

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5240

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF

Title: AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Vote Date: 3/10/2020

Vote Action: JF To Floor

PH Date: 2/27/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was submitted in order to encourage developers to strive towards twenty first century standards of development that include the incorporation of handicap apartment units, the use of techniques that reduce light pollution, and the ensuring that development incorporates green energy technology such as solar cells in order reach the governor's goal of energy independence.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of the Department of Housing, Hartford: The DOH is **opposed to HB-5240** as drafted. Mosquera-Bruno believes that this bill's laws will be hard to enforce in the long term. She states that the bill revises a 2018 amendment that already does something similar, and that this new bill would make it more difficult to accomplish what the Housing Committee's intent is. She states that the DOH is happy to work with the Housing Committee to change the language as needed to support this type of initiative.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities, Hartford: Gosselin **opposes HB-5240**. She states that it will make an already costly process cost even

more and is against adding more requirements on the construction of affordable housing. She believes that this bill will disincentivize contractors to construct future affordable housing.

Jim Perras, CEO of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association, South Windsor: Perras states that HB-5240 would create higher costs of making affordable housing. He also states that there are already regulations put in place to accomplish a similar goal, and that this bill would only serve to replace those older regulations. He believes that the money saved on energy would not make up for the higher product and construction costs this bill would create.

Reported by: Dalton Mongeau

03/09/2020