



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Rhode Island Department of Housing
1 Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 6068 – Relating to Towns and Cities – Low and Moderate Income Housing

Dear Chairman Casey:

While the Department of Housing supports the intent of H 6068, we write to express concern about the administrative burden of the bill as currently drafted.

H 6068 would require every municipality and the Department of Housing to establish databases of every low- and moderate-income housing (LMIH) unit in existence or under construction that is or will soon be available for rent or sale. Furthermore, it would require monthly updates of these databases detailing the ownership, contact information, availability for sale or lease, and certificate of occupancy information for every unit. While this serves the laudable goals of tracking and monitoring the inventory of affordable housing in each locality, it creates a double layer of bureaucracy and administrative requirements with which neither the State nor municipalities may be able to comply. While some of the desired information resides with municipalities *for units that have been permitted under the LMIH law*, they do not have access to much of what is required, nor does this bill establish an enforcement mechanism to ensure that the information required of owners, developers, and realtors will be provided to either the Department or municipalities.

Additionally, it should be noted that Rhode Island Housing has a website to help Rhode Islanders locate affordable rentals, HousingSearchRI.org. While there is no requirement that landlords list LMIH units through this service, it is a free and available currently. The Department believes that the goals of this bill would be better served by working with Rhode Island Housing to enhance and improve this existing resource.

The Department remains open to working with the sponsors, the committee, and the entire legislature on efforts to promote housing affordability and preserve Rhode Island stock of low- and moderate-income housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
The Honorable Representative Thomas E. Noret
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House