



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2014 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 110113_DOH_CIA.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Housing
Liaison: Katie Durand Phone: 860-270-8076 E-mail: Kathleen.Durand@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Katie Durand

Title of Proposal An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account
Statutory Reference C.G.S. § 4-66aa(a)
Proposal Summary C.G.S. § 4-66aa(a) establishes the distribution of funds for the Community Investment Account. Every three months, CHFA receives twenty-five percent of the account to supplement new or existing affordable housing programs. As Connecticut’s lead agency on housing, DOH should be substituted in lieu of CHFA.
<i>Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)</i>

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal

As the new lead agency on housing, DOH is uniquely qualified to determine the highest priority purposes to direct the fund.

- Origin of Proposal New Proposal Resubmission

New Proposal



PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: Quasi-Agency Connecticut Housing Finance Authority
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Eric Chatman, President, 860 571-4240
Date Contacted: October 2013

Approve of Proposal YES NO Talks Ongoing

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

Eric understood and said there would need to be a CHFA board discussion.

Will there need to be further negotiation? YES NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
None

State
None

Federal
None

Additional notes on fiscal impact
None

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Enables DOH to make policy decisions regarding how best to spend the Community Investment Act funds.

Subsection (a) of Section 4-66aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2014).

Community investment account. Distribution of funds. (a) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate, nonlapsing account to be known as the "community investment account". The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The funds in the account shall be distributed every three months as follows: (1) Ten dollars of each fee credited to said account shall be deposited into the agriculture sustainability account established pursuant to section 4-66cc and,



then, of the remaining funds, (2) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Economic and Community Development to use as follows: (A) Two hundred thousand dollars, annually, to supplement the technical assistance and preservation activities of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, and (B) the remainder to supplement historic preservation activities as provided in sections 10-409 to 10-415, inclusive; (3) twenty-five per cent to the [\[Connecticut Housing Finance Authority\]](#) [Department of Housing](#) to supplement new or existing affordable housing programs; (4) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for municipal open space grants; and (5) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Agriculture to use as follows: (A) Five hundred thousand dollars annually for the agricultural viability grant program established pursuant to section 22-26j; (B) five hundred thousand dollars annually for the farm transition program established pursuant to section 22-26k; (C) one hundred thousand dollars annually to encourage the sale of Connecticut Grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers and other institutions and businesses in the state; (D) seventy-five thousand dollars annually for the Connecticut farm link program established pursuant to section 22-26l; (E) forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the Seafood Advisory Council established pursuant to section 22-455; (F) forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council established pursuant to section 22-26c; (G) twenty-five thousand dollars annually to the Connecticut Food Policy Council established pursuant to section 22-456; and (H) the remainder for farmland preservation programs pursuant to chapter 422. Each agency receiving funds under this section may use not more than ten per cent of such funds for administration of the programs for which the funds were provided.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, from July 1, 2009, until July 1, 2011, the funds in the community investment account established pursuant to said subsection shall be distributed every three months as follows: (1) Twenty per cent to the Department of Economic and Community Development to use as follows: (A) Two hundred thousand dollars, annually, to supplement the technical assistance and preservation activities of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, and (B) the remainder to supplement historic preservation activities as provided in sections 10-409 to 10-415, inclusive; (2) twenty per cent to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to supplement new or existing affordable housing programs; (3) twenty per cent to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for municipal open space grants; and (4) forty per cent to the Department of Agriculture to use as follows: (A) One hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, quarterly, for the agricultural viability grant program established pursuant to section 22-26j; (B) one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, quarterly, for the farm transition program established pursuant to section 22-26k; (C) twenty-five thousand dollars, quarterly, to encourage the sale of Connecticut Grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers, and other institutions and businesses in the state; (D) eighteen thousand seven hundred fifty dollars, quarterly, for the Connecticut farm link program established pursuant to section 22-26l; (E) twelve thousand five hundred dollars, quarterly, for Urban Oaks Organic Farm; (F) eleven thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars, quarterly, for the Seafood Advisory Council established pursuant to section 22-455; (G) eleven thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars, quarterly, to the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council established pursuant to section 22-26c; (H) six thousand two hundred fifty dollars, quarterly, to the Connecticut Food Policy Council established pursuant to section 22-456; and (I) the remainder each quarter to the agricultural sustainability account established pursuant to section 4-66c. Each agency receiving funds under this section may use not more than ten per cent of such funds for administration of the programs for which the funds were provided, except the Department of Agriculture may also use such funds for the administration of farmland preservation programs pursuant to chapter 422.



