

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6529

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND ESTABLISHING AN

Title: OFFICE OF THE HOUSING ADVOCATE.

Vote Date: 3/11/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

None

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was created to address several oversight issues regarding the Windsor Housing Authority. To avoid similar issues statewide, this bill requires basic training for housing authority commissioners and employees.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

President of Conn-NAHRO and the Executive Director of the Manchester Housing Authority s Joseph D'Ascoli- **Supports** this bill because it would provide education and training opportunities to public housing professionals which would produce positive housing outcomes for all parties to a public housing lease agreement.

Rep. Jane Garibay- **Supports** this bill because many of her constituents face discrimination, hostility and lack of service from the Windsor Housing Authority and establishing an Office of the Housing Advocate would help stop these issues and that the bill would better inform residents of their rights.

The following are residents of housing units that are overseen by the Windsor Housing Authority. They claim that the housing authority has repeatedly ignored complaints, requests for services and discriminated against the tenants. They **support** this bill because they believe that a Office of the Housing Advocate would help stop many of these issues:

Andrew McAllister

Susan Miller

Donna Grossman

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Landlord Paul Januszewski- **Opposes** this bill in his public testimony because much of what the bill intends to do already exists through advocacy organizations and for-profit organizations.

Interim Policy Advocate for American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut Kelly McConney Moore- **Opposes** this bill in the ACLU's public testimony because of the new background checks on employees of housing authority's. The organization believes that these new background checks are unnecessary and discriminatory. They state that the bill does not provide guidance on what to do with this information, and because of that, many employees with criminal records will be rejected even if the offenses happened years ago.

Reported by: Eddie Aledia

Date: 3/22/21