

Housing Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5154

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE SECURITY DEPOSIT

Title: GUARANTY PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 2/29/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 2/20/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allocate \$10 million to the security deposit guaranty program and is meant to help tenants throughout Connecticut with finding suitable and stable living situations by providing them with financial assistance to put towards a security deposit.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Tanya Hughes, Executive Director, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities \(CHRO\)](#): CHRO supports HB 5154 as it "is critical that programs like" the Security Deposit Guaranty Program "be funded so that low-income residents may find and secure stable housing."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Thomas Broderick](#): Supports this bill stating that it helps to alleviate "a barrier to safe and affordable housing..., and the relatively low-cost to the state versus high impact on people's lives makes this a slam-dunk policy."

[Sean Ghio, Policy Director, Partnership for Strong Communities](#): Supports this bill as "Avoiding the upfront costs associated with securing rental housing means more families have funds available to pay their rent on a month-to-month basis," in addition to meeting "other basic household needs."

[Constance Hicks](#): Supports this bill.

[Marnie McKay](#): Supports this bill.

[Raphael L. Podolsky, Attorney and Policy Advocate, Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.:](#)

Supports this bill for a multitude of reasons, specifically that "The program has been especially helpful in regard to tenants with rent subsidies (including tenants coming out of homeless shelters), which has the practical effect of reducing sheltering costs." This program, when combined with other housing assistance programs in the state, "can help tenants facing eviction, tenants in homeless shelters or unhoused, tenants in the RAP and Section 8 programs, and low-income tenants generally to obtain rental housing by guaranteeing a security deposit."

[John Souza, President, Connecticut Coalition of Property Owners \(CCOPO\):](#) Supports this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The [following testimonies](#) were written in opposition to HB 5154:

- [Anonymous](#)
- [Nakita Norton, Property Manager](#)
- [Alex Rivera, Landlord](#)

Reported by: Austin Hyatt

Date: 4/10/2024