

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROGRAM OF  
ASSISTED HOUSING

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-358, §5, June 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 681, added subchapter heading.

**§ 1437. Declaration of policy and public housing agency organization**

**(a) Declaration of policy**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to promote the general welfare of the Nation by employing the funds and credit of the Nation, as provided in this chapter—

(A) to assist States and political subdivisions of States to remedy the unsafe housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent and safe dwellings for low-income families;

(B) to assist States and political subdivisions of States to address the shortage of housing affordable to low-income families; and

(C) consistent with the objectives of this subchapter, to vest in public housing agencies that perform well, the maximum amount of responsibility and flexibility in program administration, with appropriate accountability to public housing residents, localities, and the general public;

(2) that the Federal Government cannot through its direct action alone provide for the housing of every American citizen, or even a majority of its citizens, but it is the responsibility of the Government to promote and protect the independent and collective actions of private citizens to develop housing and strengthen their own neighborhoods;

(3) that the Federal Government should act where there is a serious need that private citizens or groups cannot or are not addressing responsibly; and

(4) that our Nation should promote the goal of providing decent and affordable housing for all citizens through the efforts and encouragement of Federal, State, and local governments, and by the independent and collective actions of private citizens, organizations, and the private sector.

**(b) Public housing agency organization**

**(1) Required membership**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the membership of the board of directors or similar governing body of each public housing agency shall contain not less than 1 member—

(A) who is directly assisted by the public housing agency; and

(B) who may, if provided for in the public housing agency plan, be elected by the residents directly assisted by the public housing agency.

**(2) Exception**

Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any public housing agency—

(A) that is located in a State that requires the members of the board of directors or similar governing body of a public housing agency to be salaried and to serve on a full-time basis; or

(B) with less than 300 public housing units, if—

(i) the agency has provided reasonable notice to the resident advisory board of the opportunity of not less than 1 resident described in paragraph (1) to serve on the board of directors or similar governing body of the public housing agency pursuant to such paragraph; and

(ii) within a reasonable time after receipt by the resident advisory board established by the agency pursuant to section 1437c-1(e) of this title of notice under clause (i), the public housing agency has not been notified of the intention of any resident to participate on the board of directors.

**(3) Nondiscrimination**

No person shall be prohibited from serving on the board of directors or similar governing body of a public housing agency because of the residence of that person in a public housing project or status as assisted under section 1437f of this title.

(Sept. 1, 1937, ch. 896, title I, §2, as added Pub. L. 93-383, title II, §201(a), Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 653; amended Pub. L. 97-35, title III, §322(c), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 402; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 100-358, §5, June 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 681; Pub. L. 101-625, title V, §572(2), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4236; Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §505, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2522.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2 of act Sept. 1, 1937, ch. 896, 50 Stat. 888, related to definitions and was classified to section 1402 of this title, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 93-383.

Prior similar provisions were contained in section 1 of act Sept. 1, 1937, ch. 896, 50 Stat. 888, which was classified to section 1401 of this title prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 93-383.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-276 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "It is the policy of the United States to promote the general welfare of the Nation by employing its funds and credit, as provided in this chapter, to assist the several States and their political subdivisions to remedy the unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of lower income and, consistent with the objectives of this chapter, to vest in local public housing agencies the maximum amount of responsibility in the administration of their housing programs. No person should be barred from serving on the board of directors or similar governing body of a local public housing agency because of his tenancy in a low-income housing project."

1990—Pub. L. 101-625 substituted "low-income housing" for "lower income housing".

1981—Pub. L. 97-35 substituted reference to lower income for reference to low income in two places.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §503, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2521, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments under this title [see Tables for classification] are made on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], but this title shall take effect, and the amendments made by this title shall apply beginning upon, October 1, 1999, except—

“(1) as otherwise specifically provided in this title; or

“(2) as otherwise specifically provided in any amendment made by this title.

The Secretary may, by notice, implement any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title before such date, except to the extent that such provision or amendment specifically provides otherwise.

“(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Notwithstanding any amendment under this title that is made (in accordance with subsection (a)) on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998] but applies beginning on October 1, 1999, the provisions of law amended by such amendment, as such provisions were in effect immediately before the making of such amendment, shall continue to apply during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending upon October 1, 1999, unless otherwise specifically provided by this title.

