



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 120

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6436

House of Representatives, March 24, 2021

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. MCGEE of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN CHOICE VOUCHERS PILOT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than June 15, 2022, the
2 Commissioner of Housing, in consultation with the Commissioner of
3 Education and housing, civil rights and education advocates, shall
4 establish the Open Choice Voucher pilot program. Such pilot program
5 shall designate twenty additional rental assistance program certificates
6 under section 8-345 of the general statutes over a period of two years for
7 use by families who (1) qualify as low income under the rental assistance
8 program, (2) have participated for at least one year in the interdistrict
9 public school attendance program, established under section 10-266aa
10 of the general statutes, in the Hartford region, and (3) would like to
11 move to the town where their child participating in the interdistrict
12 public school attendance program attends school.

13 (b) The Commissioner of Housing shall develop procedures for
14 landlord recruitment, family recruitment, housing search assistance and

15 counseling for such pilot program. The commissioner shall make ten
 16 rental assistance certificates available during the school year
 17 commencing in 2022 and ten additional rental assistance certificates
 18 during the school year commencing in 2023 for such pilot program. All
 19 participants in the pilot program shall have access to the residence
 20 mobility counseling program established under section 8-348 of the
 21 general statutes.

22 (c) The Commissioner of Housing shall submit an interim report and
 23 final report concerning such pilot program, in accordance with the
 24 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
 25 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 26 relating to housing and education. The commissioner shall submit the
 27 interim report on or before August 31, 2022, and a final report on or
 28 before August 31, 2023. Each report shall include, but need not be
 29 limited to: (1) A summary of program implementation, including efforts
 30 to inform and educate families about the program, recruit landlords and
 31 provide search assistance and counseling, and (2) assessment of
 32 program utilization rates, waiting list numbers, and the racial, ethnic
 33 and household composition and income demographics of the program
 34 participants and those on the waiting list. The final report shall include
 35 an assessment of program performance during the pilot period based
 36 on available data, including, but not limited to, data concerning both the
 37 implementation of the program by the Department of Housing and the
 38 use of the program, and any recommendations the commissioner may
 39 have regarding future implementation or an extension of the pilot
 40 program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a), the first sentence was rewritten for clarity.

HSG Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Housing	GF - Cost	None	117,500

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Housing (DOH) to establish the Open Choice Voucher pilot program and results in a cost to DOH of approximately \$117,500 in FY 23. This estimate reflects the average annual rental voucher cost of \$11,750 per family (including \$250 in administration costs) for the ten new rental vouchers to be provided in the school year commencing in 2022.

The Out Years

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Housing (DOH46900)	GF - Cost	236,150	238,462	240,795

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

The bill results in a cost to DOH of approximately \$236,150 in FY 24 for the second year of the pilot program, which reflects the cost for ten additional new rental vouchers for the school year commencing in 2023, and the continuation of the ten original vouchers with a one percent cost increase due to inflation. The fiscal impact in FY 24 is anticipated to

continue into the future subject to a one percent increase in voucher costs per year.

Sources: Department of Housing



OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6436

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN CHOICE VOUCHERS PILOT PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/09/2021)