



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Patti Boerger
Manufactured Housing Institute
571-325-0785
pboerger@mfgghome.org

MHI Applauds New Law Allowing Use of Section 8 Vouchers to Purchase Manufactured Homes

ARLINGTON, VA - [H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act](#), which gives the more than 2 million families that have a HUD Section 8 voucher the added flexibility of using the voucher to pay for the full annual cost of purchasing a manufactured home, has been signed into law by the President. Manufactured homes are a quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing choice in America that costs less than site-built houses.

“A Section 8 voucher holder will now have the option to use their federal housing assistance to cover the full annual cost of purchasing a manufactured home. This change provides families the opportunity to become homeowners, rather than only being allowed to use Section 8 vouchers for rent payments,” said Lesli Gooch, senior vice president of government affairs and chief lobbyist for the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI).

Under H.R. 3700, Section 8 vouchers can be used not just for the cost of leasing the land as previously allowed, but now also for other monthly costs of purchasing a manufactured home, including mortgage payments, property tax and insurance. The law doesn't require a Section 8 recipient to use their voucher to live in a manufactured home, nor does it authorize use of a voucher for a down payment.

Gooch added, “MHI commends Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) for recognizing the importance of manufactured housing as an affordable housing choice that can help Section 8 voucher recipients become homeowners. We appreciate his hard work to include the language in H.R. 3700.” Rep. Welch was the author of the manufactured housing provision.

For more than a decade, MHI has worked with a coalition of housing and advocacy groups urging passage of these reforms to the Section 8 program. Recently, MHI was a part of a coalition of more than 40 housing and advocacy groups advocating for passage of H.R. 3700. Joint activities included coalition calls and letters, meetings with key leaders on Capitol Hill and participation in a media campaign.

MHI is working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to prepare information for its members about how to utilize the new authority under Section 8 to purchase manufactured homes.

Manufactured Housing Facts:

- Manufactured housing provides quality, affordable housing for more than 22 million very low-, low- and moderate-income Americans.
- The median annual income of manufactured homeowners is slightly more than \$26,000 per year, nearly 50 percent less than that of all homeowners.
- Manufactured housing represents 7.3 percent of all occupied housing units, and 10.3 percent of all occupied single-family detached housing.
- Based on U.S. Census data, the average price per square foot of a manufactured home is \$44, compared to \$94 for a site-built home.
- Unlike site-built homes, manufactured homes are built almost entirely in a controlled manufacturing environment in accordance with federal building codes administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (commonly referred to as the “HUD Code”). Homes are transported to the home-sites where they are installed in compliance with federal and state laws.
- Visit the MHI [Facebook](#) page or [website](#) to see the new look of manufactured homes.

MHI is the only national trade organization representing all segments of the factory-built housing industry. MHI members include home builders, lenders, home retailers, community owners and managers, suppliers and others affiliated with the industry. MHI’s membership includes 50 affiliated state organizations. In 2015, the industry produced over 70,000 homes, which is approximately 9 percent of new single family home starts. Visit us at www.manufacturedhousing.org; [Facebook](#)-- Manufactured-Housing Institute; and [Twitter](#)-- @MHIupdate.

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