“(c) TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Banking and Financial Services [now Committee on Financial Services] of the House of Representatives, recommended technical and conforming legislative changes necessary to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

“(d) LIST OF OBSOLETE DOCUMENTS.—Not later than October 1, 1999, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall cause to be published in the Federal Register a list of all rules, regulations, and orders (including all handbooks, notices, and related requirements) pertaining to public housing or section 8 [42 U.S.C. 1437f] tenant-based programs issued or promulgated under the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.] before the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998] that are or will be obsolete because of the enactment of this Act or are otherwise obsolete.

“(e) PROTECTION OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.—No provision of this title may be construed to repeal the regulations of the Secretary regarding tenant participation and tenant opportunities in public housing (24 C.F.R. 964).

“(g)[(f)] EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-35 effective Oct. 1, 1981, see section 371 of Pub. L. 97-35, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3701 of Title 12, Banks and Banking.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 93-383, title II, §201(b), Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 667, provided that: “The provisions of subsection (a) of this section [enacting sections 1437 to 1437j of this title] shall be effective on such date or dates as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall prescribe, but not later than eighteen months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 22, 1974]; except that (1) all of the provisions of section 3(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended by subsection (a) of this section [section 1437a(1) of this title], shall become effective on the same date, (2) all of the provisions of sections 5 and 9(c) of such Act as so amended [sections 1437c and 1437g(c) of this title] shall become effective on the same date, and (3) section 8 of such Act [section 1437f of this title] as so amended shall be effective not later than January 1, 1975.”

Section 3(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, effective Sept. 26, 1975, see Effective Date note set out under section 1437a of this title.

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-289, div. B, title VII, §2701, July 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2863, provided that: “This title [amending section 1437c-1 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small

Public Housing Authorities Paperwork Reduction Act.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-186, title IV, §401, Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2693, provided that: “This title [amending section 1437v of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1437v of this title] may be cited as the ‘HOPE VI Program Reauthorization and Small Community Mainstreet Rejuvenation and Housing Act of 2003.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-116, title VI, §601(a), Jan. 10, 2002, 115 Stat. 2220, provided that: “This title [amending sections 1437f and 5305 of this title and section 1715n of Title 12, Banks and Banking, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1437f and 11301 of this title and sections 1701q and 1715n of Title 12, and amending provisions set out as notes under sections 1437f and 11301 of this title and section 1701q of Title 12] may be cited as the ‘Mark-to-Market Extension Act of 2001.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §501(a), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2518, provided that: “This title [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the ‘Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-358, §1, June 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 676, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 1437aa to 1437ee of this title, amending sections 1437a and 1437c of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1437a of this title] may be cited as the ‘Indian Housing Act of 1988.’”

#### SHORT TITLE

Act Sept. 1, 1937, ch. 896, title I, §1, as added by Pub. L. 93-383, title II, §201(a), Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 653; renumbered title I by Pub. L. 100-358, §5, June 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 681, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘United States Housing Act of 1937.’”

#### APPLICABILITY OF 1996 AMENDMENTS; INDIAN HOUSING

Pub. L. 104-204, title II, §201(d), Sept. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 2893, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (c) [amending provisions set out as notes under sections 1437a, 1437c, and 1437f of this title] shall apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority.”

Pub. L. 104-134, title I, §101(e) [title II, §201(a)(3)], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-257, 1321-278; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104-140, §1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendment made by this subsection [amending section 1437l of this title] shall apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority.”

Pub. L. 104-134, title I, §101(e) [title II, §201(b)(3)], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-257, 1321-278; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104-140, §1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendments made by this subsection [amending section 1437p of this title and provisions set out as a note under section 1437c of this title] and by sections 1002(a), (b), and (c) of Public Law 104-19 [amending sections 1437c, 1437p, and 1437aaa-3 of this title] shall apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of

Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority.”

Pub. L. 104-99, title IV, §402(e), Jan. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 43, which provided that amendments made by section 402(a) to (d) and (f) of Pub. L. 104-99 were also to apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to contract between Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority, was repealed by Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §595(e)(16), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2659.

