

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-808

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE HOUSING.

Vote Date: 3/7/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require the Department of Housing to conduct a study of methods to increase housing options for municipal employees. This bill would study options to address the lack of affordable housing in municipalities in which these employees work.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tony Hwang, 28th Dist., State Senator, supports this bill, stating that municipal employees devote their careers to working in those municipalities and should have the opportunity to affordably reside in the municipalities where they are employed. It was shared that this study could also explore creating more housing opportunities for millennials.

Ryan Brown, Teacher, Bridgeport Public Schools/Resident, Danbury, Connecticut, supports this bill, stating that the average rent is approximately \$1,400 which is not reflective of a teacher's salary. It was shared that lack of affordable housing requires teachers to have more than one job in order to subsidize other living expenses such as (but not limited to) car payments, utilities and groceries.

Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager, CT Conference of Municipalities, supports this bill, sharing support of studying methods to increase housing options for municipal workers and asks that the study include municipal official input.

Orlando J. Rodriguez, Research and Policy Development Specialist, Connecticut Education Association, supports this bill, stating that Connecticut must incentivize the building of new

middle-income housing to give teachers the option to live where they work. References were made to the book “Snob Zones” by Connecticut author Lisa Prevost which provides an about of how housing costs keep many of Connecticut’s middle-income households from living in the towns where they work.

Greg Salicki, Teacher, Hartford Public Schools; supports this bill, stating that as a municipal employee who wants to have a sustainable and fiscally responsible lifestyle while pursuing a career in teaching, creating a system of incentives for municipal employees is vital.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Stated.

Reported by: Zoë Gluck

Date: 3/14/19