

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5594

As Passed House:

March 8, 2002

Title: An act relating to the consolidation of housing authorities.

Brief Description: Consolidating housing authorities.

Sponsors: By Senators Gardner, Winsley, Prentice and Honeyford.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Local Government & Housing: 2/12/02, 2/28/02 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/8/02, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes the creation of a joint housing authority that may consist of one or more counties and any city or cities within one or more counties.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HOUSING

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Dunshee, Chair; Edwards, Vice Chair; Mulliken, Ranking Minority Member; Berkey, DeBolt, Dunn, Hatfield, Kirby and Sullivan.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Crouse and Mielke.

Staff: Kenny Pittman (786-7392).

Background:

The state's Housing Authority Law, enacted in 1939, authorizes the establishment of local public housing authorities in every city and county within the state. A city or county may activate a local public housing authority by passing a resolution declaring a need for the public housing authority to function within the city or county. A local public housing authority is a municipal corporation that has as one of its goals the provision of housing

for persons of low-income. The housing is provided through the administration of various federal, state, or local housing programs.

In 1980, the Legislature authorized the creation of joint city-county housing authorities to serve a county and a city or cities within the county. A joint city-county housing authority may be formed when the legislative bodies of the county and the participating city or cities pass an ordinance establishing a joint city-county housing authority. The ordinance must provide for the membership, the method of appointment, the election, the length of terms, and the removal of officers of the joint city-county housing authority.

Summary of Bill:

The state's Housing Authority Law is revised to allow the creation of a joint housing authority that may consist of one or more counties or any city or cities within one or more counties. The ordinance creating a joint housing authority must contain information regarding the appointment, qualification, election, tenure, or removal of a joint housing authority commissioner.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

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

Testimony For: This will allow smaller counties to work together to provide better access to housing and services to their low income residents. Working through a joint housing authority will result in lower administrative expenses for the smaller counties or cities due to economies of scale when the pool their resources.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Gardner, prime sponsor; Greg Pierce, Washington Housing Authority; and Diane Clause, Spokane Housing Authority.