



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 15**

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 142

*Senate, March 13, 2024*

The Committee on Housing reported through SEN. MOORE of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENT QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND A HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER TASK FORCE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "resident advisory board" means any board established by a housing  
3 authority pursuant to 42 USC 1437c-1(e).

4 (b) There is established a housing authority resident quality of life  
5 improvement grant program to provide funds to housing authorities for  
6 the purpose of making improvements to residential buildings managed  
7 by an authority as may be recommended by such housing authority's  
8 resident advisory board. The grant program shall be administered by  
9 the Department of Housing.

10 (c) The Commissioner of Housing shall, within available  
11 appropriations, award grants under such grant program based on  
12 applications submitted and evaluated as provided in this section. The  
13 amount of grants awarded shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand

14 dollars in the aggregate per fiscal year.

15 (d) The commissioner shall commence accepting applications for the  
16 grant program established pursuant to this section not later than  
17 October 1, 2024. Each housing authority may apply for a grant pursuant  
18 to this section by submitting an application to the department in a  
19 manner prescribed by the commissioner. Grants made under this  
20 section shall be used to provide an ongoing benefit, as determined by  
21 the commissioner, for residents of a residential building.

22 (e) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
23 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the  
24 provisions of this section.

25 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
26 study the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, 42 USC 1437f(o),  
27 and its implementation in the state. Such study shall include, but need  
28 not be limited to, an evaluation concerning any disparate impacts said  
29 program has on the development of at-risk children and youth or  
30 families.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

32 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
33 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
34 relating to housing, or their designees;

35 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

36 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

37 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
38 Representatives;

39 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

40 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

41 (7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of

42 Representatives.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subsection (b) of  
44 this section may be a member of the General Assembly. All initial  
45 appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days  
46 after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the  
47 appointing authority.

48 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the minority  
49 leader of the Senate shall each select a chairperson from among the  
50 members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first  
51 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days  
52 after the effective date of this section.

53 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
54 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing  
55 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

56 (f) Not later than January 16, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
57 on its findings and recommendations regarding the implementation of  
58 the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program in the state to the joint  
59 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
60 matters relating to housing, in accordance with the provisions of section  
61 11-4a of the general statutes, and to the state's congressional delegation.  
62 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or  
63 January 16, 2025, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Housing	GF - Cost	Up to 286,500	Up to 286,500
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	Up to 15,100	Up to 15,100

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Housing (DOH) to establish a housing authority resident quality of life improvement grant program, which results in a total state cost of up \$301,600 annually beginning in FY 25, for both grants and staff to administer the program.

The bill requires DOH to award grants totaling up to \$250,000 per year to housing authorities that apply and meet program criteria. DOH is anticipated to require up to one part-time housing specialist at a state cost of approximately \$51,600 annually (\$36,500 in salary and \$15,100 in fringe benefits) to administer the program.

The bill also establishes a task force to report on the implementation of the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) in Connecticut. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as the administrative staff of the General Assembly's

---

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

Housing Committee will serve as the task force staff.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to changes in employee wage and benefit costs and appropriations for the grant program.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 142*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENT QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND A HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER TASK FORCE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a Department of Housing (DOH) grant program to give housing authorities funding for improvements to their residential buildings. It also creates related requirements for the application process, funding limits, and use of the grants.

The bill also establishes a task force to study the federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (see BACKGROUND) and its implementation in the state. It requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Housing Committee and the state's congressional delegation by January 16, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**§ 1 — GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

The bill establishes a new grant program to give housing authorities funding for improvements to the residential buildings they manage, as may be recommended by their resident advisory boards (see BACKGROUND). It requires DOH to award program grants within available appropriations and begin accepting applications by October 1, 2024.

Under the bill, housing authorities can apply for a grant by submitting applications to DOH as the commissioner prescribes. The department must evaluate applications and can award up to \$250,000 in total grants under the program per fiscal year. These grants must give an ongoing benefit to residents of the housing authority-managed

building or buildings that are to be improved, as determined by the commissioner.

Additionally, the commissioner may adopt regulations to carry out the program.

## **§ 2 — HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM TASK FORCE**

The bill establishes a 12-member task force to study the federal HCV program and its implementation in the state, including any disparate impacts the program has on the development of at-risk children and youth or families.

### ***Membership, Initial Appointments, and Vacancies***

Task force members may be General Assembly members and must include (1) the Housing Committee chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees; (2) two each appointed by the minority leaders of the House and Senate; and (3) one each appointed by the four other legislative leaders. The legislative leaders must make their initial task force appointments within 30 days of the bill's passage and appointing authorities fill vacancies.

### ***Chairpersons, Meetings, and Reporting Requirement***

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate minority leader to each select a task force member to serve as a chairperson. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting and hold it within 60 days of the bill's passage.

The bill requires the task force, by January 16, 2025, to report on its findings and recommendations to the Housing Committee and the state's congressional delegation. The task force terminates when it submits this report or on January 16, 2025, whichever is later. The Housing Committee's administrative staff serves as that of the task force.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Resident Advisory Boards***

Federal law generally requires public housing agencies (PHAs) to

establish at least one resident advisory board to assist and make recommendations on the development of a PHA’s public housing agency plan (42 U.S.C. § 1437c-1(e)). A housing authority in Connecticut that does not administer any federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs or receive HUD funding is not considered a PHA and so is not subject to this requirement.

***HCV Program***

The HCV program is the federal government’s main program for helping very low-income families afford private market housing (42 U.S.C. § 1437f(o)). Eligible households that are issued a housing voucher must find housing that meets the program’s requirements. HUD funds the program and it is administered locally by PHAs and statewide by DOH.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12    Nay 3    (02/29/2024)