



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 278**

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6138

*House of Representatives, March 30, 2015*

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. BUTLER of the 72nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCE MOBILITY COUNSELING FOR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) The Department of  
2 Housing shall, within existing resources of the department, establish a  
3 residence mobility counseling program to assist individuals and  
4 families in relocating their residences from high poverty to low  
5 poverty areas through education and support services. The  
6 commissioner may contract with one or more nonprofit corporations to  
7 provide such residence mobility counseling. Individuals and families  
8 eligible for the residence mobility counseling program shall currently  
9 have a certificate or voucher from either: (1) The federal Housing and  
10 Urban Development Section 8 program, or (2) the state rental  
11 assistance program.

12 (b) Counseling provided pursuant to this section shall include, but  
13 need not be limited to (1) providing information regarding  
14 communities, schools, employment opportunities and community

15 services available in various areas, (2) assisting with locating rental  
 16 housing that meets the individual's and family's needs, (3) facilitating a  
 17 relocation by negotiating with the current landlord about the transfer  
 18 of rental assistance certificates or vouchers, and with the new landlord  
 19 about security deposits, rental payments and acceptance of rental  
 20 assistance certificates or vouchers, and (4) acting as an ongoing liaison  
 21 between the individual and family, the landlord and the rental  
 22 assistance provider to ensure a successful transition and continuing  
 23 housing stability.

24 (c) Annually, the Commissioner of Housing shall submit a report on  
 25 the program to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 8-  
 26 37qqq of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), "be receiving" was changed to "have" for clarity. In Section 1(b), "or vouchers" was added after "rental assistance certificates" for internal consistency. In Section 1(c), "on or before January 1, 2016," was deleted for accuracy.

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact by requiring the Department of Housing to create a residence mobility counseling program. The Department currently provides residential mobility counseling services through contracts with nonprofit corporations. The bill therefore conforms to current practice and has no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6138**

***AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCE MOBILITY COUNSELING FOR  
SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a statutory requirement that the Department of Housing (DOH) create a residence mobility counseling program to help certain individuals and families relocate from high-poverty areas to low-poverty areas (terms undefined by the bill). In practice, DOH operates a mobility counseling program through three nonprofit contractors (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, DOH (1) must operate the program within existing resources and (2) may contract with nonprofit organizations to provide the counseling. Eligible individuals and families are those who currently hold federal Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers or state Rental Assistance Program (RAP) certificates. The counseling, education, and support services must at least:

1. provide information on communities, schools, employment opportunities, and services in various areas;
2. assist with locating rental housing that meets the individual's or family's needs;
3. facilitate relocation by negotiating with current landlords about transferring rental assistance certificates or vouchers, and with new landlords about security deposits, rental payments, and accepting certificates or vouchers; and
4. act as an ongoing liaison between the individual or family, landlord, and rental assistance provider to ensure a successful transition and continuing housing stability.

The bill requires DOH to include information on the mobility counseling program in its annual departmental report to the legislature and governor. By law, the annual report is due by March 31.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**BACKGROUND**

DOH operates a mobility counseling program through three nonprofit contractors. The program provides mobility counseling, including tenant education and housing search assistance, to income-eligible families participating in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, RAP, and the Transitional Rental Assistance Program. Services help clients move out of areas of concentrated poverty.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 0    (03/11/2015)