

S. 163.

By the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (Senator Clarkson for the Committee.)

An act relating to housing safety and rehabilitation.

Reported favorably by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 7 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. DUTIES CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING

(a) The following duties imposed on the Department of Housing and Community Development are contingent upon the appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2020 for the purposes specified:

(1) ~~to design and~~ implement a rental housing data management system pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act; ~~the Department of Housing and Community Development shall begin the process of planning for a comprehensive rental housing data management system.~~

Commented [SC1]: Without funding we can't expect implementation, but we would want to see the planning process begin as we had discussed earlier with DHCD.

(2) to update and maintain the RentalCodes.org website, or a similar resource, that provides easy access to information for consumers, landlords, municipal officials, and the public concerning rental housing health and safety laws; and

(3) to design and implement a Vermont Rental Housing Incentive Program pursuant to Sec. 12 of this act.

(b) The following duties imposed on the Department of Health are contingent upon the appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2020 for the purposes specified:

(1) ~~to~~ create and manage an electronic system to collect and maintain health inspection reports pursuant to Sec. 5 of this act; ~~the Department of Health shall provide a system for the collection of information provided in Sec.2 (a)(3) (B) of this act;~~

Commented [SC2]: We do not expect a full-blown data system with all of the full inspection report data as we had discussed earlier, but still need a simple way to collect some summary information from THO's.

~~(2) ~~to~~ develop recommendations for the design and implementation of a comprehensive system for the professional enforcement of State rental housing health and safety laws pursuant to Sec. 6 of this act; and~~

Commented [SC3]: This needs to remain in the bill. Act 188 actually asked DOH for recommendations last year, but RHAB didn't push it. We still need recommendations from DOH and now DPS to present to the legislature next year.

~~(3) to~~ perform services associated with one additional full-time equivalent position, the duties of which include:

(A) ~~collecting and maintaining data concerning inspection reports;~~

(B) providing additional training to town health officers concerning best practices, the health officer role and responsibilities, and rental housing health and safety issues;

(C) providing additional guidance and support to municipalities concerning difficult rental housing enforcement issues; and

~~other duties related to developing and planning for a more professionalized health and safety code enforcement system.~~

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

Commented [SC4]: If funding is eliminated, we see the primary loss as the needed support to towns.