

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1890

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Housing, February 16, 2024

Title: An act relating to housing authorities.

Brief Description: Concerning housing authorities.

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarado, Klicker, Peterson, Bateman, Connors, Macri, Corry, Barkis, Berry, Morgan, Leavitt, Tharinger, Reed, Ormsby, Barnard, Street, Gregerson, Reeves and Chopp.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/6/24, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Housing: 2/16/24 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a joint housing authority to be formed by two or more city governments without county legislative authority authorization.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Kuderer, Chair; Fortunato, Ranking Member; Braun, Cleveland, Gildon, Saldaña, Shewmake, Trudeau and Wilson, J..

Staff: Melissa Van Gorkom (786-7491)

Background: The state's Housing Authority Law authorizes the establishment of local public housing authorities (PHA) in every city and county within the state. A PHA must be activated by a resolution of the governing body of a city or county, and a PHA's boundaries are coextensive with the creating city or county, unless established as a joint housing authority.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The legislative authorities of one or more counties and the legislative authorities of any city or cities within one or more counties may authorize a joint housing authority by ordinance. The ordinances creating a joint housing authority must prescribe:

- the number of commissioners, length of terms, and method for their appointment, election of officers, and removal of commissioners; and
- the allocation of all costs of the joint housing authority and other matters necessary for its operation.

The area of operation of a joint housing authority is the combined areas of the housing authorities created in each city and county authorizing the joint housing authority.

PHAs primarily serve as a conduit for federally funded housing programs, such as tenant-based vouchers and publicly owned housing. PHAs also own and operate other rental housing, such as emergency and transitional housing, senior housing, and properties funded through low-income housing tax credits. The PHAs have no taxing authority.

Summary of Bill: Legislative authorities that have created housing authorities may form a joint housing authority with two or more city governments without county legislative authority authorization. The ordinances creating a joint housing authority must provide:

- for the creation of a new public body corporate and politic; or
- that a housing authority created and previously activated by resolution of one of the legislative authorities creating the joint housing authority will be converted to and operate as a joint housing authority.

Unless a delayed date is specified in the ordinances, the creation of, or conversion to, a joint housing authority will take effect upon the latest effective date of the ordinances providing for its creation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: No public hearing was held.

Persons Testifying: N/A

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: N/A