

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on a temporary basis, the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 to expand the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to aid tenants in their recovery from the public health emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Rental Assistance Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01) is amended as follows:

“Sec. 8e. Expanded emergency rental assistance.

“(a) The Department of Human Services may, in its discretion, expand emergency rental assistance funding to individuals, families, or households; provided that the recipient meets the eligibility criteria set forth in this section.

“(b) An individual presented with an emergency is eligible to receive expanded emergency rental assistance pursuant to this section if the individual is:

29 “(1) Age 60 years or older; or

30 “(2) A person with a disability.

31 “(c) A family or household presented with an emergency is eligible to receive expanded
32 emergency rental assistance pursuant to this section if at least one member of the family or
33 household is:

34 “(1) A minor;

35 “(2) Age 60 years or older; or

36 “(3) A person with a disability.

37 “(d) An individual, family, or household shall not be eligible for expanded emergency
38 rental assistance pursuant to this section if its net income exceeds 60% of the area median
39 income (AMI) for the District of Columbia for the specified household size.

40 “(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, undocumented residents of the
41 District shall be eligible for expanded emergency rental assistance pursuant to this section to the
42 same extent that other residents are eligible for such assistance.

43 “(2) Unless otherwise required by court order, any documentation provided by an
44 undocumented resident for purposes of establishing eligibility for expanded emergency rental
45 assistance pursuant to this section shall not be shared by the Department of Human Services with
46 other District agencies.

47 “(f) Emergency rental assistance applications, eligibility determinations, and computation
48 of payments for individuals, families and households eligible for expanded emergency rental
49 assistance under this section shall be made pursuant to Chapter 75 of Title 29 of the District of
50 Columbia Municipal Regulations (29 DCMR § 7500 *et seq.*).

51 “(g) The Mayor, in the Mayor’s sole discretion, may authorize funds of up to \$8 million
52 received pursuant to the CARES Act approved March 27, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-136; 134 Stat.
53 281), be used to fund the expanded emergency rental assistance available under this section.

54 “(h) For purposes this section, the term:

55 “(1) “Emergency” means a situation in which immediate action is necessary to
56 avoid homelessness or eviction, to re-establish a home, or prevent displacement from a home.

57 “(2) “Minor” has the same meaning as set forth in section 101(5)(A) of the
58 District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982, effective April 6, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-101;
59 D.C. Official Code § 4-201.01(5)(A).

60 “(3) “Person with a disability” means a person who is disabled, as documented by
61 medical evidence provided by a qualified professional or by participation in a program which
62 conditions its eligibility on the documentation of a disability.

63 “(4) “Undocumented resident” means a foreign national residing in the District
64 who lacks proper authorization to be in the United States”.

65 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

66 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement Budget Director as the fiscal impact
67 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
68 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

69 Sec. 4. Effective date.

70 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
71 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
72 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

73 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
74 Columbia Register.

75 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.