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CHAPTER 28—EMERGENCY MORTGAGE RELIEF

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§ 2701. Congressional findings and declaration of purpose

(a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Nation is in a severe recession and that the sharp downturn in economic activity has driven large numbers of workers into unemployment and has reduced the incomes of many others;

(2) as a result of these adverse economic conditions the capacity of many homeowners to continue to make mortgage payments has deteriorated and may further deteriorate in the months ahead, leading to the possibility of widespread mortgage foreclosures and distress sales of homes; and

(3) many of these homeowners could retain their homes with temporary financial assistance until economic conditions improve.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a standby authority which will prevent widespread mortgage foreclosures and distress sales of homes resulting from the temporary loss of employment and income through a program of emergency loans and advances and emergency mortgage relief payments to homeowners to defray mortgage expenses.


Short Title

Section 1 of Pub. L. 94–50 provided: “That this Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 1723e and 1735b of this title and sections 1452 and 4106 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, enacting provisions set out as a note under this section, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1723e of this title] may be cited as the ‘Emergency Housing Act of 1975’.”

Section 101 of title I of Pub. L. 94–50 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Emergency Homeowners’ Relief Act’.”

§ 2702. Mortgages eligible for assistance

No assistance shall be extended with respect to any mortgage under this chapter unless—

(1) the holder of the mortgage has indicated to the mortgagor its intention to foreclose;

(2) the mortgagor and holder of the mortgage have indicated in writing to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) and to any agency or department of the Federal Government responsible for the regulation of the holder that circumstances (such as the volume of delinquent loans in its portfolio) make it probable that there will be a foreclosure and that the mortgagor is in need of emergency mortgage relief as authorized by this chapter, except that such
statement by the holder of the mortgage may be waived by the Secretary if in his judgment such waiver would further the purposes of this chapter;

(3) payments under the mortgage have been delinquent for at least three months;

(4) the mortgagor has incurred a substantial reduction in income as a result of involuntary unemployment or underemployment due to adverse economic conditions and is financially unable to make full mortgage payments;

(5) there is a reasonable prospect that the mortgagor will be able to make the adjustments necessary for a full resumption of mortgage payments; and

(6) the mortgaged property is the principal residence of the mortgagor.


Amendment of Section
Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496(b)(1), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2207, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date:

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by substituting “have certified” for “have indicated” and all that follows through “regulation of the holder”;

(B) by striking out “(such as the volume of delinquent loans in its portfolio)”;

(C) by striking out “, except that such statement” and all that follows through “purposes of this chapter”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or medical conditions” after “adverse economic conditions”.

See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment
Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2703. Manner of assistance and repayment

(a) Form of assistance

Assistance under this chapter with respect to a mortgage which meets the requirements of section 2702 of this title may be provided in the form of emergency mortgage relief loans and advances of credit insured pursuant to section 2704 of this title or in the form of emergency mortgage relief payments made by the Secretary pursuant to section 2705 of this title.

(b) Amount of assistance

Assistance under this chapter on behalf of a homeowner may be made available in an amount up to the amount of the principal, interest, taxes, ground rents, hazard insurance, and mortgage insurance premiums due under the homeowner’s mortgage, but such assistance shall not exceed the lesser of $250 per month or the amount determined to be reasonably necessary to supplement such amount as the homeowner is capable of contributing toward such mortgage payment.

(c) Monthly payments; extension of time; report of increase in income

Monthly payments may be provided under this chapter either with the proceeds of an insured loan or advance of credit or with emergency mortgage relief payments for up to twelve months, and, in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, such monthly payments may be extended once for up to twelve additional months. A mortgagor receiving the benefit of mortgage relief assistance pursuant to this chapter shall be required, in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, to
report any increase in income which will permit a reduction or termination of such assistance during this period.

(d) Conditions and terms of repayment; interest rate

Emergency loans or advances of credit made and insured under section 2704 of this title, and emergency mortgage relief payments made under section 2705 of this title, shall be repayable by the homeowner upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe, except that interest on a loan or advance of credit insured under section 2704 of this title or emergency mortgage relief payments made under section 2705 of this title shall not be charged at a rate which exceeds the maximum interest rate applicable with respect to mortgages insured pursuant to section 1709 (b) of this title.

(e) Deferral of commencement of repayment; security for repayment

The Secretary may provide for the deferral of the commencement of the repayment of a loan or advance insured under section 2704 of this title or emergency mortgage relief payments made under section 2705 of this title until one year following the date of the last disbursement of the proceeds of the loan or advance or payments or for such longer period as the Secretary determines would further the purpose of this chapter. The Secretary shall by regulation require such security for the repayment of insured loans or advances of credit or emergency mortgage relief payments as he deems appropriate and may require that such repayment be secured by a lien on the mortgaged property.


