



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 289**

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5190

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2004*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPENING OF WAITING LISTS FOR  
FEDERAL SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHERS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) At least two weeks before  
2 any entity in the state that administers vouchers under the federal  
3 Housing Choice Voucher Program, 42 USC 1437f(o), opens its waiting  
4 list for the acceptance of new applications for such vouchers, such  
5 entity shall notify, in writing or by electronic mail, the operator of an  
6 Internet web site designated by the Department of Social Services, of  
7 (1) the date of the opening of such waiting list, (2) the manner in which  
8 applicants may apply, and (3) the date, if any, on which the waiting list  
9 will be closed. The operator of said web site shall make such  
10 information available, by electronic means or otherwise, to Infoline of  
11 Connecticut, other organizations and the public.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      PD

**PD**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5190

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPENING OF WAITING LISTS FOR FEDERAL SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHERS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires any entity in the state that administers federal Section 8 housing choice vouchers to notify (electronically or in writing) the operator of a Department of Social Services (DSS) designated website of (1) the date the waiting list for new voucher applications opens, (2) the way to apply for a voucher, and (3) the date, if any, on which the waiting list will close. The agencies must provide the notice at least two weeks before opening the lists.

The website operator must (electronically or otherwise) make the information available to the public, Infoline of Connecticut, and other unspecified organizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**BACKGROUND*****Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers***

The federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing choice voucher program is the main federal program for helping low-income families with rent in private housing ([24 CFR Part 982](#)). Housing authorities administer the vouchers either (1) under contract with HUD or (2) as subcontractors for the statewide program overseen by DSS, which currently contracts with John D'Amelia Associates, LLC. In either case, people apply to the housing authority for a voucher.

A household is eligible if its income, adjusted for family size, is at or below a specified percentage (currently 50%) of area median income, as determined by HUD, where it is located. Only U.S. citizens and certain non-citizens can participate.

Once selected, housing authorities compare a family's annual gross

income with HUD's very low-income or low-income limit for the area. The family's gross income cannot exceed this limit. When an eligible family comes to the top of the housing authority's Section 8 voucher waiting list, the housing authority issues it a voucher. Housing authorities use the HUD-determined fair market rent to calculate payment standards, which can range between 90% and 110% (and in some cases higher) of the fair market rent. They pay the difference between the payment standard and 30% of the household income.

***Infoline of Connecticut***

*Infoline* is a telephone assistance line that provides information about community services, referrals to human services, and crisis intervention. People may call the line toll-free from anywhere in Connecticut (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) by dialing 2-1-1. Multilingual caseworkers and Telecommunications Device for the Deaf access are available.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 13 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 16 Nay 0