#### APPLICABILITY OF 1990 AMENDMENTS; INDIAN HOUSING

Pub. L. 102-550, title I, §103(b), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3684, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former] 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the provisions of sections 572, 573, and 574 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [Pub. L. 101-625, amending this section and sections 1437a, 1437b to 1437d, 1437f, 1437g, 1437i, 1437j, 1437l, 1437n, 1437p, 1437r, 1437s, and 1437aa to 1437dd of this title, repealing section 1437o of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 1437a of this title] shall apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian Housing Authority.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect as if such provision were enacted upon the date of the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [Nov. 28, 1990].”

Pub. L. 101-625, title IV, §419, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4161, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendments made by this subtitle [subtitle A (§§411-419) of title IV of Pub. L. 101-625, enacting subchapter II-A of this chapter and amending sections 1437c, 1437f, 1437l, 1437p, 1437r, and 1437s of this title] shall also apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority, except that nothing in this title [see Short Title note set out under section 1437aaa of this title] affects the program under section 202 of such Act [former 42 U.S.C. 1437bb].”

Pub. L. 101-625, title V, §527, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4216, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former] 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the provisions of this subtitle [subtitle A (§§501-527) of title V of Pub. L. 101-625, see Tables for classification] that modify the public housing program under title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.] shall also apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority, except that sections 502 and 510 [amending sections 1437d and 1437l of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 1437d of this title] shall not apply.”

#### APPLICABILITY OF 1989 AMENDMENTS; INDIAN HOUSING

Pub. L. 101-235, title I, §101(d), Dec. 15, 1989, 103 Stat. 1990, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section [amending section 1439 of this title] shall also apply to public housing developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority.”

Pub. L. 101-235, title I, §104(c), Dec. 15, 1989, 103 Stat. 1998, provided that: “In accordance with section 201(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [former 42 U.S.C. 1437aa(b)(2)], the amendment made by subsection (a) [amending section 1439 of this title] and the provisions of subsection (b) of this section [set out as an Effective Date of 1989 Amendment note under section 1439 of this title] shall also apply to public housing

developed or operated pursuant to a contract between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an Indian housing authority.”

#### REPORTS ON NUMBER AND COST OF FEDERALLY ASSISTED UNITS

Pub. L. 110-161, div. K, title II, §211, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2433, provided that: “The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit an annual report no later than August 30, 2008 and annually thereafter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding the number of Federally assisted units under lease and the per unit cost of these units to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 109-115, div. A, title III, §314, Nov. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2463.

Pub. L. 108-447, div. I, title II, §214, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3318.

Pub. L. 108-199, div. G, title II, §213, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 393.

Pub. L. 108-7, div. K, title II, §217, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 504.

#### FUNDING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC HOUSING

Pub. L. 105-276, title II, §226, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2490, which provided that no funds in this Act or any other Act may hereafter be used by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to determine allocations or provide assistance for operating subsidies or modernization for certain State and city funded and locally developed public housing units unless such unit was so assisted before Oct. 1, 1998, was repealed by Pub. L. 108-7, div. K, title II, §212(b), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 504.

[Pub. L. 108-7, div. K, title II, §212(d), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 504, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (b) [repealing section 226 of Pub. L. 105-276, set out above] shall be deemed to have taken effect on October 21, 1998.”]

#### CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §502, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2520, provided that:

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(1) there exists throughout the Nation a need for decent, safe, and affordable housing;

“(2) the inventory of public housing units owned, assisted, or operated by public housing agencies, an asset in which the Federal Government has invested over \$90,000,000,000, has traditionally provided rental housing that is affordable to low-income persons;

“(3) despite serving this critical function, the public housing system is plagued by a series of problems, including the concentration of very poor people in very poor neighborhoods and disincentives for economic self-sufficiency;

“(4) the Federal method of overseeing every aspect of public housing by detailed and complex statutes and regulations has aggravated the problem and has placed excessive administrative burdens on public housing agencies; and

“(5) the interests of low-income persons, and the public interest, will best be served by a reformed public housing program that—

“(A) consolidates many public housing programs into programs for the operation and capital needs of public housing;

“(B) streamlines program requirements;

“(C) vests in public housing agencies that perform well the maximum feasible authority, discretion, and control with appropriate accountability to public housing residents, localities, and the general public; and

“(D) rewards employment and economic self-sufficiency of public housing residents.

