

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-908

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

Vote Date: 2/28/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/2/2023

File No.: 112

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Department of Housing changed the way they utilize the Advisory Committee. They now seek regular guidance and recommendations from a wide variety of sources involved in developing housing. The bill establishes a Right to Housing Committee, replacing the role of the Advisory Committee.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Department of Housing, Director of Policy, Research, and Housing Support, Michael

Santoro: The Department of Housing is in support of the bill. When the program was established, the Advisory Committee played a critical role in developing regulations, policies, and procedures. The Department believes the committee has successfully served its purpose and is obsolete in its current form. The Department already regularly receives and consults with a variety of stakeholders in affordable housing production. This continued input has allowed the Department in taking appropriate steps in addressing the State's affordable housing needs.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Legal Services, Director, Raphael L. Podolsky: Mr. Podolsky believes the goals outlined in the bill have good intentions to improve the availability of affordable housing. He supports as it would help the Department of Housing to be more responsive to low-income residents and tenants served by its programs.

Common Ground Intercommunity Healthcare, Manager, Dyana Hagen: Ms. Hagen supports S.B. 908. Did not provide any further explanation.

There are twenty-eight other Connecticut residents submitted testimony in support of SB 908. It is believed by committee staff that this was either done in error, in support to all bills, or to bring attention to other matters.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Realtor and Landlord, Cihan Borluca: Mr. Borluca states the committee will be unbalanced in its membership. He states the committee will be biased towards tenants because of a lack of representation by realtors, housing providers, and others.

There are twenty-six other Connecticut residents submitted testimony in opposition of SB 908. It is believed by committee staff that this was either done in error, in opposition to all bills, or in opposition of rent stabilization.

Reported by: David Leal

Date: 3/9/2023