

From: Maurine Hennings <innkeeper@estabrookhouse.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 9:26 AM

To: Helen Head

Subject: Fw: s 204

Good morning Helen,

Please consider my comments below regarding the two bills related to short term rentals now before the house. We are hoping that the proposed bill H.815 will take precedence over S.204 as your committee moves forward.

Thank you,
Maurine

I have just learned that S.204 that recently passed the Senate has been assigned to your committee. This bill deals with short term rentals. However, it only addresses residences that are rented entirely as vacation rentals. These are just one small segment of the overnight lodging/short term rental industry.

Our representatives (Mike Marcotte, Gary Viens, Kitty Toll, and Scott Beck) recently introduced H.815, on behalf of the single family, owner occupied overnight lodging establishments. This House bill also deals with short-term rentals but in a more comprehensive manner.

H.815 addresses the issues faced by all of the single-family owner occupied overnight lodging establishments whether caused by health and public safety rules designed for large hotels, motels and inns or by unlicensed, unregulated homes that have decided to become overnight lodging establishments using marketing tools such as AirBnB or VRBO.

H.815 asks for one definition, consistent with the tax department definition, for short term rentals/overnight lodging, regardless of their business format.

H.815 requires use of the existing licensing structure and fees across the industry - regardless of business format

H.815 creates a tiered system that enables the health and public safety departments to structure rules for operating requirements and inspections while recognizing there are different tiers of overnight lodging establishments. e.g. hotels, motels, inns, vacation rentals versus owner-occupied single family residences.

H.815 defines consistent homestead rules for use across short term rental/overnight lodging establishments regardless of business format.

I am asking this committee to look carefully at what S.204 is proposing along with H.815 and to minimize the confusion and inconsistency currently in the industry while simplifying the framework within which the oversight departments need to operate.

I can meet with you any time to discuss this further if needed.

Thank you,
Maurine Hennings

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