Amendment of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496(b)(2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2208, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date:

(1) in subsection (b), by substituting “. The amount of assistance provided to a homeowner under this chapter shall be an amount that the Secretary determines is reasonably necessary to supplement such amount as the homeowner is capable of contributing toward such mortgage payment, except that the aggregate amount of such assistance provided for any homeowner shall not exceed $50,000.” for “, but such assistance” and all that follows through the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (d), by substituting “(1) the rate of interest on any loan or advance of credit insured under this chapter shall be fixed for the life of the loan or advance of credit and shall not exceed the rate of interest that is generally charged for mortgages on single-family housing insured by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under title II of the National Housing Act at the time such loan or advance of credit is made, and (2) no interest shall be charged on interest which is deferred on a loan or advance of credit made under this chapter. In establishing rates, terms and conditions for loans or advances of credit made under this chapter, the Secretary shall take into account a homeowner’s ability to repay such loan or advance of credit.” for “interest on a loan or advance” and all that follows through the period at the end; and

(3) in subsection (e), by inserting “Any eligible homeowner who receives a grant or an advance of credit under this chapter may repay the loan in full, without penalty, by lump sum or by installment payments at any time before the loan becomes due and payable.” after the period at the end of the first sentence.

See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2704. Insurance for emergency mortgage loans and advances

(a) Institutions eligible
The Secretary is authorized, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, to insure banks, trust companies, finance companies, mortgage companies, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, credit unions, and such other financial institutions, which the Secretary finds to be qualified by experience and facilities and approves as eligible for insurance, against losses which they may sustain as a result of emergency loans or advances of credit made in accordance with the provisions of section 2703 of this title and this section with respect to mortgages eligible for assistance under this chapter.

(b) **Amount of insurance**

In no case shall the insurance granted by the Secretary under this section to any financial institution on loans and advances made by such financial institution for the purposes of this chapter exceed 40 per centum of the total amount of such loans and advances made by the institution, except that, with respect to any individual loan or advance of credit, the amount of any claim for loss on such individual loan or advance of credit paid by the Secretary under the provision of this section shall not exceed 90 per centum of such loss.

(c) **Premium charge; amount**

The Secretary is authorized to fix a premium charge or charges for the insurance granted under this section, but in the case of any loan or advance of credit, such charge or charges shall not exceed an amount equivalent to one-half of 1 per centum per annum of the principal obligation of such loan or advance of credit outstanding at any time.

(d) **Waiver of compliance with rules and regulations; finality and incontestability of payment for loss; transfer of insurance**

The Secretary is authorized and empowered to waive compliance with any rule or regulation prescribed by the Secretary for the purposes of this section if, in the Secretary’s judgment, the enforcement of such rule or regulation would impose an injustice upon an insured lending institution which has substantially complied with such regulations in good faith. Any payment for loss made to an insured financial institution under this section shall be final and incontestable after two years from the date the claim was certified for payment by the Secretary, in the absence of fraud or misrepresentation on the part of such institution unless a demand for repurchase of the obligation shall have been made on behalf of the United States prior to the expiration of such two-year period. The Secretary is authorized to transfer to any financial institution approved for insurance under this chapter any insurance in connection with any loan which may be sold to it by another insured financial institution.

(e) **Maximum aggregate amount of loans and advances insured**

The aggregate amount of loans and advances insured under this section shall not exceed $1,500,000,000 at any one time.

“(e) The Secretary shall establish underwriting guidelines or procedures to allocate amounts made available for loans and advances insured under this section and for emergency relief payments made under section 2705 of this title based on the likelihood that a mortgagor will be able to resume mortgage payments, pursuant to the requirement under section 2702 (5) of this title.”

See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment
Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2705. Emergency mortgage relief payments

(a) Direct payments to mortgagee
In the case of any mortgagee which would otherwise be eligible to participate in the program authorized under section 2704 of this title but does not qualify for an advance or advances as authorized by section 2712 of this title or under section 1430, 1430b, or 1431 of this title or otherwise elects not to participate in the program authorized under section 2704 of this title, the Secretary is authorized to make repayable emergency mortgage relief payments directly to such mortgagee on behalf of homeowners whose mortgages are held by such financial institution and who are delinquent in their mortgage payments.

