



**THE REPUBLICAN  
STUDY COMMITTEE**

LIBERTY. OPPORTUNITY. SECURITY.  
MARK WALKER, CHAIRMAN

## **H.R. 5735 – Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments (THRIVE) Demonstration Program Act (Rep. Barr, R-KY)**

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](mailto:Jennifer.Weinhart@rsc.house.gov), 202-226-0706

### **FLOOR SCHEDULE:**

Scheduled for consideration on June 14, 2018, under a structured [rule](#). The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2851 and H.R. 5788.

### **TOPLINE SUMMARY:**

[H.R. 5735](#) would amend the [US Housing Act of 1937](#) to create a demonstration program setting aside [section 8 housing vouchers](#) for transitional housing for those recovering from opioid and substance abuse disorders.

### **COST:**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) “that implementing the bill [as reported by the Financial Services Committee] would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$1.2 billion over the 2019- 2023 period, assuming appropriations are made available for that purpose.” This score is predicated on an assumption that Congress would authorize an increase in the number of section 8 vouchers generally available by 10,000 each fiscal year. However, the legislation authorizes 10,000 vouchers to be taken from the existing pool of section 8 vouchers.

The Manager’s Amendment would clarify that no additional funds would be authorized, nor will an increased number of vouchers be issued. Therefore, according to the Majority Leader’s staff, any cost would be minor.

### **CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:**

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would authorize the creation of a new demonstration program.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** Some conservatives may believe housing issues would be more appropriately handled by state and local governments, or by civil society and market forces.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## **DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:**

This legislation would create a five-year demonstration program under which HUD would set aside and distribute Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to eligible non-profit organizations to provide transitional housing for those recovering from opioid and substance abuse disorders. Eligible non-profits would be required to provide assistance for 12-24 months. This legislation would require HUD to set aside the lesser of .5% of the total number of vouchers available, or 10,000 vouchers.

In order to be eligible, an entity must provide an evidence-based treatment program and a jobs skills training program for those recovering from substance or opioid abuse disorders as defined by HUD. Eligible entities must also have had previous experience in managing rental assistance vouchers, administering transitional housing programs through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, or have a partnership with a housing agency, a housing program through state or local government, or an Indian tribe.

In order to receive a rental assistance voucher, eligible entities must submit an application including details on treatment and jobs skills programs and the rental assistance provided. It must also include details of a transitional plan with additional treatment, job skills, and housing related information for those who have completed the program.

Entities chosen must represent a diverse pool, including those in urban and rural areas, and provide programs in areas with high rates of substance abuse mortality. HUD would be required to look at the successes of eligible entities, to examine the programs offered, and to look at the percentage of participants that do not relapse and do not receive Federal assistance for treatment.

When a participant moves out of the voucher assistance period, the entity may then use that voucher to provide assistance to another individual.

HUD may not provide assistance using the demonstration program following the five-year window.

Eligible entities would be required to submit their transitional plans to HUD on an annual basis. Within four years following enactment, eligible entities must also submit plans for treatment and housing options for covered participants that will not complete the program before the five-year sunset window.

HUD would be required to submit a report to Congress on the program within two years following enactment. HUD would be required to submit a report to Congress on recommendations for expansion or continuation of the program.

Section 3 would repeal the program five-years following enactment.

Vouchers would be returned to HUD following the five-year sunset window.

A committee report can be found [here](#).

## **AMENDMENTS:**

1. [Rep. Rohrabacher \(R-CA\)](#), [Rep. Barr \(R-KY\)](#) – This amendment would alter the application section so that eligible entities must provide proof to HUD that they have authorization to operate by the local government with jurisdiction.
2. [Rep. Barr \(R-KY\)](#) (Manager's Amendment)– This amendment would eliminate the 12-24 month time period, allowing the entity to designate a time period. It would clarify the

provision that CBO interpreted as providing for escalated vouchers, thus ensuring that the cost of the bill as amended would be minor. This amendment also specifies that no additional funds are authorized for the section 8 program. It would change the job skills training program requirement, replacing it with a demonstration of the ability to coordinate with workforce development providers. It would also clarify eligibility for entities and provide for technical corrections. It would provide for the HUD Secretary to, after notice in the Federal Register, “waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of statute or regulation governing the use of vouchers under this subsection (except for requirements relating to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, or the environment) upon a finding by the Secretary that such waiver or alternative requirement is necessary.”

3. [Rep. Moore \(D-WI\)](#) – This amendment would ensure tribal housing authorities are designated as eligible entities.
4. [Rep. Biggs \(R-AZ\)](#) – This amendment would remove the requirement for providing a report on recommendations for continuing or expanding the program.

### **GROUPS IN SUPPORT:**

[Coalition letter in support](#)

### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 5735 was introduced on May 9, 2018, and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. It was ordered reported by the yeas and nays, 34-19, on May 22, 2018.

### **ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.”

**NOTE:** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*