

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1713

To require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2023

Mr. GRASSLEY (for Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Housing Accessi-
5 bility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING CERTAIN PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES**
 2 **TO ABSORB PORT-IN VOUCHERS AND LIM-**
 3 **ITING BILLING INITIAL PUBLIC HOUSING**
 4 **AGENCIES BEYOND 12 MONTHS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(o) of the United States
 6 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended
 7 by adding at the end the following:

8 “(22) PORTABILITY OF VOUCHERS.—

9 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

10 “(i) the term ‘covered public housing
 11 agency’ means a public housing agency
 12 that, in a given fiscal year, utilizes less
 13 than 95 percent of the budget authority
 14 available to the public housing agency;

15 “(ii) the term ‘initial public housing
 16 agency’ has the meaning given the term
 17 ‘initial PHA’ in section 982.4 of title 24,
 18 Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-
 19 cessor regulation; and

20 “(iii) the term ‘portable family’ means
 21 a family holding a voucher under this sub-
 22 section that seeks to rent a dwelling unit
 23 outside of the jurisdiction of the initial
 24 public housing agency.

25 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—A covered public
 26 housing agency that has jurisdiction over the

1 area in which a portable family is seeking to
2 use the voucher received from an initial public
3 housing agency—

4 “(i) shall notify the initial public
5 housing agency whether the covered public
6 housing agency will—

7 “(I) absorb the voucher by using
8 funds of the covered public housing
9 agency; or

10 “(II) bill the initial public hous-
11 ing agency for a period of not more
12 than 12 months;

13 “(ii) shall make assistance payments
14 to the portable family under an annual
15 contributions contract entered into between
16 the covered public housing agency and the
17 Secretary; and

18 “(iii) may not bill the initial public
19 housing agency for the assistance pay-
20 ments described in clause (ii) for a period
21 of more than 12 months beginning on the
22 effective date of the initial billing.”.

23 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Effective on Decem-
24 ber 29, 2024, paragraph (22) of section 8(o) of the United
25 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), as

1 added by section 601(a)(2)(B) of division AA of the Con-
2 solidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-
3 328), is redesignated as paragraph (23).

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