding the project.

Authorization of Appropriations for Repair and Rehabilitation (Section 206)

- Authorizes such sums as are necessary to carry out repair, rehabilitation, and development of HANO public housing units, and for community and supportive services for the residents of public housing operated or administered by HANO.

Compliance of Existing Requests for Proposals (Section 207)

- Requires that any existing request for qualification or proposal related to HANO public housing units, be subject to and comply with all provisions of TITLE II.

Reports on Compliance (Section 208)

- Requires the Secretary of HUD to submit to the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Development a detailed quarterly report on the compliance with the provisions of TITLE II, including the resident participation requirement under Section 203 no later than 30-days of the enactment of this Act.

Requirements Regarding Public Housing Construction Workers (Section 209)

- Requires that any entity receiving Federal funds to provide for construction, development, rehabilitation, or repair of public housing must verify that all workers have an immigration status that allows them to legally be employed and

that each worker has a valid form of identification or documentation indicating their immigration status.

TITLE III. DISASTER VOUCHER PROGRAM AND PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Extension of Disaster Voucher Program (DVP) (Section 301)

- Extends the DVP of HUD from September 2007 through January 1, 2008.

Clarification of Voucher Allocation Formula for Fiscal Year 2007 (Section 302)

- Clarifies that the Secretary of HUD shall make appropriate adjustments under the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuing Appropriations Resolution to provide adequate voucher funding for tenant-based rental housing assistance for any public housing agency impacted by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma.

Preservation of Project-Based Housing Assistance Payments Contracts for Dwelling Units Damaged or Destroyed (Section 303)

**Note: Covered Assisted Multifamily Housing Project is defined as: a multi-family housing project that as of the date of the enactment of this Act is subject to a project-based rental assistance payment contract and that was damaged or destroyed by hurricanes Katrina or Rita of 2005.*

- Establishes that a project-based housing assistance payments contract for a covered assisted multi-family housing project shall not expire or be terminated because of the damage or destruction of dwelling units in the project by hurricanes Katrina or Rita. The expiration date of the contract shall be deemed to be the later of the date specified in the contract or a date that is not less than three months after the dwelling units in the project or in a replacement project are first made habitable.
- Requires the Secretary of HUD to promptly review and approve all feasible proposals made by owners of covered assisted multifamily housing projects submitted to the Secretary, no later than October 1, 2007, that provide for the rehabilitation of the project and the resumption of use of the assistance under the contract for the project, or, alternatively, for the transfer of the contract or, in the case of a project with an interest reduction payments contract, or of the remaining budget authority under the contract, to another multifamily housing project.
- Requires the Secretary of HUD, in the case of any covered assisted multifamily housing project to:
 - Transfer the contract to another appropriate and habitable existing project or a project to be constructed (having the same or a different owner), in

the case of a project with a project-based rental assistance payments contract;

- Use the remaining budget authority under the contract for interest reduction payments to reduce financing costs with respect to dwelling units in other habitable projects not currently so assisted, and such dwelling units shall be subject to the low-income affordability restrictions to projects for which such payments are made under section 236 of the National Housing Act, in the case of a project with an interest reduction payments contract pursuant to section 236 of the National Housing Act.

Tenant Replacement Vouchers for All Lost Units (Section 304)

- This section authorizes an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2008 an amount necessary to provide tenant replacement vouchers for the number of households that is equal to:
 - The number of assisted dwelling units (whether occupied or unoccupied) located in covered assisted multifamily housing projects that are not approved for reuse or re-sitting by the Secretary of HUD; plus
 - The number of public housing dwelling units, that, as of August 28, 2005, were located in areas affected by hurricane Katrina and were considered for purposes of allocating operating and capital assistance (whether occupied or unoccupied), that will not be put back into use for occupancy; plus
 - The number of public housing dwelling units that, as of September 24, 2005, were located in areas affected by hurricane Rita and were considered for purposes of allocating and capital assistance (whether occupied or unoccupied), that will not be put back into use for occupancy; minus
 - The number of previously awarded enhanced vouchers for assisted dwelling units and tenant protection vouchers for public housing units covered under this section.
- Allows that any amounts made available pursuant to this section shall, upon the request of a public housing agency for such voucher assistance, be allocated to the public housing agency based the number of dwelling units that are located in the jurisdiction of the public housing agency.

