

# Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6632

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

**Vote Date:** 3/2/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/14/2023

**File No.:** 135

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Housing Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill allows the Commissioner of Housing to consider affordable homeownership opportunities as an exemption from the prohibition against selling, demolishing or otherwise disposing of housing authority projects.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language would allow for more protections for housing authority tenants to lessen the burden of displacement and provide opportunities for homeownership. Previous opportunities were limited and failed to meet needs of some families.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None stated.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, Member, Ruth Hofstatter;** supports this bill stating it would help address the housing crisis in Connecticut. It is stated that this bill could help to desegregate our state and allow families of different financial limitations to integrate into towns across the state. It was suggested that updating zoning laws, updating how towns plan for new housing construction, and creating incentives could further incentivize desegregation and affordability.

**Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Senior Legislative Associate, Zach McKeown**; supports this bill stating it would encourage municipalities to consider more affordable housing options, and update outdated affordable housing units.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Connecticut Legal Services Advancing Justice, Attorney and Policy Advocate, Raphael L. Podolsky**; opposes the bill as it is currently written, stating that there is ambiguity in what “opportunity” means. It is stated that it is unclear whether a displaced tenant would have the opportunity to choose between purchasing a single, or multi-family home or continue to live in subsidized housing. It is stated that this bill appears to give the Housing Authority the choice to choose, not the displaced resident and would undercut the rights of the housing authority tenants.

**Jamshed Madan**; opposes this bill stating that it would allow the housing authority to expand area of operation outside of their own municipality. It is further stated that since permission would not be required to expand operation, this is an attack on local municipal rights, and local zoning authorities.

**Reported by: Emma Deveran**

**Date: March 14, 2023**