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2014 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 110113_DOH_Disposition.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Housing
Liaison: Katie Durand Phone: 860-270-8076 E-mail: Kathleen.Durand@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Katie Durand

Title of Proposal An Act Concerning Changes to the Disposal of Housing Projects by Housing Authorities
Statutory Reference C.G.S. § 8-64a
Proposal Summary DOH proposes to narrow the scope of C.G.S. § 8-64a to pertain only to projects that have not received federal approval through the Department of Housing And Urban Development’s demolition disposition process.
<i>Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)</i>

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal

To avoid redundant processes as well as the unnecessary burden on staff resources. C.G.S. § 8-64a requires any housing authority that receives or has received state financial assistance to obtain written approval from DOH for the sale, lease, transfer or destruction of housing units that would render any portion of the project no longer available for the purpose of lower or moderate income rental housing. A loss of units triggers a state public hearing. DOH must notify tenants 90 days prior to the public hearing and must make certain findings supported by the facts before granting written approval. In March 2004, the Attorney General's office sent a letter to DECD stating that the requirements under § 8-64a are not limited to state-assisted housing if the housing authority operating the project has received any state financial assistance. Since all housing authorities have received state assistance, DOH must approve sales, leases, transfers or demolitions of every project statewide, including federal public housing projects. This legislation would exempt projects that are already subject to thorough review and approval by HUD.

- Origin of Proposal New Proposal Resubmission



New Proposal

PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: N/A – Department of Housing

Agency Contact (name, title, phone):

Date Contacted:

Approve of Proposal YES NO Talks Ongoing

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

Will there need to be further negotiation? YES NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)

None

State

None

Federal

None

Additional notes on fiscal impact

None

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

The State would no longer review the disposition of housing authority projects that receive approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to its authority to review the demolition and disposition of properties under its jurisdiction.



Section 8-64a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2014).

No housing authority which receives or has received any state financial assistance may sell, lease, transfer or destroy, or contract to sell, lease, transfer or destroy, any housing project or portion thereof in any case where such project or portion thereof would no longer be available for the purpose of low or moderate income rental housing as a result of such sale, lease, transfer or destruction, except the Commissioner of the Department of Housing may grant written approval for the sale, lease, transfer or destruction of a housing project if the commissioner finds, after a public hearing, that (1) the sale, lease, transfer or destruction is in the best interest of the state and the municipality in which the project is located, (2) an adequate supply of low or moderate income rental housing exists in the municipality in which the project is located, (3) the housing authority has developed a plan for the sale, lease, transfer or destruction of such project in consultation with the residents of such project and representatives of the municipality in which such project is situated and has made adequate provision for said residents' and representatives' participation in such plan, and (4) any person who is displaced as a result of the sale, lease, transfer or destruction will be relocated to a comparable dwelling unit of public or subsidized housing in the same municipality or will receive a tenant-based rental subsidy and will receive relocation assistance under chapter 135. The commissioner shall consider the extent to which the housing units which are to be sold, leased, transferred or destroyed will be replaced in ways which may include, but need not be limited to, newly constructed housing, rehabilitation of housing which is abandoned or has been vacant for at least one year, or new federal, state or local tenant-based or project-based rental subsidies. The commissioner shall give the residents of the housing project or portion thereof which is to be sold, leased, transferred or destroyed written notice of said public hearing by first class mail not less than ninety days before the date of the hearing. Said written approval shall contain a statement of facts supporting the findings of the commissioner. This section shall not apply to the sale, lease, transfer or destruction of a housing project pursuant to the terms of any contract entered into before June 3, 1988. [This section shall not apply to the sale, lease, transfer or destruction of a housing project that has received approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to its authority to review the demolition and disposition of properties under its jurisdiction.](#) The commissioner shall not impose a one-for-one replacement requirement on King Court in East Hartford. This section shall not apply to phase I of Father Panik Village in Bridgeport, Elm Haven in New Haven, Pequonock Gardens Project in Bridgeport, Evergreen Apartments in Bridgeport, Quinnipiac Terrace/Riverview in New Haven, Dutch Point in Hartford, Southfield Village in Stamford and, upon approval by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development of a HOPE VI revitalization application and a revitalization plan that includes at least the one-for-one replacement of low and moderate income units, Fairfield Court in Stamford.



