OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 7067

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.

SUMMARY

By law, municipal and regional public housing authorities (PHAs) exercise certain powers, such as developing and operating affordable housing projects and administering tenant-based voucher programs (e.g., Section 8). Current law requires that PHAs exercise these powers within their area of operation. This bill authorizes them to adopt an expanded area of operation.

In doing so, the bill appears to allow PHAs to exercise the same powers in the expanded area of operation as they may currently exercise in their area of operation, subject to certain limitations. Specifically, the bill prohibits PHAs, in an expanded area of operation, from (1) establishing or maintaining a police force or (2) acquiring property by eminent domain.

The bill defines an "expanded area of operation" as including areas designated by the Department of Housing (DOH) under its mobility counseling program as high- or very high-opportunity census tracts (see BACKGROUND). It requires that any part of the census tract be located within 30 miles of the municipality in which the initial housing authority is located.

Lastly, the bill makes several technical and conforming changes, including (1) eliminating obsolete definitions; (2) generally redefining “area of operation” as “municipal area of operation;” and (3) defining “area of operation” to broadly mean a municipal area of operation and, if adopted, an expanded area of operation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND
**Mobility Counseling Program - Opportunity Areas**

Existing law requires DOH, within existing resources, to operate a residence mobility counseling program to help certain individuals and families relocate to higher opportunity areas through education and support services. “Opportunity areas” are those designated as such using opportunity mapping analysis that incorporates a census tract-level assessment of educational, economic, and neighborhood characteristics, including education data and crime rates. DOH must make the mapping analysis available on its website.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9  Nay 5  (03/07/2019)