

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6534

AN ACT CONCERNING APPOINTMENTS TO MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Title: AUTHORITIES.

Vote Date: 3/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/19/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to improve the governance and efficiency of housing authorities, ensuring better accountability and tenant representation. It simplifies the definition of "governing body" for municipalities, making operations more consistent. The bill also ensures that tenants are represented by requiring at least one tenant commissioner (or two for larger authorities) and mandates training for commissioners to ensure effective governance. It shifts the responsibility for appointing commissioners to the municipality's governing body and sets clear procedures for legal actions related to injuries on housing authority property, balancing the rights of individuals and the authority's need to manage claims. The bill also clarifies rules around terms, quorum, and commissioner duties to improve transparency and accountability.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Zachary McKoewn, Advocacy Manager, The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities \(CCM\)](#): CCM and its members have previously expressed concerns about proposals allowing housing authorities to expand cross-town boundaries without the consent of municipal

governing bodies. HB 6534 addresses this by giving municipalities more input, allowing governing bodies to review and approve appointments to housing authorities. Since housing authorities typically build housing within town borders, CCM supports an "approve and consent" mechanism to enhance local involvement.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

[Samuel Gold, Executive Director, The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments \(RiverCOG\)](#): Gold had several questions regarding the bill. Those being what the definition of a governing body of a municipality was, for the purpose of this bill? Gold then went on to state how many RiverCOG towns are dependent on their local governing board, and was wondering if appointments to the municipal housing authority will be made by the local elected officials at a town meeting or by the Board of Selectmen.

Reported by: Austin Adil

Date: 3/31/2025