(b) Mortgages eligible; terms and conditions
Emergency mortgage relief payments shall be made under this section only with respect to a mortgage which meets the requirements of section 2702 of this title and only on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, subject to the provisions of section 2703 of this title.

(c) Processing of relief payments; power of Secretary
The Secretary may make such delegations and accept such certifications with respect to the processing of mortgage relief payments provided under this section as he deems appropriate to facilitate the prompt and efficient implementation of the assistance authorized under this section.


§ 2706. Emergency Homeowners’ Relief Fund

(a) To carry out the purposes of this chapter, the Secretary is authorized to establish in the Treasury of the United States an Emergency Homeowners’ Relief Fund (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the “fund”) which shall be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation—

(1) for making payments in connection with defaulted loans or advances of credit insured under section 2704 of this title;

(2) for making emergency mortgage relief payments under section 2705 of this title;

(3) to pay such administrative expenses (or portion of such expenses) of carrying out the provisions of this chapter as the Secretary may deem necessary.

(b) The fund shall be credited with—

(1) all amounts received by the Secretary as premium charges for insurance or as repayment for emergency mortgage relief payments under this chapter and all receipts, earnings, collections, or proceeds derived from any claim or other assets acquired by the Secretary under this Act; and

(2) such amounts as may be appropriated for the purposes of this chapter.

Amendment of Section
Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496(b)(4), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2208, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, by striking out “(a)” and subsection (b). See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

References in Text
This Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is Pub. L. 94–50, July 2, 1975, 89 Stat. 249, as amended, known as the Emergency Housing Act of 1975, which in addition to enacting this chapter, amended sections 1723e, 1723e note and 1735b of this title, and sections 1452 and 4106 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title and Tables.

Amendments
1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98–479, § 204(m)(1)(A), (B), redesignated subsec. (a)(1) as subsec. (a) and subpars. (A), (B), and (C) as pars. (1), (2), and (3), respectively.
Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98–479, § 204(m)(1)(C), (D), redesignated subsec. (a)(2) as subsec. (b) and subpars. (A) and (B) as pars. (1) and (2), respectively.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment
Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

Emergency Mortgage Relief
Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, § 1496(a), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2207, provided that: “Effective October 1, 2010, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is hereby made available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development such sums as are necessary to provide $1,000,000,000 in assistance through the Emergency Homeowners’ Relief Fund, which such Secretary shall establish pursuant to section 107 of the Emergency Housing Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 2706), as such Act is amended by this section, for use for emergency mortgage assistance in accordance with title I of such Act [12 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.].”

§ 2707. Authority of Secretary

(a) Rules and regulations
The Secretary is authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Payment of expenses and charges relating to acquisition, handling, improvement, or disposal of real and personal property
Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the acquisition, handling, improvement, or disposal of real or other property by the United States, the Secretary shall have power, for the protection of the interest of the fund authorized under this chapter, to pay out of such fund all expenses or charges in connection with the acquisition, handling, improvement, or disposal of any property, real or personal, acquired by the Secretary as a result of recoveries under security, subrogation, or other rights.

(c) Powers with respect to property rights held by Secretary
In the performance of, with respect to, the functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary by this chapter, the Secretary shall—

(1) have the power, notwithstanding any other provision of law, whether before or after default, to provide by contract or otherwise for the extinguishment upon default of any redemption, equitable, legal, or other right, title in any mortgage, deed, trust, or other instrument held by or held on behalf of the Secretary under the provisions of this chapter; and
(2) have the power to foreclose on any property or commence any action to protect or enforce any right conferred upon the Secretary by law, contract, or other agreement, and bid for and purchase at any foreclosure or other sale any property in connection with which assistance has been provided pursuant to this chapter. In the event of any such acquisition, the Secretary may, notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the acquisition, handling, or disposal of real property by the United States, complete, remodel and convert, dispose of, lease, and otherwise deal with, such property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary also shall have power to pursue to final collection by way of compromise or otherwise all claims acquired by him in connection with any security, subrogation, or other rights obtained by him in administering this chapter.


Amendment of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(5), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2208, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Coverage of existing programs

“The Secretary shall allow funds to be administered by a State that has an existing program that is determined by the Secretary to provide substantially similar assistance to homeowners. After such determination is made such State shall not be required to modify such program to comply with the provisions of this chapter.”