“(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this title [see Tables for classification] is to promote homes that are afford-

able to low-income families in safe and healthy environments, and thereby contribute to the supply of affordable housing, by—

“(1) deregulating and decontrolling public housing agencies, thereby enabling them to perform as property and asset managers;

“(2) providing for more flexible use of Federal assistance to public housing agencies, allowing the authorities to leverage and combine assistance amounts with amounts obtained from other sources;

“(3) facilitating mixed income communities and decreasing concentrations of poverty in public housing;

“(4) increasing accountability and rewarding effective management of public housing agencies;

“(5) creating incentives and economic opportunities for residents of dwelling units assisted by public housing agencies to work, become self-sufficient, and transition out of public housing and federally assisted dwelling units;

“(6) consolidating the voucher and certificate programs for rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f] into a single market-driven program that will assist in making tenant-based rental assistance under such section more successful at helping low-income families obtain affordable housing and will increase housing choice for low-income families; and

“(7) remedying the problems of troubled public housing agencies and replacing or revitalizing severely distressed public housing projects.”

#### MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §517, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2550, provided that: “The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, and appropriate State and local officials and representatives, shall—

“(1) develop an action plan and list of recommendations for the improvement of means of providing severe mental illness treatment to families and individuals receiving housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.], including public housing residents, residents of multi-family housing assisted with project-based assistance under section 8 of such Act [42 U.S.C. 1437f], and recipients of tenant-based assistance under such section; and

“(2) develop and disseminate a list of current practices among public housing agencies and owners of assisted housing that serve to benefit persons in need of mental health care.”

#### ANNUAL REPORT

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §581, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2643, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress on—

“(1) the impact of the amendments made by this Act [Pub. L. 105-276, see Tables for classification] on—

“(A) the demographics of public housing residents and families receiving tenant-based assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.]; and

“(B) the economic viability of public housing agencies; and

“(2) the effectiveness of the rent policies established by this Act and the amendments made by this Act on the employment status and earned income of public housing residents.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998].”

#### USE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §584, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2645, provided that:

“(a) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available in this Act [Pub. L. 105-276, see Tables for classification] should be American made.

“(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—In providing financial assistance to, or entering into any contract with, any entity using funds made available in this Act, the head of each Federal agency, to the greatest extent practicable, shall provide to such entity a notice describing the statement made in subsection (a) by the Congress.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998].”

#### GAO STUDY ON HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS

Pub. L. 105-276, title V, §585, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2645, provided that:

“(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that provides an objective and independent accounting and analysis of the full cost to the Federal Government, public housing agencies, State and local governments, and other entities, per assisted household, of the Federal assisted housing programs, taking into account the qualitative differences among Federal assisted housing programs in accordance with applicable standards of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The study under this section shall—

“(1) analyze the full cost to the Federal Government, public housing agencies, State and local governments, and other parties, per assisted household, of the Federal assisted housing programs, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and shall conduct the analysis on a nationwide and regional basis and in a manner such that accurate per unit cost comparisons may be made between Federal assisted housing programs, including grants, direct subsidies, tax concessions, Federal mortgage insurance liability, periodic renovation and rehabilitation, and modernization costs, demolition costs, and other ancillary costs such as security; and

“(2) measure and evaluate qualitative differences among Federal assisted housing programs in accordance with applicable standards of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“(c) PROHIBITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—In conducting the study under this section and reporting under subsection (e), the Comptroller General may not make any recommendations regarding Federal housing policy.

“(d) FEDERAL ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMS.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘Federal assisted housing programs’ means—

“(1) the public housing program under the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.], except that the study under this section shall differentiate between and compare the development and construction of new public housing and the assistance of existing public housing structures;

“(2) the certificate program for rental assistance under section 8(b)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f(b)(1)];

“(3) the voucher program for rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)];

“(4) the programs for project-based assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f];

“(5) the rental assistance payments program under section 521(a)(2)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 [42 U.S.C. 1490a(a)(2)(A)];

“(6) the program for housing for the elderly under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 [12 U.S.C. 1701q];

“(7) the program for housing for persons with disabilities under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [42 U.S.C. 8013];

