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§ 4851. Findings

The Congress finds that—

- (1) low-level lead poisoning is widespread among American children, afflicting as many as 3,000,000 children under age 6, with minority and low-income communities disproportionately affected;
- (2) at low levels, lead poisoning in children causes intelligence quotient deficiencies, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, and behavior problems;
- (3) pre-1980 American housing stock contains more than 3,000,000 tons of lead in the form of lead-based paint, with the vast majority of homes built before 1950 containing substantial amounts of lead-based paint;
- (4) the ingestion of household dust containing lead from deteriorating or abraded lead-based paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning in children;
- (5) the health and development of children living in as many as 3,800,000 American homes is endangered by chipping or peeling lead paint, or excessive amounts of lead-contaminated dust in their homes;
- (6) the danger posed by lead-based paint hazards can be reduced by abating lead-based paint or by taking interim measures to prevent paint deterioration and limit children's exposure to lead dust and chips;
- (7) despite the enactment of laws in the early 1970's requiring the Federal Government to eliminate as far as practicable lead-based paint hazards in federally owned, assisted, and insured housing, the Federal response to this national crisis remains severely limited; and
- (8) the Federal Government must take a leadership role in building the infrastructure—including an informed public, State and local delivery systems, certified inspectors, contractors, and laboratories, trained workers, and available financing and insurance—necessary to ensure that the national goal of eliminating

lead-based paint hazards in housing can be achieved as expeditiously as possible.  
 (Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1002, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1001, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter and sections 2681 to 2692 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, amending sections 1437f, 1437aaa-1, 1437aaa-2, 1471, 4822, 5305, 12705, 12742, 12872, 12873, 12892, and 12893 of this title, sections 1703, 1709, and 1715f of Title 12, Banks and Banking, sections 2606, 2610, 2612, 2615, 2616, 2618, and 2619 of Title 15, and section 671 of Title 29, Labor, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 15] may be cited as the 'Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992'."

§ 4851a. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

- (1) to develop a national strategy to build the infrastructure necessary to eliminate lead-based paint hazards in all housing as expeditiously as possible;
- (2) to reorient the national approach to the presence of lead-based paint in housing to implement, on a priority basis, a broad program to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in the Nation's housing stock;
- (3) to encourage effective action to prevent childhood lead poisoning by establishing a workable framework for lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction and by ending the current confusion over reasonable standards of care;
- (4) to ensure that the existence of lead-based paint hazards is taken into account in the development of Government housing policies and in the sale, rental, and renovation of homes and apartments;
- (5) to mobilize national resources expeditiously, through a partnership among all levels of government and the private sector, to develop the most promising, cost-effective methods for evaluating and reducing lead-based paint hazards;
- (6) to reduce the threat of childhood lead poisoning in housing owned, assisted, or transferred by the Federal Government; and
- (7) to educate the public concerning the hazards and sources of lead-based paint poisoning and steps to reduce and eliminate such hazards.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1003, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning title X of Pub. L. 102-550, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897, known as the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4851 of this title and Tables.

§ 4851b. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

**(1) Abatement**

The term “abatement” means any set of measures designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards in accordance with standards established by appropriate Federal agencies. Such term includes—

(A) the removal of lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust, the permanent containment or encapsulation of lead-based paint, the replacement of lead-painted surfaces or fixtures, and the removal or covering of lead contaminated soil; and

(B) all preparation, cleanup, disposal, and postabatement clearance testing activities associated with such measures.

**(2) Accessible surface**

The term “accessible surface” means an interior or exterior surface painted with lead-based paint that is accessible for a young child to mouth or chew.

**(3) Certified contractor**

The term “certified contractor” means—

(A) a contractor, inspector, or supervisor who has completed a training program certified by the appropriate Federal agency and has met any other requirements for certification or licensure established by such agency or who has been certified by any State through a program which has been found by such Federal agency to be at least as rigorous as the Federal certification program; and

(B) workers or designers who have fully met training requirements established by the appropriate Federal agency.

**(4) Contract for the purchase and sale of residential real property**

The term “contract for the purchase and sale of residential real property” means any contract or agreement in which one party agrees to purchase an interest in real property on which there is situated 1 or more residential dwellings used or occupied, or intended to be used or occupied, in whole or in part, as the home or residence of 1 or more persons.

**(5) Deteriorated paint**

The term “deteriorated paint” means any interior or exterior paint that is peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking or any paint located on an interior or exterior surface or fixture that is damaged or deteriorated.

**(6) Evaluation**

The term “evaluation” means risk assessment, inspection, or risk assessment and inspection.

**(7) Federally assisted housing**

The term “federally assisted housing” means residential dwellings receiving project-based assistance under programs including—

(A) section 1715(d)(3) or 1715z-1 of title 12;

(B) section 1 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(C) section 1437f of this title; or

(D) sections 1472(a), 1474, 1484, 1485, 1486 and 1490m of this title.

**(8) Federally owned housing**

The term “federally owned housing” means residential dwellings owned or managed by a

Federal agency, or for which a Federal agency is a trustee or conservator. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term “Federal agency” includes the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Farmers Home Administration, the Resolution Trust Corporation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation, and any other Federal agency.

