



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGING 2/17/2015

Evonne Klein, Commissioner
Department of Housing

House Bill No. 6684

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING
FOR THE ELDERLY.**

Senator Flexer, Representative Serra and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding House Bill 6684 – AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

House Bill 6684 requires the Department of Housing (DOH), within available appropriations, to conduct a study of the provision of emergency backup power at public housing for the elderly within the state and to report on the results of this study by January 1, 2016. While DOH agrees that protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents living in public housing for the elderly is important, our agency does not have the funding to conduct this study and we do not expect this funding to be included in the Governor's budget proposal. We also believe there are existing resources to address the concerns H.B. 6684 seeks to remedy without a statewide study.

DOH encourages housing authorities to work with their municipal leaders to apply for Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities (CDBG) or Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding for emergency power generators if there is a local need. These funding opportunities exist, and do not require an additional allocation or appropriation at this time. We also encourage them to prepare and employ Disaster Planning initiatives, including working closely with local emergency management officials to prepare for power outages and identify and communicate their emergency services needs when a power outage does occur. Most of these properties have resident service coordinators whose role includes the identification of community services, including emergency services, and the provision of this information to all residents. In addition, most of these properties have on-site community rooms or facilities that have temporary heat and power in the event of an emergency. Thank you for your time and consideration.