

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

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 “Housing Choice Vouch-  
5 er Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEM-**  
2 **ONSTRATION.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) FAMILIES; PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The  
5 terms “families” and “public housing agency” have  
6 the meanings given those terms in section 3(b) of  
7 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
8 1437a(b)).

9 (2) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.—  
10 The term “housing choice voucher assistance”  
11 means voucher assistance provided under section  
12 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42  
13 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

14 (3) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means a Regional  
15 Housing Mobility Plan submitted under subsection  
16 (d).

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
18 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

19 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may carry out a mo-  
20 bility demonstration program to enable public housing  
21 agencies to administer housing choice voucher assistance  
22 in a manner designed to encourage families receiving that  
23 assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand ac-  
24 cess to opportunity areas.

25 (c) SELECTION OF PHAS.—

1           (1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall es-  
2           tablish requirements for public housing agencies to  
3           participate in the demonstration program under this  
4           section, which shall provide that the following public  
5           housing agencies may participate:

6                   (A) Public housing agencies that to-  
7                   gether—

8                           (i) serve areas with high concentra-  
9                           tions of families receiving housing choice  
10                           voucher assistance in poor, low-opportunity  
11                           neighborhoods; and

12                           (ii) have an adequate number of mod-  
13                           erately priced rental units in higher-oppor-  
14                           tunity areas.

15                   (B) Planned consortia or partial consortia  
16                   of public housing agencies that—

17                           (i) include not less than 1 public  
18                           housing agency with a high-performing  
19                           Family Self-Sufficiency program carried  
20                           out under section 23 of the United States  
21                           Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u);  
22                           and

23                           (ii) will enable participating families  
24                           to continue in the Family Self-Sufficiency  
25                           program if the family relocates to the ju-

1 jurisdiction served by any other public hous-  
2 ing agency of the consortium.

3 (C) Planned consortia or partial consortia  
4 of public housing agencies that—

5 (i) serve jurisdictions within a single  
6 region;

7 (ii) include not less than 1 small pub-  
8 lic housing agency; and

9 (iii) will consolidate mobility-focused  
10 operations.

11 (D) Such other public housing agencies as  
12 the Secretary considers appropriate.

13 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall  
14 establish competitive selection criteria for public  
15 housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to  
16 participate in the demonstration program under this  
17 section.

18 (3) RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—The  
19 Secretary may require public housing agencies par-  
20 ticipating in the demonstration program under this  
21 section to use a randomized selection process to se-  
22 lect among the families eligible to receive assistance  
23 under the demonstration program.

24 (d) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—The Sec-  
25 retary shall require each public housing agency applying

1 to participate in the demonstration program under this  
2 section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan, which  
3 shall—

4           (1) identify the public housing agencies that  
5 will participate under the Plan and the number of  
6 vouchers each participating public housing agency  
7 will make available out of their existing programs in  
8 connection with the demonstration program;

9           (2) identify any community-based organizations,  
10 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other enti-  
11 ties that will participate under the Plan and describe  
12 the commitments for the participation made by each  
13 such entity;

14           (3) identify any waivers or alternative require-  
15 ments requested for the execution of the Plan;

16           (4) identify any specific actions that the public  
17 housing agencies and other entities will undertake to  
18 accomplish the goals of the demonstration program,  
19 which shall include a comprehensive approach to en-  
20 able a successful transition to opportunity areas and  
21 may include counseling and continued support for  
22 families;

23           (5) specify the criteria that the public housing  
24 agencies would use to identify opportunity areas  
25 under the Plan;

1           (6) provide for the establishment of priority and  
2 preferences for families receiving assistance under  
3 the demonstration program, including a preference  
4 for families with young children, as such term is de-  
5 fined by the Secretary, based on regional housing  
6 needs and priorities; and

7           (7) comply with any other requirements estab-  
8 lished by the Secretary.

9           (e) FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—

10           (1) USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Each  
11 public housing agency participating in the dem-  
12 onstration program under this section may use ad-  
13 ministrative fees under section 8(q) of the United  
14 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)),  
15 any administrative fee reserves of the public housing  
16 agency, and funding from private entities to provide  
17 mobility-related services in connection with the dem-  
18 onstration program, including services such as coun-  
19 seling, portability coordination, landlord outreach,  
20 security deposits, and administrative activities asso-  
21 ciated with establishing and operating regional mo-  
22 bility programs.

23           (2) USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—  
24 Each public housing agency participating in the  
25 demonstration program under this section may use

1 housing assistance payment contract funds under  
2 section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of  
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for security deposits if  
4 necessary to enable families to lease units with hous-  
5 ing choice voucher assistance in designated oppor-  
6 tunity areas.

7 (f) WAIVERS; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (1) WAIVERS.—To allow for public housing  
9 agencies to implement and administer the Plan of  
10 the public housing agency under the demonstration  
11 program under this section, the Secretary may waive  
12 or specify alternative requirements for the following  
13 provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937  
14 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.):

15 (A) Paragraphs (7)(A) and (13)(E)(i) of  
16 section 8(o) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) (relating to  
17 the term of a lease and mobility requirements).

18 (B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (42 U.S.C.  
19 1437f(o)(13)(C)(i)) (relating to the public hous-  
20 ing agency plan).

21 (C) Section 8(r)(2) (42 U.S.C.  
22 1437f(r)(2)) (relating to the responsibility of a  
23 public housing agency to administer portable  
24 assistance).

1           (2) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-  
2           retary shall provide additional authority for public  
3           housing agencies in a selected region to form a con-  
4           sortium that has a single housing assistance pay-  
5           ment contract, or to enter into a partial consortium  
6           to operate all or portions of the Plan, including pub-  
7           lic housing agencies participating in the Moving To  
8           Work demonstration program established under sec-  
9           tion 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and  
10          Housing and Urban Development, and Independent  
11          Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law  
12          104–134; 110 Stat. 1321–281).

13          (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any waiver or alter-  
14          native requirements pursuant to this subsection shall  
15          not take effect before the date that is 10 days after  
16          the date on which the date on which the Secretary  
17          publishes a notice of the waiver or alternative re-  
18          quirement in the Federal Register.

19          (g) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may imple-  
20          ment the demonstration program under this section, in-  
21          cluding the terms, procedures, requirements, and condi-  
22          tions of the demonstration, by notice.

23          (h) EVALUATION.—

24                (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after  
25                the implementation of the regional housing mobility



1 programs by public housing agencies participating in  
2 the demonstration program under this section, the  
3 Secretary shall submit to Congress and publish in  
4 the Federal Register a report evaluating the effec-  
5 tiveness of the strategies pursued under the dem-  
6 onstration program, subject to the availability of  
7 funding to conduct the evaluation.

8 (2) DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS.—The Sec-  
9 retary shall—

10 (A) through internet websites and other  
11 means, disseminate interim findings relating to  
12 the demonstration program under this section  
13 as they become available; and

14 (B) if promising strategies are identified  
15 through the findings described in subparagraph  
16 (A), notify Congress of the amount of funds  
17 that would be required to expand the testing of  
18 these strategies in additional types of public  
19 housing agencies and housing markets.