

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2097

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As of February 15, 2022

**Title:** An act relating to changing the definition of first-time home buyer.

**Brief Description:** Changing the definition of first-time home buyer.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Donaghy, Ryu, Macri, Ramel, Walen, Paul, Frame and Taylor.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/11/22, 95-0.

**Committee Activity:** Housing & Local Government: 2/17/22.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Modifies the definition of first-time home buyer under the Housing Trust Fund program.

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Staff:** Brandon Popovac (786-7465)

**Background:** Established in 1986, the Washington Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program provides grants or loans to help communities develop and preserve affordable housing to meet the needs of low-income and special needs populations. Since 1986, the HTF has awarded over \$1 billion in funding and helped build or preserve over 50,000 units of affordable housing statewide.

Under the HTF program, a first-time home buyer is an individual or their spouse or domestic partner who has not owned a home during the prior three-year period. The 2021-23 biennial capital budget included an expanded definition for first-time home buyer for the purpose of awarding homeownership projects under the HTF to include an individual who meets any of the following:

- a single parent who has only owned a home with a former spouse while married;
- an individual who is a displaced homemaker and has only owned a home with a

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- spouse;
- an individual who has only owned a principal residence not permanently affixed to a permanent foundation; and
  - an individual who has only owned a property that is discerned to be uninhabitable by a licensed building inspector.

**Summary of Bill:** The definition of first-time home buyer as applied to the award of homeownership projects under the HTF program in the 2021-23 capital budget is codified in the HTF program statutes.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 14, 2022.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.