
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6593

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.

SUMMARY

This bill allows housing authorities to exercise their powers (e.g., developing and operating affordable housing projects) outside of their municipal boundaries by adopting an expanded area of operation that may include any other municipality, subject to the other municipality's approval. Specifically, the other municipality's governing body must adopt an agreement authorizing a housing authority's expanded area of operation within its borders. Under the bill, a municipality that opts not to enter into this agreement does not violate state law, including the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure (CGS § 8-30g).

Current law limits housing authorities' areas of operation to (1) within the boundaries of the municipality in which they were created and (2) neighboring municipalities whose governing bodies have approved it.

Under the bill, housing authorities may exercise the same powers in an expanded area of operation that they may currently exercise in their area of operation, subject to certain limitations. Specifically, the bill prohibits housing authorities, in an expanded area of operation, from (1) establishing or maintaining a housing authority police force or (2) acquiring property by eminent domain.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the governing bodies of two or more municipalities may create a regional housing authority. The bill similarly allows regional housing authorities to adopt an expanded area of operation that includes any other municipality, but with that other municipality's approval as described above.

Finally, the bill makes numerous technical and conforming changes,

including reorganizing statutes and eliminating redundant and obsolete definitions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 157) to the Planning and Development Committee, which reported a substitute that requires, in the case of a housing authority's expanded area of operation, the other involved municipalities to agree to the expansion.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 5 (03/02/2023)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 7 (04/03/2023)