**(9) Federally supported work**

The term “federally supported work” means any lead hazard evaluation or reduction activities conducted in federally owned or assisted housing or funded in whole or in part through any financial assistance program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Farmers Home Administration, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**(10) Friction surface**

The term “friction surface” means an interior or exterior surface that is subject to abrasion or friction, including certain window, floor, and stair surfaces.

**(11) Impact surface**

The term “impact surface” means an interior or exterior surface that is subject to damage by repeated impacts, for example, certain parts of door frames.

**(12) Inspection**

The term “inspection” means a surface-by-surface investigation to determine the presence of lead-based paint as provided in section 4822(c) of this title and the provision of a report explaining the results of the investigation.

**(13) Interim controls**

The term “interim controls” means a set of measures designed to reduce temporarily human exposure or likely exposure to lead-based paint hazards, including specialized cleaning, repairs, maintenance, painting, temporary containment, ongoing monitoring of lead-based paint hazards or potential hazards, and the establishment and operation of management and resident education programs.

**(14) Lead-based paint**

The term “lead-based paint” means paint or other surface coatings that contain lead in excess of limits established under section 4822(c) of this title.

**(15) Lead-based paint hazard**

The term “lead-based paint hazard” means any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead-contaminated dust, lead-contaminated soil, lead-contaminated paint that is deteriorated or present in accessible surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects as established by the appropriate Federal agency.

**(16) Lead-contaminated dust**

The term “lead-contaminated dust” means surface dust in residential dwellings that con-

tains an area or mass concentration of lead in excess of levels determined by the appropriate Federal agency to pose a threat of adverse health effects in pregnant women or young children.

**(17) Lead-contaminated soil**

The term “lead-contaminated soil” means bare soil on residential real property that contains lead at or in excess of the levels determined to be hazardous to human health by the appropriate Federal agency.

**(18) Mortgage loan**

The term “mortgage loan” includes any loan (other than temporary financing such as a construction loan) that—

(A) is secured by a first lien on any interest in residential real property; and

(B) either—

(i) is insured, guaranteed, made, or assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Farmers Home Administration, or by any other agency of the Federal Government; or

(ii) is intended to be sold by each originating mortgage institution to any federally chartered secondary mortgage market institution.

**(19) Originating mortgage institution**

The term “originating mortgage institution” means a lender that provides mortgage loans.

**(20) Priority housing**

The term “priority housing” means target housing that qualifies as affordable housing under section 12745 of this title, including housing that receives assistance under subsection (b) or (o) of section 1437f of this title.

**(21) Public housing**

The term “public housing” has the same meaning given the term in section 1437a(b) of this title.

**(22) Reduction**

The term “reduction” means measures designed to reduce or eliminate human exposure to lead-based paint hazards through methods including interim controls and abatement.

**(23) Residential dwelling**

The term “residential dwelling” means—

(A) a single-family dwelling, including attached structures such as porches and stoops; or

(B) a single-family dwelling unit in a structure that contains more than 1 separate residential dwelling unit, and in which each such unit is used or occupied, or intended to be used or occupied, in whole or in part, as the home or residence of 1 or more persons.

**(24) Residential real property**

The term “residential real property” means real property on which there is situated 1 or more residential dwellings used or occupied, or intended to be used or occupied, in whole or in part, as the home or residence of 1 or more persons.

**(25) Risk assessment**

The term “risk assessment” means an on-site investigation to determine and report the

existence, nature, severity and location of lead-based paint hazards in residential dwellings, including—

(A) information gathering regarding the age and history of the housing and occupancy by children under age 6;

(B) visual inspection;

(C) limited wipe sampling or other environmental sampling techniques;

(D) other activity as may be appropriate; and

(E) provision of a report explaining the results of the investigation.

**(26) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**(27) Target housing**

The term “target housing” means any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any 0-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than 6 years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing). In the case of jurisdictions which banned the sale or use of lead-based paint prior to 1978, the Secretary, at the Secretary’s discretion, may designate an earlier date.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1004, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3898; Pub. L. 115-31, div. K, title II, §237(b), May 5, 2017, 131 Stat. 789.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning title X of Pub. L. 102-550, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897, known as the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4851 of this title and Tables.

Section 1 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, referred to in par. (7)(B), is section 1 of Pub. L. 89-117, which is set out as a Short Title of 1965 Amendment note under section 1701 of Title 12, Banks and Banking.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Par. (27). Pub. L. 115-31, §237(b)(1), which directed insertion of “or any 0-bedroom dwelling” after “disabilities,” was executed by making the insertion after “disabilities” the first place appearing to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 115-31, §237(b)(2), which directed substitution of “housing)” for “housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities) or any 0 bedroom dwelling”, was executed by making the substitution for “housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities) or any 0-bedroom dwelling” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

SUBCHAPTER I—LEAD-BASED PAINT  
HAZARD REDUCTION

**§ 4852. Grants for lead-based paint hazard reduction in target housing**

**(a) General authority**

The Secretary is authorized to provide grants to eligible applicants to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in housing that is not federally assisted housing, federally owned housing, or public housing, in accordance with the