

Managers Amendment to H.R. 1851
Section 8 Voucher Reform Act

- **Miller Amendment** Modification of amendment offered by Rep. Miller [R-CA] in committee. As modified, amendment would permit PHAs more flexibility with regard to rent structures for public housing and voucher residents, subject to the condition that tenants pay no more than they would otherwise pay in rent under statutory rules. Exempts elderly and disabled from provisions
- **Funding Provisions.** (a) Increases Reserves level at end of 2007 (first transition year) from one month to 12.5%, (b) Provides for adjustments in annual voucher formula allocations for mid-year funding in prior year of incremental vouchers, (c) Adds to list of tenant protection vouchers relocation and replacement of public housing units demolished or disposed of pursuant to eminent domain, pursuant to a homeownership program, or in conjunction with mixed finance developments, (d) requires that voucher administration fees be the same amount regardless of the manner in which the voucher is used, (e) deletes the condition “until superseded by subsequent rulemaking” to the provision requiring voucher administration fees be based on the number of vouchers in use.
- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) provision** Spells out a number of responsibilities for HUD with regarding to implementation of the Limited English Proficiency provision, including developing and making available translations of a list of vital documents developed through a HUD-convened Task Force, carrying out a plan to improve access to programs and activities for individuals with limited English proficiency, setting up a Toll-Free number and document clearing house, and completing a study of best practices for improving language services for individuals with limited English proficiency
- **Inspections.** (a) Clarifies that inspections must be done at least every two years [ie., do not need to be done precisely on a biennial basis], (b) requires interim inspections upon request by an assisted family or by a governmental official, (c) amends provisions permitting PHAs to use withheld HAP payments to make repairs by limiting PHA liability for agencies that use licensed, bonded, and insured contractors to make the repairs, and in the event PHAs do not exercise this option, provides tenant protections, including relocation assistance, ability to terminate the lease, and mandatory extension of search time for new unit or a preference for a PHA-owned unit.
- **Housing Innovation Program.** (a) Clarifies, per intent of Waters amendment, that agencies that are “troubled” may not be selected, (b) Clarifies that retention of Section 8(o) provisions is subject to any explicit HIP modifications to such provisions, (c) Eliminates language in the bill which delays HUD’s completion of its responsibilities to carry out periodic evaluations. (d) Reduces and modifies numerical resident participation and employment provisions that apply to demolition and disposition, (e) Prohibits residents from being prevented from occupying replacement units except in the case that they are not eligible for assistance under law.