

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 907 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, JAMES AND
SCAVELLO, OCTOBER 5, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 5, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to review and
2 reform the Federal assisted housing programs administered by
3 the United States Department of Housing and Urban
4 Development.

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Housing and Urban
6 Development (HUD) was established on September 9, 1965, when the
7 Congress of the United States passed and President Lyndon
8 Johnson signed the Department of Housing and Urban Development
9 Act into law; and

10 WHEREAS, HUD's stated mission is to:

11 (1) create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities
12 and quality affordable homes for all;

13 (2) strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy
14 and protect consumers;

15 (3) meet the need for quality affordable rental homes;

16 (4) utilize housing as a platform for improving quality
17 of life; and

18 (5) build inclusive and sustainable communities free
19 from discrimination;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, HUD is responsible for administering several Federal
3 assisted housing programs, including the HOPE IV Program, the
4 PHA Homeownership Program and the Housing Choice Voucher
5 Program, formerly known as Section 8; and

6 WHEREAS, HUD's administration of the programs, particularly
7 the Housing Choice Voucher Program, have resulted in high
8 concentrations of public housing and Federal subsidized housing
9 in certain communities; and

10 WHEREAS, High concentrations of subsidized low-income housing
11 in a community have a destabilizing effect on the surrounding
12 neighborhoods; and

13 WHEREAS, The destabilizing effects of high concentrations of
14 subsidized low-income housing include:

15 (1) reductions in owner-occupied residences;

16 (2) increases in middle-class flight, poverty and
17 neighborhood blight; and

18 (3) decreases in property values;

19 and

20 WHEREAS, The impacts of high concentrations of Federal
21 subsidized low-income housing are counter to HUD's stated
22 mission; and

23 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has the exclusive
24 authority to review, study and reform the various public housing
25 programs operated by HUD; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
28 United States to review and reform the Federal assisted housing
29 programs administered by the United States Department of Housing
30 and Urban Development; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
3 United States to exercise a greater degree of oversight over HUD
4 by establishing an independent commission to review the public
5 housing programs administered by HUD, with a particular emphasis
6 on the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and to make
7 recommendations and report the findings to the Congress of the
8 United States; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
11 United States to act on the recommendations and amend Chapter 8
12 of Title 42 of the United States Code to limit the adverse
13 effects of the public housing programs administered by HUD; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the
16 United States Congress to create safeguards to prevent high
17 concentrations of Federal subsidized low-income housing in any
18 neighborhood; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
21 United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of
22 the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United
23 States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States House of
24 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House
25 of Representatives and each member of Congress from
26 Pennsylvania.