
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6808

AN ACT ESTABLISHING GRANT PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Housing (DOH) to each establish and administer, within available appropriations, a competitive grant program to fund certain types of housing development for people with intellectual disability (IDD).

Under the bill, the DDS program must provide grants to the following:

1. developers to build housing for people with IDD that gives them access to transportation and services to facilitate their integration into the community and
2. people with IDD, and their relative caregivers, to (a) construct new, accessible residential homes or (b) buy existing homes and either renovate them to improve their accessibility or convert them to congregate or supportive housing.

The bill requires the DOH program to provide grants to developers to construct affordable housing (see BACKGROUND) for people with IDD. The housing must (1) be intended and designed to house a significant number of people with IDD and (2) include a significant number of units with accessibility features (e.g., accessible bathrooms, light switches, and doorways and hallways at least 32 inches wide). It requires DOH to determine what constitutes a “significant number” of people and units.

Under the bill both DDS and DOH must develop, by January 1, 2024, eligibility criteria and an application process for their respective grant programs and post a description of their program, application, and application guidelines on their websites in a noticeable location.

It also prohibits both DDS and DOH grant recipients from spending grant funds for any purposes other than those approved by the departments and requires the recipients to submit expense reports to their respective department as the department determines.

Additionally, the bill requires DDS and DOH to annually report, starting by January 1, 2025, to the Human Services and Housing committees on their respective grant program's operation and effectiveness.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Affordable Housing

By law, housing is considered affordable if a household earning the municipality's median income, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, spends no more than 30% of their income on it (CGS § 8-39a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/17/2023)