Voucher Assistance for Supportive Housing (Section 305)

- Authorizes such funds that may be necessary to provide 4,500 vouchers for project-based rental assistance for use for supportive housing dwelling units for elderly families, persons with disabilities, or homeless persons.

- Required the Secretary of HUD to make available to the State of Louisiana or its designee or designees, upon request, 3,000 of such vouchers.

Transfer of DVP Vouchers to Voucher Program (Section 306)

- Authorizes appropriations, such sums as may be necessary, to provide Section 8 vouchers for assistance to each household that at the termination date of the DVP is assisted under the program and eligible for Section 8 voucher assistance.
- Establishes that if at any time a household that is eligible for temporary voucher rental housing assistance becomes ineligible for such further rental assistance:
 - The public housing agency administering the voucher may not provide rental assistance under such voucher for any other household;
 - The Secretary of HUD is required to recollect from such agency any remaining funds for assistance attributable to such voucher and may not reobligate the funds to any public housing agency; and
 - Such voucher will not be taken into consideration in determining any future allocations of funds for such tenant-based rental assistance for any public housing agency.

Identification and Notification of DVP-Eligible Households Not Assisted (Section 307)

- Authorizes the Secretary of HUD to make a good faith effort to identify all households who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are eligible for assistance under the DVP, but are not assisted under the program currently.
- In addition, once such households are identified, the Secretary of HUD is required to notify the household of the rights of the household to return to a public housing or other assisted dwelling unit and to offer the household assistance under the DVP, to the extent that the family is eligible at the time they are identified.

TITLE IV. DAMAGES ARISING FROM FEMA ACTIONS

Authorization of Appropriations to Reimburse Landlords for Damages Due to FEMA Management of City Lease Program (Section 401)

- Authorizes appropriations for the amount made available before the date of the enactment this Act for the Secretary of HUD to provide reimbursement to each landlord who participated in the city lease program of FEMA in the amount of actual, documented damages incurred by such landlord as a result of FEMA's abrogation of commitments to reimburse communities for leases entered into under the program.

TITLE V. FHA SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING

Treatment of Non-Conveyable Properties (Section 501)

- Establishes that in the case of any property consisting of 1- to 4- family residence with an FHA-insured mortgage and was damaged or destroyed as a result of hurricane Katrina or Rita of 2005, and if there was no failure on the part of the mortgagee or servicer to provide hazard insurance for the property or to provide flood insurance coverage for the property to the extent such coverage is required under Federal law, then the Secretary of HUD:
 - May not deny conveyance of title to the property to the Secretary and payment of the benefits of such insurance on the basis of the condition of the property or any failure to repair the property;
 - May not reduce the amount of such insurance benefits to take into consideration any costs or repairing the property; and
 - With respect to a property that is destroyed, condemned, demolished, or otherwise not available for conveyance of title, may pay the full benefits of such insurance to the mortgagee notwithstanding that such title is not conveyed.

TITLE VI. FAIR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT

Fair Housing Initiatives Program (Section 601)

- Authorizes appropriations to carry out section 61 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 for areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, for no less than \$5 million for FY 2008 and 2009.

For each such fiscal year thereafter:

- 60 percent is available only for qualified private enforcement fair housing organizations;
- 20 percent is available only for activities authorized; and
- 20 percent is available only for education and outreach programs authorized.

TITLE VII. IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL HURRICANE HOUSING FUNDS FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

GAO Study of Improved Distribution of Federal Housing Funds for Hurricane Relief (Section 701)

- Requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study examining, identifying and analyzing methods of improving the distribution of Federal housing funds to assist States covered by this Act with recovery from hurricanes. The report is to be submitted to Congress no later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and should describe the results of the study and any recommendation regarding the issues analyzed under the study.

