

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To increase workforce participation by recipients of Federal public housing assistance, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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## A BILL

To increase workforce participation by recipients of Federal public housing assistance, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pathways to a Thriving  
5 Household Act” or the “PATH Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSISTED HOUSING WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the United States  
8 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437n) is amended by  
9 adding at the end the following:

10 “(g) MINIMUM WORK REQUIREMENTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A public housing agency, in  
2           the case of public housing, tenant-based assistance  
3           (as defined in section 8(f)), or project-based voucher  
4           assistance under section 8(o)(13) or an owner, in the  
5           case of project-based assistance (as defined in sec-  
6           tion 8(f)) excluding project-based voucher assistance  
7           under section 8(o)(13), may establish minimum  
8           work requirements for individuals or families,  
9           which—

10                   “(A) shall specify a maximum 40 hour per  
11                   week work requirement; and

12                   “(B) shall not apply to—

13                           “(i) an individual under 18 years of  
14                           age or over 62 years of age;

15                           “(ii) an individual with a disability;

16                           “(iii) a pregnant woman;

17                           “(iv) the primary parent or caretaker  
18                           of a dependent child under 6 years of age  
19                           or for an individual that is temporarily in-  
20                           capacitated;

21                           “(v) the primary parent or caretaker  
22                           of a dependent with a serious medical con-  
23                           dition or disability, as determined by the  
24                           State agency established or designated to

1 administer or supervise the administration  
2 of the State plan;

3 “(vi) an individual who is enrolled as  
4 a student in an institution of higher edu-  
5 cation, as defined in section 102 of the  
6 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7 1002).

8 “(2) DETERMINATION.—A public housing agen-  
9 cy or owner under this Act shall determine whether  
10 an individual meets the criteria for exemption from  
11 the work requirements established under this sub-  
12 section.

13 “(3) WORK ACTIVITIES.—Participation by an  
14 individual family member in the following activities  
15 shall be considered to fulfill minimum work require-  
16 ments under paragraph (1), as determined by the  
17 public housing agency or owner:

18 “(A) Unsubsidized employment.

19 “(B) Subsidized private sector employ-  
20 ment.

21 “(C) Subsidized public sector employment.

22 “(D) Work experience (including work as-  
23 sociated with the refurbishing of publicly as-  
24 sisted housing) if sufficient private sector em-  
25 ployment is not available.

1                   “(E) On-the-job training.

2                   “(F) Job search and job readiness assist-  
3                   ance.

4                   “(G) Community service programs.

5                   “(H) Vocational educational training.

6                   “(I) Job skills training directly related to  
7                   employment.

8                   “(J) Education directly related to employ-  
9                   ment, in the case of a recipient who has not re-  
10                  ceived a high school diploma or a certificate of  
11                  high school equivalency, or satisfactory attend-  
12                  ance at secondary school or in a course of study  
13                  leading to a certificate of general equivalence,  
14                  in the case of a recipient who has not completed  
15                  secondary school or received such a certificate.

16                  “(K) The provision of child care services to  
17                  an individual who is participating in a commu-  
18                  nity service program.

19                  “(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—A public  
20                  housing agency or owner that establishes minimum  
21                  work requirements for individuals or families under  
22                  paragraph (1) shall—

23                  “(A) offer supportive services to assist  
24                  those individuals and families with obtaining

1 employment or otherwise engaging in work ac-  
2 tivities described in paragraph (3);

3 “(B) maintain uniform minimum work re-  
4 quirements for all applicable tenants within a  
5 particular assistance program;

6 “(C) include the minimum work require-  
7 ments policy—

8 “(i) in the case of assistance provided  
9 under section 9, in the admission and con-  
10 tinued occupancy policy of the public hous-  
11 ing agency; and

12 “(ii) in the case of assistance provided  
13 under section 8, in the administrative plan  
14 of the public housing agency and the ten-  
15 ant selection plan of the public housing  
16 agency or owner, as applicable;

17 “(D) make a copy of the minimum work  
18 requirements policy available to all applicants,  
19 tenants, and resident organizations, including—

20 “(i) to tenants at the time a new lease  
21 is executed and annually at the time of  
22 lease renewal; and

23 “(ii) written notice of the policy not  
24 later than 3 months before implementation  
25 of the policy; and

1           “(E) implement a written policy for deter-  
2           mining when the work requirement constitutes  
3           a hardship for the assisted individual or family  
4           and allow for exceptions or exemptions from the  
5           work requirement if a hardship determination is  
6           made, which shall—

7                   “(i) apply to—

8                           “(I) work-eligible adults seeking  
9                           a determination of disability status;

10                           “(II) work-eligible adults who are  
11                           temporarily relocated due to a dis-  
12                           aster; and

13                           “(III) work-eligible adults who  
14                           are actively trying to comply with the  
15                           work requirement but are having dif-  
16                           ficulty finding work or engaging in  
17                           work activity; and

18                           “(ii) include information on how to re-  
19                           quest a hearing for review of denied hard-  
20                           ship requests.

21           “(5) APPLICATION.—The requirements under  
22           this section shall apply to—

23                   “(A) in the case of public housing, tenant-  
24                   based assistance, or project-based assistance, a  
25                   public housing agency that is not in receivership

1 or designated as a troubled performer under the  
2 public housing assessment system, the section 8  
3 management assessment program, or the small  
4 rural public housing agency assessment; and

5 “(B) in the case of project-based assist-  
6 ance, an owner that is not in default of the  
7 rental assistance contract and has a current  
8 satisfactory management and occupancy review.

9 “(6) ENFORCEMENT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A public housing  
11 agency or owner that chooses to implement  
12 work requirements shall be responsible for  
13 verification and enforcement, which—

14 “(i) shall be performed not less fre-  
15 quently than annually; and

16 “(ii) may terminate program assist-  
17 ance to a covered family or family member  
18 to whom the work requirement policies  
19 apply, if the family member does not com-  
20 ply.

21 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any termination  
22 of assistance described in subparagraph (A)(ii)  
23 shall comply with the requirements of subpart  
24 L of part 982 of title 24, Code of Federal Reg-  
25 ulations.”.

1           (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
2 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2027.