



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6436

LCO No. 2722



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

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 in consultation with housing, civil rights and education
4 advocates, shall establish the Open Choice Voucher pilot program
5 designating 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 Purpose:
To establish a pilot program to enable certain families participating in the interdistrict public school attendance program to move to the town where their children attend school.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]