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2014 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 110113_DOH_SuppHous.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Housing
Liaison: Katie Durand Phone: 860-270-8076 E-mail: Kathleen.Durand@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Katie Durand

Title of Proposal An Act Concerning Revisions to the Supportive Housing Initiative Statute
Statutory Reference C.G.S. § 17a-485c
Proposal Summary In consultation with the other authorized agencies, DOH wishes to delete subsection b, which only serves to narrow the scope of eligibility as described in subsection a, leaving out populations intended to be assisted by this initiative. DOH further wishes to add the Departments of Developmental Services and Veterans' Affairs to the list of collaborating agencies.
<i>Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)</i>

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal**

§ 17a-485c requires DOH among other agencies as well as CHFA and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to collaborate on establishing permanent supportive housing initiatives to provide additional affordable housing units and support services for eligible persons. Subsection a sufficiently details the eligible target populations while subsection b excludes populations intended to be assisted by this statute. Furthermore, DOH believes that adding DDS and DVA to the list of agencies will enhance the comprehensiveness of the collaboration.

- Origin of Proposal** X New Proposal Resubmission

New Proposal



PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: DHMAS, DVA, DDS
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Doreen DelBianco, DHMAS Legislative Program Manager, 860-418-6967
Tammy Marzick, DVA Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, 860-616-3603
Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs, 860-418-6066

Date Contacted: Doreen, Sept. 30th; Tammy, Oct. 29th; Christine, Oct. 29th

Approve of Proposal YES NO Talks Ongoing

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

DHMAS supports the changes and had originally proposed the addition of DDS and DVA.
DDS supports their addition, stating that it will assist the Interagency group as a whole and allow DDS to further participate in the supportive housing selection process
DVA is still discussing it within their agency.

Will there need to be further negotiation? YES NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)

None

State

None

Federal

None

Additional notes on fiscal impact

None

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Broadens the scope of eligibility for permanent supportive housing initiatives and adds two agencies to the list of collaborators.



Section 17a-485c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2014).

Permanent supportive housing initiatives. Eligibility. Requests for proposals. (a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Social Services, Correction, Children and Families, [Developmental Services](#), [Veterans' Affairs](#) and Housing, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, shall establish permanent supportive housing initiatives to provide additional units of affordable housing and support services to eligible persons. Individuals and families with special needs and individuals and families at risk for homelessness shall be eligible for such permanent supportive housing initiatives.

[(b) Permanent supportive housing initiatives and support services shall be provided to: (1) Eligible households, as defined in section 17a-484a; (2) families who are eligible under the temporary assistance for needy families program; (3) adults who are eighteen to twenty-three years of age, inclusive, and who are homeless, or at risk for becoming homeless because they are transitioning from foster care or other residential programs; and (4) persons with serious mental health needs who are community-supervised offenders supervised by the executive or judicial branch.]

(c) The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall issue one or more requests for proposals by persons or entities interested in participating in such permanent supportive housing initiatives to applicants that include organizations deemed qualified to provide services by the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services and Children and Families. The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall review and underwrite development projects undertaken pursuant to such permanent supportive housing initiatives.

(d) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services shall issue, within available appropriations, one or more requests for proposals in a scattered site model for homeless individuals with psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders.



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2014 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 11013_DOH_Transfer.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Housing

Liaison: Katie Durand

Phone: 860-270-8076

E-mail: Kathleen.Durand@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal:

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Katie Durand

Title of Proposal

An Act Transferring Certain Powers and Functions of the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Department of Housing.

Statutory Reference C.G.S. § 8-37x, C.G.S. § 8-13x

Proposal Summary

To transfer DECD's powers under C.G.S. § 8-37x and C.G.S. § 8-13x to DOH.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

Reason for Proposal

C.G.S. § 8-37x The Interagency Council on Affordable Housing recommended that this housing statute be transferred to DOH, but it was mistakenly left out of the final bill and DOH proposes to rectify this oversight.

