



## Legislative Bulletin.....July 12, 2007

### Contents:

**H.R. 1851** – Amendments to the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act

H.R. 1851, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Thursday, July 12, 2007, subject to a structured rule ([H.Res. 534](#)), making in order the following six amendments debatable for 10 minutes each. The rule allows one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except those regarding PAYGO and earmarks, and allows the Chair to postpone consideration of the legislation at any time during its consideration.

Note: The summaries below are based on RSC staff's review of *actual amendment text*. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released yesterday.

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**1. Waters (D-CA): Manager's Amendment.** Authorizes "such sums" to increase HUD responsibilities for people with limited English proficiency as follows: convene a task force to improve access to federal housing programs to people with limited English proficiency, **produce translations of documents "in all necessary languages" for all HUD forms**, develop a plan to improve access to HUD resources for people of limited English proficiency, develop and maintain a housing information resources center as a clearinghouse for such items above, create and maintain a 1-800 phone line for assisting people with limited English proficiency, maintain a document clearinghouse for non-HUD documents relevant to housing issues, and study the best practices of other language-assistance programs.

Provides for expedited inspections of units that are identified as substandard by the residents. Limits the liability for PHAs that complete repairs of units. Increases the flexibility of the allowable rent structure for project-based housing and the voucher program. Allows vouchers to be used to relocate or replace housing units demolished because of eminent domain. Increases from 8.3% to 12.5% the amount of excess 2007 funds a PHA could keep on reserve and not have recaptured by the Treasury. Makes a variety of technical changes.

**2. Velázquez (D-NY) #23:** Requires that PHAs selected for participation in the Housing Innovation Program must comply with voucher and public housing domestic violence provisions from the Violence Against Women Act.

**3. Miller, Gary (R-CA)/Chabot (R-OH) #13:** Imposes a seven-year time limit (whether consecutive or not) on participation in a Section 8 housing program, excluding the elderly, the disabled, and people with hardships. Exemptions could not total more than 20% of total families receiving assistance in any year.

**4. Markey (D-MA)/Pryce (R-OH) #16: EARMARK AMENDMENT.** Makes certain low-income tenants of the Heritage Apartments in Malden, Massachusetts eligible for enhanced housing vouchers after prepayment of a HUD mortgage and subsequent ownership transfer of the property, without the application of certain HUD restrictions. Allows for the transfer of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts in Columbus, Ohio in the University District and in Cincinnati, Ohio in the Over-the-Rhine Community.

**5. Chabot (R-OH) #11:** Strikes Section 18 of the underlying bill—the authorization of appropriations for the creation of 20,000 new vouchers each year for FY2008 through FY2012.

**6. Hensarling (R-TX)/Chabot (R-OH) #10:** Requires that all adults in a household receiving Section 8 tenant assistance for more than seven consecutive years must perform 20 hours per month of approved “work activities.” Exemptions are provided for senior citizens, the disabled, those already exempt from TANF work requirements, and those single parents who cannot access child care.

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