

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-110

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.

Vote Date: 3/5/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/18/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Allowing housing authorities to operate on a regional basis fosters greater collaboration between municipalities to provide adequate housing to low income individuals throughout the state. Only by providing low income families with greater economic and education opportunities, can the state begin to address regional housing segregation and end generational poverty.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Stated

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Scott Bertrand, Public House Practitioner & Executive Director of CONN NAHRO: Bertrand states that his organization would support SB-110 if the following language was attached in Section 2 (c) Line 223 "... , provided the neighboring municipality agrees by proper resolution to the expansion of the area of operation to include such neighboring municipality." His organization agrees that there is a need to provide housing and expand housing in areas of opportunity.

Erin Boggs, Executive Director of the Open Communities Alliance: Boggs supports SB-110 because she believes that the current laws bill 110 would address enforce segregation and deny people housing in areas of opportunity. She believes that this new bill would connect low income residents of our state and provide educational and economic opportunities. She

states that this bill would also allow housing authorities to include better options for those who need assistance the most.

Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities: Gosselin believes that allowing housing authorities to have jurisdiction in other towns up to fifteen (15) miles promotes diversity in towns that have better education opportunities, and to allow those who rely on housing authorities for housing, to leave towns of concentrated poverty. Also, this would allow for more economic diversity.

Erin Kemple, Executive Director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Hartford: Kemple's organization believes that SB-110 would allow the integration of different communities by allowing those that need housing into communities with better economic and educational opportunities.

Raphael Podolsky, Public Policy Advocate for Connecticut Legal Services, New Britain: Podolsky states that this bill prevents the loss of administrative fees when a tenant takes a section 8 voucher to another town, makes it easier for housing authorities to operate with regional developers, and it allows the housing authorities to play a more active role in development.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Betsy Gara, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), West Hartford: Gara describes that this bill would allow local housing authorities to expand jurisdiction outside their towns and operate in other municipalities without the input of those towns. COST would like this bill to be amended to find ways to utilize existing statutory mechanisms before there are unintended consequences on towns and local planning efforts.

Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate of The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CMM): McKeown states that CMM opposes the proposed bill as it stands and has questions regarding how high/very high opportunity communities are determined, how often will those communities will be updated, and if there will be an opportunity for local municipalities to appeal the expanded area of operation.

Reported by: Dalton Mongeau

Date: 03/19/2020