C.G.S. § 8-13x enables DECD in consultation with DOH to provide grants to nonprofit housing organizations for the purpose of providing support for technical assistance, predevelopment, development, construction and management of housing developments as part of the Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) Program . P.A. 13-234 substituted DOH in lieu of OPM. However, DOH proposes to modify § 8-13x further to give DOH sole discretion to award these grants as the administrator of the Incentive Housing Zone program and Connecticut's new lead agency on housing.

Origin of Proposal

New Proposal

Resubmission

New Proposal



PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: Department of Economic and Community Development
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): James DeSantos (former DECD legislative liaison); James Watson, Communications Specialist, 860-270-8182
Date Contacted: James DeSantos – June 2013, James Watson – September 2013

Approve of Proposal YES NO Talks Ongoing

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

DECD agrees with transferring 8-13x to DOH since DOH administers the IHZ program. DECD also agrees with transferring 8-37x to DOH and they are proposing legislation that will provide them with similar delegation powers as set out in subsection (d) of 8-37x.

Will there need to be further negotiation? YES NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)

None

State

None

Federal

None

Additional notes on fiscal impact

None

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Under 8-37x, DOH would acquire DECD's powers and functions as they relate to housing authority purchases, troubled loans, when DECD commissioner is deemed an eligible developer and the dissolution of eligible developer of state-financed property.

Under 8-13x, DOH would acquire sole discretion to award grants to nonprofit housing organizations under the Incentive Housing Zone program.



Section 1. Section 8-37x of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2014)

Powers of [Commissioner of Economic and Community Development] Commissioner of Housing. Housing authority purchases. Deferred payments of interest or principal. When commissioner deemed an eligible developer. Dissolution of eligible developer of state-financed property. Exceptions. Regulations.

(a) As used in this section, "authority" or "housing authority" means any of the public corporations created by section 8-40 and the Connecticut Housing Authority when exercising the rights, powers, duties or privileges of, or subject to the immunities or limitations of, housing authorities pursuant to section 8-121, and "housing project" means a project developed or administered pursuant to chapter 128.

(b) The Commissioner of [Economic and Community Development] Housing may: (1) Collect and correlate information regarding housing projects of authorities in the state and upon request to furnish the authorities, in matters of common interest, information, advice and the services of expert personnel; (2) study state-wide needs for the elimination of substandard housing to stimulate state and city planning involving housing, and otherwise to study housing needs, both rural and urban, and to formulate proposals for meeting these needs; (3) study methods of encouraging investment of private capital in low rent housing; (4) study the necessity, feasibility and advantage of the use of state credit by way of loan or subsidy to assist the financing of housing projects for persons of low income; and (5) accept grants-in-aid of any of said commissioner's powers made pursuant to the provisions of any state or federal law and, for the purpose of complying with the requirements or recommendations of any such law, to prepare such plans and specifications and to make such studies, surveys, reports or recommendations concerning existing or contemplated housing conditions or projects in the state as may be necessary or appropriate.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of [Economic and Community Development] Housing may, after conducting a public bidding process as provided in section 8-44, enter into a master contract or contracts with local, regional or state-wide suppliers of labor, supplies, materials, services or personal property on behalf of one or more housing authorities operating state-financed housing programs or projects. The commissioner may, in said commissioner's discretion, with respect to partially completed state-financed programs or projects or in the event of emergencies affecting human health, safety, welfare and life or endangering property, waive the bidding requirement and threshold of said section 8-44.

(d) The Commissioner of [Economic and Community Development] Housing may designate as said commissioner's agent any deputy commissioner or any employee to exercise such authority of the commissioner as said commissioner delegates for the administration of any applicable statute or regulation.

(e) As used in this subsection, "troubled loan" means a loan in which payments of interest or principal, or both interest and principal, (1) are delinquent under the terms of a loan agreement, or (2) may become delinquent under conditions which exist which would reasonably lead the Commissioner of [Economic and Community Development] Housing to believe that a borrower would be unable to repay the loan. Said commissioner may authorize the deferred payments of interest or principal, or both interest and principal, or a portion thereof, in the case of a troubled loan made by the commissioner under any provision of the general statutes or special acts if said commissioner determines the deferral to be in the best interests of the state. Such determination shall be in writing and shall include a



statement of the reasons why the deferral is in the best interests of the state. Any deferral made under the provisions of this section shall be subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission.

