Proposed Substitute

February Session, 2020

Bill No. 105

LCO No. 2920

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO HOUSING.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2020) (a) It shall be the goal of this state to implement policies that will provide every resident of this state with a right to affordable, decent, safe and stable housing.

(b) Each state agency, as defined in section 1-79 of the general statutes, and each political subdivision of the state, shall:

(1) Consider the right to housing under subsection (a) of this section and its components set forth in subsection (c) of this section when adopting or revising policies, regulations or grant criteria that implicate, impact or affect such right.

(2) When implementing such policies, regulations or grant criteria, give priority to their impact on households with incomes below fifty percent of the area median income, as described in section 8-39a of the general statutes.

(3) To the extent practicable, in regard to the right to housing, attempt to serve households currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and those in the lower range of the income group to which its programs are directed.
(c) The right to housing includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

(1) The right to housing affordability: This right implicates such governmental programs as those providing rental assistance, encouraging the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of existing housing and enlarging the stock of new low-cost housing.

(2) The right to protection from housing loss: This right implicates such governmental programs as those assisting persons and households at risk of losing housing or becoming homeless, including eviction prevention programs, legal assistance in evictions, financial assistance, support services and problem-solving counseling.

(3) The right to rehousing assistance for persons and households that have become homeless: This right implicates such governmental programs as those providing financial or rental assistance or support services for transitioning to long-term permanent housing that is affordable.

(4) The right to recognition of special circumstances: This right implicates the adaptation of governmental programs to the needs of households facing particular obstacles to finding affordable, decent, safe and stable housing, whether because of disability, unemployment, criminal record or other obstacles.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | October 1, 2020 | New section |