

Ensure State-Level Oversight of Section 8 Multifamily Contracts

H7534 / S2763

H7534 Sponsors:

Representatives
Cruz, Speakman,
Potter, Tanzi,
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S2763 Sponsors:

Senator LaMountain

BACKGROUND

RIHousing has successfully administered Performance Based Rental Assistance (PBRA), also known as Section 8 multifamily contracts, on behalf of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Rhode Island for over 20 years. In this role, RIHousing ensures that Section 8 financed developments in the state adhere to HUD's requirements. RIHousing reviews property management tenant files, carries out inspections, oversees the payment of rental assistance to developments and responds to concerns. Their relationship with these developments has also facilitated the long-term preservation of these units as affordable housing.

PROBLEM

HUD has made several attempts to rebid the PBRA contracts to allow out of state entities to oversee these developments or have these services provided on a regional level. HUD is expected to attempt to rebid these contracts again in the near future.

SOLUTION

Rhode Island should pass legislation clarifying that RIHousing is the only PHA authorized to administer these contracts statewide. Several states, including Vermont, have clarified language within their state laws to ensure that only PHAs with statewide authority may administer PBRA contracts. This bill would affirm RIHousing's authority to administer PBRA contracts statewide and would strengthen RIHousing's ability to continue to serve these developments and tenants.



DATA POINTS

RIHousing currently oversees **15,494 units in 154 developments** across **27 of RI's cities and towns**

In the last 10 years alone, RIHousing has financed **the preservation of 53 Section 8 developments** covered by our PBCA contract (over 1/3 of our PBRA portfolio) as affordable housing