Bill No.: HB-7067  
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.  
Vote Date: 3/7/2019  
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute  
PH Date: 2/14/2019  

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SPONSORS OF BILL:  
The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:  
According to Connecticut state law, a housing authority’s jurisdiction is limited to a municipal border unless two bordering municipalities enter into an agreement to form a regional housing authority. This would allow a housing authority to expand its jurisdiction up to thirty miles to include certain high and very high opportunity areas as determined by the Department of Housing which would create more affordable housing in high opportunity areas.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:  
None stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:  
Karen DuBois-Walton, PhD, Executive Director, New Haven Housing Authority; supports the bill with a technical change, stating that the disproportionate distribution results in a concentrations in urban centers while many surrounding towns have affordable housing stock below the ten percent threshold.

Sean Ghio, Policy Director, Partnership for Strong Communities; supports this bill, expressing that allowing housing authorities to expand their areas of operation in certain circumstances can serve to create more of the housing many of Connecticut’s suburban communities need to support their residents.

Peter Haberlandt, Senior Legal Counsel, Open Communities Alliance; supports this bill, expressing that it will open a wider choice of housing to families participating in their tenant...
based Housing Choice Voucher program, add a greater geographic diversity and it would develop affordable housing. Technical changes were recommended with “area of operation” of housing authorities under CGS Sec. 8-39(a), Sec. 8-4, Sec. 8-56, 8-61 and Sec. 8-68.

*Carol J. Martin, Executive Director, Fairfield/Westport Housing Authority,* supports this bill, stating that diversity in housing strengthens the State of Connecticut and is a state-wide economic growth strategy.

*Raphael L. Podolsky, Public Policy Advocate, Connecticut Legal Services,* supports this bill with technical changes, stating that it will allow housing authorities to enlarge their areas of operation making it easier for tenants to use vouchers in higher area opportunity areas and allow housing authorities to retain administration of vouchers.

*Vincent J. Tufo, Chief Executive Officer, Charter Oak Communities,* supports this bill, stating that expanding housing authority jurisdiction to 30 miles would allow larger housing authorities with significant knowledge of development to assist and partner with smaller town housing authorities.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

*Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate, The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities,* questions definitions in the bill and how designations of “high or very high opportunity” will be determined.

**Reported by:** Zoë Gluck **Date:** 03/14/19