

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5153

AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR THE WORKFORCE

Title: HOUSING OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 2/29/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2024

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would modify the percentage of workforce housing opportunity development project units that shall be rented at market rate and to eligible workforce populations. With rising housing costs and a shortage of workers throughout the state, the bill would help to create housing for prospective workers. Various types of housing would be created, and 10% of the housing created would be designated as affordable.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Carmen Clarkin, Policy Associate, Connecticut Voices for Children](#): Supports the increase of "housing units in workforce housing development projects designated to the workforce population stipulated by the developer and municipality." Connecticut Voices for Children supports the language of 10% of these units being designated as affordable housing and recommends that the number be increased. CT Voices also calls for the creation of more socially and economically diverse housing.

[Peter Myers, Public Policy Associate, CBIA](#): Supports the technical changes that would help the Workforce Housing Opportunity Development Program operate more efficiently. With a workforce shortage and over 90,000 jobs open, the state needs more affordable housing options and therefore, they support the bill.

[Carol Scully, Director of Advocacy, The Arc Connecticut](#): Supports the creation of more public housing throughout Connecticut, stating that, "Currently in Connecticut, approximately 29 out of 169 towns have above a 10% benchmark of affordable housing units. Allocating such need to municipalities will help ensure more affordable housing units in each municipality, housing that will be available to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities, developmental disabilities and Autism." Since other affordable housing programs in the state are underfunded, programs like Section 8 have long wait times for access. This creates a pressing need for communities in need. The Arc supports the concept of the legislation and the language that designates 10% of the housing to be affordable housing.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Nakita Norton, Property Manager](#): Opposes the bill.

[Anonymous, Landlord](#): Opposes the bill.

Reported by: Mario Volpe

Date: 3/12/2024