“(8) the program for financing housing by a loan or mortgage insured under section 221(d)(3) of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1715f(d)(3)] that bears

interest at a rate determined under the proviso of section 221(d)(5) of such Act [12 U.S.C. 1715(d)(5)];

“(9) the program under section 236 of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1715z-1];

“(10) the program for construction or substantial rehabilitation under section 8(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f(b)(2)], as in effect before October 1, 1983; and

“(11) any other program for housing assistance administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or the Secretary of Agriculture, under which occupancy in the housing assisted or housing assistance provided is based on income, as the Comptroller General may determine.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], the Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a final report which shall contain the results of the study under this section, including the analysis and estimates required under subsection (b).

“(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998].”

#### LIMITATION ON WITHHOLDING OR CONDITIONING OF ASSISTANCE

Assistance provided for in Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.], National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.], United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.], Housing Act of 1949 [see Short Title note set out under section 1441 of this title], Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 [see Short Title note set out under section 3331 of this title], and Housing and Urban Development Acts of 1965, 1968, 1969, and 1970 not to be withheld or made subject to conditions by reason of tax-exempt status of obligations issued or to be issued for financing of assistance, except as otherwise provided by law, see section 817 of Pub. L. 93-383, set out as a note under section 5301 of this title.

#### § 1437a. Rental payments

##### (a) Families included; rent options; minimum amount; occupancy by police officers and over-income families

(1) Dwelling units assisted under this chapter shall be rented only to families who are low-income families at the time of their initial occupancy of such units. Reviews of family income shall be made at least annually. Except as provided in paragraph (2) and subject to the requirement under paragraph (3), a family shall pay as rent for a dwelling unit assisted under this chapter (other than a family assisted under section 1437f(o) or (y) of this title or paying rent under section 1437f(c)(3)(B)<sup>1</sup> of this title) the highest of the following amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar:

(A) 30 per centum of the family's monthly adjusted income;

(B) 10 per centum of the family's monthly income; or

(C) if the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of such payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of such payments which is so designated.

##### (2) RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING FAMILIES.—

###### (A) AUTHORITY FOR FAMILY TO SELECT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A family residing in a public housing dwelling shall pay as month-

ly rent for the unit the amount determined under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B), subject to the requirement under paragraph (3) (relating to minimum rents). Each public housing agency shall provide for each family residing in a public housing dwelling unit owned, assisted, or operated by the agency to elect annually whether the rent paid by such family shall be determined under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B). A public housing agency may not at any time fail to provide both such rent options for any public housing dwelling unit owned, assisted, or operated by the agency.

(ii) AUTHORITY TO RETAIN FLAT AND CEILING RENTS.—Notwithstanding clause (i) or any other provision of law, any public housing agency that is administering flat rents or ceiling rents pursuant to any authority referred to in section 519(d) of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 before the effective day of such Act may continue to charge rent in accordance with such rent provisions after such effective date, except that the agency shall provide for families residing in public housing dwelling units owned or operated by the agency to elect annually whether to pay rent under such provisions or in accordance with one of the rent options referred to in subparagraph (A).

##### (B) ALLOWABLE RENT STRUCTURES.—

(i) FLAT RENTS.—Except as otherwise provided under this clause, each public housing agency shall establish, for each dwelling unit in public housing owned or operated by the agency, a flat rental amount for the dwelling unit, which shall—

(I) be based on the rental value of the unit, as determined by the public housing agency; and

(II) be designed in accordance with subparagraph (D) so that the rent structures do not create a disincentive for continued residency in public housing by families who are attempting to become economically self-sufficient through employment or who have attained a level of self-sufficiency through their own efforts.

The rental amount for a dwelling unit shall be considered to comply with the requirements of this clause if such amount does not exceed the actual monthly costs to the public housing agency attributable to providing and operating the dwelling unit. The preceding sentence may not be construed to require establishment of rental amounts equal to or based on operating costs or to prevent public housing agencies from developing flat rents required under this clause in any other manner that may comply with this clause.

##### (i) INCOME-BASED RENTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The monthly rental amount determined under this clause for a family shall be an amount, determined by the public housing agency, that does not exceed the greatest of the amounts (rounded to the nearest dollar) determined under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1). This clause may not be con-

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.