

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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

8 “(23) 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.”.