OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 6892

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE’S CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMARY

By law, the Department of Housing commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, must prepare the state’s consolidated plan for housing and community development (ConPlan) every five years and an annual action plan in intervening years to receive federal block grants and ensure that state funds are spent as state and federal law requires.

This bill requires the commissioner to include in each ConPlan and annual action plan (1) a collection and analysis of data assessing the state’s efforts to affirmatively further fair housing and (2) specific numerical housing development goals to affirmatively further fair housing and the progress made toward those goals over the prior five years.

The numerical goals must be based on geographic opportunity areas, which by law, are those designated as such using opportunity mapping analysis that includes census tract level assessments of educational, economic, and neighborhood characteristics, including education data and crime rates. The goals must also include regional housing production goals.

Under federal regulations, to “affirmatively further fair housing” means to take meaningful actions that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics (i.e., race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and having a disability or type of disability (24 C.F.R. § 5.152)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019
BACKGROUND

ConPlan

Generally, the ConPlan includes (1) a housing and homeless needs assessment, (2) a housing market analysis, (3) a strategic plan identifying the state’s housing priorities, and (4) an action plan outlining how resources will be used to effectuate the state’s housing priorities.

Federal regulations require the strategic plan to include a summary of federal and state resources the state expects to be available to it and how its proposed distribution of funds will address the needs identified in the ConPlan.

Annual Action Plans

The state must annually prepare an action plan that describes how it will implement the ConPlan. Federal regulations require that it include an evaluation of the state’s progress toward its stated goals and how it will administer the federal block grants for the subsequent year.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  14    Nay  0    (03/07/2019)