

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 36

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress to increase funding for Section 8 housing vouchers and revise program requirements to enhance award of vouchers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress to increase
2 funding for Section 8 housing vouchers and to revise program
3 criteria to allow for greater utilization of the program.

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5 **WHEREAS**, Helping the homeless, the disabled, the working poor
6 and former welfare recipients find housing is a priority of the
7 State and the federal governments; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The provision of affordable housing is a critical element
9 in the effort to help people out of poverty; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The Section 8 housing voucher program is the federal
11 government's major program for assisting very low-income
12 families, the elderly and the disabled to rent decent, safe, and
13 sanitary housing in the private market; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The need for Section 8 vouchers is greater than the
15 supply, leaving thousands of New Jersey residents holding a
16 limited number of places on waiting lists for years and thousands
17 more unable even to obtain a place on a waiting list; and

18 **WHEREAS**, A significant percentage of New Jersey residents who
19 become eligible for vouchers are unable to utilize them prior to
20 their expiration due to restrictive program limitations; now,
21 therefore,

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23 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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25 1. The Senate respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
26 United States to enact and the President to sign legislation:

27 a. increasing the funding of the Section 8 housing voucher
28 program;

29 b. providing housing authorities with discretion to exceed fair
30 market rents in the basic range by at least 20% rather than the 10%
31 that is allowed under current regulations;

32 c. providing housing authorities with greater discretion to
33 exceed current requirements concerning the percentage of family
34 income that may be allocated towards the payment of rent; and

35 d. authorizing housing authorities to utilize federal funding for
36 the preliminary costs necessary to enroll new voucher recipients.

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38 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
39 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Governor of the
40 State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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45 This resolution would memorialize Congress to enact and the
46 President to sign legislation to:

47 • increase the funding for the Section 8 housing voucher
48 program;

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- 1 • provide housing authorities with discretion to exceed fair
2 market rents in the basic range by at least 20% rather than
3 the 10% that is allowed under current regulations;
- 4 • provide housing authorities with greater discretion to exceed
5 current requirements concerning the percentage of family
6 income that may be allocated towards the payment of rent;
7 and
- 8 • authorize housing authorities to utilize federal funding for
9 the preliminary costs necessary to enroll new voucher
10 recipients.