

Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA)

Request for Authorizing Legislation:

- Enact comprehensive Section 8 voucher reform legislation to:
 - stabilize the voucher funding system
 - improve portability of vouchers
 - make HUD's Fair Market Rents more accurate
 - improve the inspection process
 - ensure affordability of rents while simplifying rent setting and encouraging increased earned income in voucher, public housing and project-based Section 8 programs

Issue Summary:

Voucher reform legislation is expected to be introduced by House Committee on Financial Services Chair Barney Frank (D-MA) this spring. The bill, which will be an updated version of Chairman Frank's H.R. 1851 from the last Congress, could move quickly through his committee.

The House and Senate should take action quickly to enact the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA), which will bring efficiencies and improvements to HUD's Housing Choice Voucher program. The voucher program currently assists about 2 million households afford modestly-priced, privately-owned housing.

Enactment of the legislation could also increase the likelihood of achieving another housing goal: at least 200,000 new vouchers in FY10.