

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R.** _____

To authorize assistance for colonias under the community development block grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize assistance for colonias under the community development block grant program, 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 “_____ Act
5 of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR COLONIAS.**

7 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023
9 \$700,000,000 for assistance to community development

1 block grant grantees, as determined by the Secretary of
2 Housing and Urban Development, under section 106 of
3 the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974
4 (42 U.S.C. 5306), only for colonia areas, to address the
5 community and housing infrastructure needs of existing
6 residents of colonia areas based on a formula that takes
7 into account persons in poverty in the colonia areas, except
8 that grantees may use funds in colonias outside of the
9 150-mile border area upon approval of the Secretary.
10 Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall re-
11 main available until September 30, 2033.

12 (b) DEFINITION.—The term “colonia area” means
13 any census tract that—

14 (1) is an area of the United States within 150
15 miles of the contiguous border between the United
16 States and Mexico, except as otherwise determined
17 by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
18 ment; and

19 (2) lacks potable water supply, adequate sewage
20 systems, or decent, safe, sanitary housing, or other
21 objective criteria as approved by the Secretary.

22 (c) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive or specify
23 alternative requirements for any provision of title I of the
24 Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42
25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or regulation for the administration

1 of the amounts made available to carry out this section
2 other than requirements related to fair housing, non-
3 discrimination, labor standards, and the environment,
4 upon a finding that the waiver or alternative requirement
5 is necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of amounts
6 made available to carry out this section