



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7030

LCO No. 4945



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

AN ACT EXPANDING THE OPEN CHOICE VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of special act 21-26 is amended to read as follows
2 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Not later than June 15, [2022] 2026, the Commissioner of Housing,
4 in consultation with the Commissioner of Education and housing, civil
5 rights and education advocates, shall [establish] reestablish the Open
6 Choice Voucher pilot program. Such pilot program shall designate
7 twenty rental assistance program certificates under section 8-345 of the
8 general statutes over a period of two years, for use by families who (1)
9 qualify as low income under the rental assistance program, (2) have
10 participated for at least one year in the interdistrict public school
11 attendance program, established under section 10-266aa of the general
12 statutes, [in the Hartford region,] and (3) would like to move to the town
13 where their child participating in the interdistrict public school
14 attendance program attends school.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Housing shall develop procedures for

16 landlord recruitment, family recruitment, housing search assistance and
17 counseling for such pilot program. As existing rental assistance
18 certificates become available, the commissioner shall make ten rental
19 assistance certificates available during the school year commencing in
20 [2022] 2026 and ten additional rental assistance certificates during the
21 school year commencing in [2023] 2027 for such pilot program. All
22 participants in the pilot program shall have access to the residence
23 mobility counseling program established under section 8-348 of the
24 general statutes.

25 (c) The Commissioner of Housing shall submit an interim report and
26 final report concerning such pilot program, in accordance with the
27 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
28 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
29 relating to housing and education. The commissioner shall submit the
30 interim report on or before August 31, [2022] 2026, and a final report on
31 or before August 31, [2023] 2027. Each report shall include, but need not
32 be limited to: (1) A summary of program implementation, including
33 efforts to inform and educate families about the program, recruit
34 landlords and provide search assistance and counseling, and (2)
35 assessment of program utilization rates, waiting list numbers, and the
36 racial, ethnic and household composition and income demographics of
37 the program participants and those on the waiting list. The final report
38 shall include an assessment of program performance during the pilot
39 period based on available data, including, but not limited to, data
40 concerning both the implementation of the program by the Department
41 of Housing and the use of the program, and any recommendations the
42 commissioner may have regarding future implementation or an
43 extension of the pilot program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	SA 21-26, Sec. 1

Statement of Purpose:

To expand the Open Choice Voucher pilot program to permit all students and families residing in participating districts to participate in said program.

[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.]