



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 466

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6694

House of Representatives, April 7, 2015

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, (1) "public housing project" means dwelling accommodations
3 operated as a state or federally subsidized multifamily housing project
4 by a housing authority, nonprofit corporation or municipal developer
5 pursuant to chapter 128 of the general statutes or by the Connecticut
6 Housing Authority pursuant to chapter 129 of the general statutes; (2)
7 "housing authority", "nonprofit corporation" and "municipal
8 developer" have the same meanings as provided in section 8-39 of the
9 general statutes; and (3) "political activity" includes (A) an event
10 organized in the interests of a political party or candidate for elective
11 office; (B) initiating, circulating, or signing petitions; (C) community
12 political meetings; (D) campaigning for or against proposed
13 referendum questions, constitutional amendments, legislation and
14 municipal ordinances; or (E) expressing opinions about candidates and

15 political or social issues.

16 (b) No housing authority, nonprofit corporation, municipality or
17 municipal developer shall prohibit any tenant of a public housing
18 project from using common facilities or community rooms located
19 within such public housing project for political activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which regulates the use of common facilities at public housing projects for political activities by tenants, has no state or municipal fiscal impact. Housing authorities, nonprofit corporations, municipalities, and municipal developers can accommodate this regulation with no additional resources.

Housing authorities are autonomous governmental entities which are financed through rental collections (CGS 8-45) and the issuance of bonds (CGS 8-52). They may also accept federal and state grants (CGS 8-56) as well as donations from municipalities (CGS 8-61).

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6694*****AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill bans municipalities and entities operating state- or federally-funded public housing projects from prohibiting tenants from using common facilities or community rooms for political activities. The bill defines "political activity" as including:

1. an event organized for a political party or candidate for office;
2. initiating, circulating, or signing petitions;
3. community political meetings;
4. campaigning for or against proposed referenda questions, constitutional amendments, legislation, or municipal ordinances;
or
5. expressing opinions about candidates and political or social issues.

By law, entities operating state- or federally-funded public housing projects are housing authorities, nonprofit corporations, and municipal developers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 4 (03/18/2015)