

# Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut, Inc.

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## **H.B. 6469 -- DECD Annual Report**

Commerce Committee public hearing -- February 28, 2013  
Testimony of Raphael L. Podolsky

**Recommended Committee action: DELETION OF SECTIONS 1  
THROUGH 5 OR REJECTION OF THE ENTIRE BILL**

Sections 1 through 5 of this bill are fully and more accurately covered by Sections 55 and 56 of H.B. 6366, the Governor's bill implementing the new Department of Housing, and should therefore be deleted from this bill. As drafted, Sections 1 through 5 in part overlap H.B. 6366 and in part conflict with it. H.B. 6366 is currently pending in the Housing Committee and will presumably be reported out by that committee. I am not sufficiently familiar with the programs addressed by Sections 6 through 10 of the Commerce Committee bill and am therefore unable to say whether those sections are needed.

A review of Sections 1 through 5 of H.B. 6469, and especially of Section 1, illustrates the problems with the bill. Section 1 deals with DECD's annual report under C.G.S. 32-1m, which at present includes both economic development and housing provisions. Instead of moving all the housing provisions to the new Department of Housing (DOH), it deletes some from the DECD report but keeps others. Of the housing provisions it keeps in the DECD report, it sometimes changes them, omitting critical components. H.B. 6366, in contrast, simply moves all the housing provisions to a equivalent DOH annual report, leaving the remaining provisions for DECD's annual report.

For example, among the housing-related reporting requirements that remain inappropriately in the DECD report are the following:

- An analysis of rental assistance needs (l. 192-195)
- An analysis of housing building and demolition permit data (l. 196-199)
- A summary and analysis of the state-funded housing development portfolio at CHFA, but omitting the itemization by municipality, the analysis by income group served, and data on the racial composition of occupants and of the waiting list (l. 212-264)
- An economic impact analysis of housing development efforts but omitting the impact on employment (l. 265-273)

All of these are properly transferred, intact, to DOH in H.B. 6366.

We therefore urge the Commerce Committee to either take no action on H.B. 6469 or to delete Sections 1 through 5 from the bill.