TITLE VIII. COMMENDING AMERICANS FOR THEIR REBUILDING EFFORTS

Commending Americans (Section 801)

- Commends the actions and efforts by remarkable individuals and organizations and recognizes that the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region rests on the selfless dedication of private individuals and community spirit.

Summary of Managers Amendment to H.R. 1127, offered by Rep. Frank:

- Replaces existing Section 101(a) provision transferring \$1.175 billion in FEMA hazard mitigation funds to CDBG funds for use by the State of Louisiana with a provision prohibiting FEMA from disapproving or restricting use of such FEMA funds based on Louisiana Road Home features which provide a penalty for families that do not agree to live in the state, and which exempt seniors from this penalty. Makes clear that notwithstanding this provision, funds are still subject to all other provisions of Section 404 of the Stafford Act
- Extends Section 101(b) reporting from requirements to include the other three states that received Supplemental CDBG funds related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Provides that reports required under Sections 101(b) and 101(c)(6) also be sent to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and corresponding Senate committee
- Modifies Section 103(c) to provide that the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) will reimburse City of New Orleans for city expenses related to the pilot program, and to enhance consulting requirement to ensure that NORA and City have a coordinated development plan
- Changes 3-month Extension of DVP program to a provision that simply authorizes such sums as are necessary for such extension.

- Directs the GAO to do a study of the number of households that were receiving federal rental housing assistance related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that were wrongfully or erroneously terminated, and to estimate how many of such households would be income eligible for Section 8 voucher assistance
- Changes administration of reimbursement of Title IV funds from HUD to FEMA. Also makes technical change to more properly refer to the program, and to ensure landlords are not receiving any double reimbursements
- Makes Title V FHA Treatment of Non-conveyable Properties provision subject to appropriations in advance

Amendments made in order pursuant to the rule

These amendments may be offered on the Floor during debate on H.R. 1227. Please contact the offices of amendment sponsors for additional information or the text of an amendment.

**Note: GOP.gov will post updates as amendments are offered on the floor during consideration of H.R. 985.*

Rep. Corinne Brown (D-FL) The amendment (#11) would provide those receiving housing vouchers with additional comparable funds for utilities. The amendment is debatable for 20 minutes.

Rep. Corinne Brown (D-FL) The amendment (#12) would provide two deadlines for residents to indicate their intent to return as well as two reoccupancy deadlines: October 1, 2007 and December 1, 2007. The amendment would also require HANO/HUD to assist tenants with negotiating early termination of their current leases. The amendment is debatable for 20 minutes.

Rep. Hensarling (R-TX) The amendment (#4) would require recipients of rental assistance under the bill to perform 20 hours per week of approved "work activities." Approved activities include work, preparation to find work, vocational education, community service, and providing child care services. Exemptions are provided for senior citizens, the disabled, those already exempt from TANF work requirements, and those who cannot access child care. The amendment is debatable for 20 minutes.

Rep. Biggert (R-IL) The amendment (#5) would require that, instead of replacing all pre-Katrina public housing units, only the number of public housing units occupied pre-Katrina be replaced. The amendment is debatable for 20 minutes.

Rep. Al Green (R-TX) The amendment (#8) would extend FEMA housing assistance for evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma until December 31, 2007 and provide tenant-based rental assistance upon termination of FEMA housing assistance. The amendment is debatable for 60 minutes.

Rep. Neugebauer (R-TX) The amendment (#1) would strike section 306, which authorizes funds for eligible families to continue receiving voucher assistance after the termination of the Disaster Voucher Program. The amendment is debatable for 60 minutes.

Rep. Price(R-GA) The amendment (#3) would strike section 103, which eliminates the prohibition of use for match requirement. The amendment is debatable for 20 minutes.

Cost

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1227 would increase direct spending by \$224 million in 2007, \$469 million through 2012, and \$269 million through 2017. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1227 would incur new discretionary costs of about \$1.3 billion over the 2008-2012 period.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Brooke McKnight at (202) 226-2302.