



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Substitute Bill No. 6436**



**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

**HSG** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

**APP** Joint Favorable