See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

Effective Date of 2010 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2708. Authorization and expiration date

(a) There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this chapter such sums as may be necessary, except that the funds authorized to be appropriated for section 2705 of this title shall not exceed $500,000,000. Any amounts so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(b) No loans or advance of credit shall be insured and no emergency mortgage relief payments made under this chapter after September 30, 1977, except if such loan or advance or such payments are made with respect to a mortgagor receiving the benefit of a loan or advance insured, or emergency mortgage relief payments made, under this chapter on such date.


Amendment of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(6), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2209, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date:

(1) in the section catchline, by striking out “Authorization and”;

(2) by striking out subsection (a);

(3) by striking out “(b)”; and

(4) by substituting “2011” for “1977”.
See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

Amendments


Effective Date of 2010 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2709. Waiver and relaxation by institutions and approved mortgagees of limitations with respect to mortgage delinquencies; notification to Federal supervisory agency prior to foreclosure proceedings

Each Federal supervisory agency with respect to financial institutions subject to its jurisdiction, and the Secretary, with respect to other approved mortgagees, shall

(1) prior to October 1, 1977, take appropriate action, not inconsistent with laws relating to the safety or soundness of such institutions or mortgagee, as the case may be, to waive or relax limitations pertaining to the operations of such institutions or mortgagees with respect to mortgage delinquencies in order to cause or encourage forebearance in residential mortgage loan foreclosures, and

(2) until one year from July 2, 1975, request each such institution or mortgagee to notify that Federal supervisory agency, the Secretary, and the mortgagor, at least thirty days prior to instituting foreclosure proceedings in connection with any mortgage loan. As used in this chapter the term “Federal supervisory agency” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the National Credit Union Administration.


Repeal of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(7), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2209, provided that this section is repealed, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date. See Effective Date of Repeal note below.

Amendments


1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94–375 substituted “Each” for “Until one year from July 2, 1975, each”, and inserted “prior to October 1, 1977” after “(1)”, and “until one year from July 2, 1975” after “(2)”.

Effective Date of Repeal

Repeal effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as an Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.
§ 2710. Reports to Congress; time; contents

Within sixty days after July 2, 1975, and within each sixty-day period thereafter prior to October 1, 1977, the Secretary shall make a report to the Congress on

(1) the current rate of delinquencies and foreclosures in the housing market areas of the country which should be of immediate concern if the purposes of this chapter is to be achieved;
(2) the extent of, and prospect for continuance of, voluntary forebearance by mortgagees in such housing market areas;
(3) actions being taken by governmental agencies to encourage forebearance by mortgagees in such housing market areas;
(4) actions taken and actions likely to be taken with respect to making assistance under this chapter available to alleviate hardships resulting from any serious rates of delinquencies and foreclosures; and
(5) the current default status and projected default trends with respect to mortgages covering multifamily properties with special attention to mortgages insured under the various provisions of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.] and with recommendations on how such defaults and prospective defaults may be cured or avoided in a manner which, while giving weight to the financial interests of the United States, takes into full consideration the urgent needs of the many low- and moderate-income families that currently occupy such multifamily properties.


Repeal of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(7), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2209, provided that this section is repealed, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date. See Effective Date of Repeal note below.

References in Text

The National Housing Act, referred to in text, is act June 27, 1934, ch. 847, 48 Stat. 1246, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 13 (§ 1701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1701 of this title and Tables.

Amendments


Effective Date of Repeal

Repeal of section effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 2711. Nonapplicability of other laws

Notwithstanding any provision of law which limits the nature, amount, term, form, or rate of interest, or the nature, amount, or form of security of loans or advances of credit, loans, or advances
of credit may be made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter without regard to such provision of law.


### Renumbering of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(8), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2209, provided that this section is amended, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, by renumbering section 112 of Pub. L. 94–50, which is classified to this section, as section 110 of Pub. L. 94–50. See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

### § 2712. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation advances to insured banks

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is authorized, upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may prescribe, to make such advances to any insured bank as the Corporation determines may be necessary or appropriate to facilitate participation by such bank in the program authorized by this chapter. For the purpose of obtaining such funds as it determines are necessary for such advances, the Corporation may borrow from the Treasury as authorized in section 1824 of this title, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to make loans to the Corporation for such purpose in the same manner as loans may be made for insurance purposes under such section, subject to the maximum limitation on outstanding aggregate loans there provided.


### Repeal of Section

Pub. L. 111–203, title XIV, §§ 1400(c), 1496 (b)(7), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2136, 2209, provided that this section is repealed, effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date. See Effective Date of Repeal note below.

### Effective Date of Repeal

Repeal effective on the date on which final regulations implementing such repeal take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as an Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note under section 1601 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.