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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2021

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CÁRDEÑAS, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Public Housing Fire
Safety Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

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

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

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

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

(B) is not subject to the requirements under section 31(c) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(c));

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

(5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
SEC. 3. INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

(a) In General.—With respect to inspections of public housing conducted by the Secretary, including through the Real Estate Assessment Center, the Secretary shall report on the presence or absence of automatic sprinkler systems in the public housing.

(b) Report.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, based on inspections of public housing conducted during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report on the presence or absence of automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, in particular in exempted public housing projects, which shall include recommendations to improve fire safety in exempted public housing projects.

(c) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a public housing agency to install an automatic sprinkler system in an exempted public housing project.

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

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary shall award grants to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in exempted public housing projects.
(b) LIMITATION.—A public housing agency may not use amounts received under this section to install automatic sprinkler systems in a rebuilt multifamily property, as defined in section 31(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(c)(2)(B)(iii)).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts appropriated to the Capital Fund under any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Capital Fund $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 to carry out this section.