(f) Upon an action by the Commissioner of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#) to preserve the state's interest in any contract for financial assistance that results in the state acquiring title to any housing property, the commissioner shall be deemed to be an eligible developer, as defined in section 8-39, for the purposes of operating the property and receiving state or federal financial assistance on behalf of the property or the operation of the property.

(g) The Commissioner of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#), in consultation with the executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, upon the lawful dissolution of any eligible developer of property financed with a loan, grant or any combination thereof from the state, may (1) accept ownership of property owned by such a developer in the name of the state and dispose of such property to an eligible developer for a price and upon terms that the commissioner deems proper, provided such action shall preserve the property as housing for very low, low or moderate income persons; or (2) after approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management allow such property to participate in any programs that the commissioner operates, in order to preserve the property as housing for very low, low or moderate income persons. For purposes of this subsection, "housing" includes facilities and amenities incidental and pertinent to the provision of affordable housing and intended primarily to serve the residents of the affordable housing development, including, but not limited to, a community room, a laundry room, day care space, a computer center, a management center or playground.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of this section, the Commissioner of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#) shall allow the continued use of: (1) The Saint Joseph's Residence for Mothers and Children, located in Bridgeport, which is utilized as a day care center; (2) the House of Bread, located in Hartford, which is utilized as a community day care center and corporate offices; and (3) the Rainbow Court Cooperative, located in Middletown, which is utilized as rental units for lower income persons.

(i) The Commissioner of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#) may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of the Department of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#) as established by statute.

Sec. 2 Section 8-13x of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2014)

Grants for housing development. Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of [\[Economic and Community Development\] Housing](#) [, in consultation with the Commissioner of Housing,] may make grants to nonprofit housing assistance or nonprofit housing development organizations in order to support technical assistance planning, predevelopment, development, construction and management of housing developments. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2014 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc): 112213_DOH_RentBank.doc

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Housing
Liaison: Katie Durand Phone: 860-270-8076 E-mail: Kathleen.Durand@ct.gov
Lead agency division requesting this proposal:
Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Katie Durand

Title of Proposal An Act Concerning Revisions to the Supportive Housing Initiative Statute
Statutory Reference C.G.S. § 17b-804
Proposal Summary DOH wishes to increase the maximum assistance limit under the Rent Bank Program from \$1,200 to \$2,049 and to annually increase that limit with a 1.5% cost of living adjustment.
<i>Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)</i>

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal

The Rent Bank program is a vital part of DOH’s Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program. It provides funds to eligible families to help pay rent or mortgage arrears, keeping low-income individuals and families in their homes. This program is for families that have the resources to maintain their housing, but who momentarily lapsed on their rent or mortgage and cannot catch up without temporary assistance. Established in 1991, the \$1,200 maximum assistance limit has not been adjusted for inflation in over twenty years. The \$2,049 maximum assistance limit, adjusted annually, would improve program effectiveness by adequately covering the unexpected expenses that preclude families from paying their rent, especially in higher cost areas.

- Origin of Proposal New Proposal Resubmission



New Proposal

PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: n/a

Agency Contact (name, title, phone):

Date Contacted:

Approve of Proposal ___ YES ___ NO ___ Talks Ongoing

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

Will there need to be further negotiation? ___ YES ___ NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)

None

State

None

Federal

None

Additional notes on fiscal impact

None

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

This legislation would enable low-income individuals and families to remain in their rental apartments or homes.



Section 17b-804 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2014).

Rent bank program. (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and administer a rent bank program of grants to ensure housing for families whose income does not exceed sixty per cent of the median income in the state, including those receiving temporary family assistance, who are either at risk of becoming homeless or in imminent danger of eviction or foreclosure.

(b) To be eligible for assistance under this section, a family shall (1) document, as appropriate, loss of income or increase in expenses including, but not limited to, loss of employment, medical disability or emergency, loss or delay in receipt of other benefits, natural or man-made disaster, substantial and permanent change in household composition and any other condition which the commissioner determines constitutes a severe hardship and is not likely to recur and (2) participate in the assessment and mediation program established under section 17b-805.

(c) No family shall receive financial assistance under this section in excess of ~~one thousand two hundred dollars~~ two thousand and forty-nine dollars during any eighteen consecutive months. The maximum assistance limit shall increase annually, beginning January 2015, to reflect a 1.5% cost of living adjustment.

(d) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to determine eligibility standards for grants under this section and to carry out the purposes of this section.