



Britton Hicks

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 243

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Dann, Miller, Fingerhut, Hagan

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to develop and implement a housing program for certain groups of low-income grandparents and their minor grandchildren.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill

The bill requires the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to develop and implement a program to provide housing for low-income grandparents and their minor grandchildren. The bill defines a "grandparent" as a parent of a child's parent, a parent of a grandparent, and any person the agency determines stands in the place of a grandparent.

The housing provided through this program must be located in complexes in which occupancy is limited to the following groups (R.C. 174.031):

(1) Grandparents who are guardians over a grandchild, which are those grandparents who have been granted authority by a probate court to exercise parental rights over the child.

(2) Grandparents who have legal custody of a grandchild, meaning that the grandparent's legal status vests in them the right to have physical care and control of the child, and to determine where and with whom the child will live, who has the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child, and who has the duty to provide the child with food, shelter, education, and medical care.

(3) Grandparents who have adopted a grandchild after a parent's rights have been terminated.

The agency must implement this housing program within two years of passage of the bill to the extent that the agency has entered into contractual agreements with persons to provide the housing by that time (Section 2).

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency is governed by an 11-member board and has the authority to develop and administer programs to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families, issue and sell bonds, and enter into contracts with other entities, including the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and state agencies (R.C. 175.02, 175.03, 175.05, and 175.08).

The Agency's mission includes assisting with the financing, refinancing, production, development, and preservation of safe, decent, and affordable housing for occupancy by low- and moderate-income households and providing rental assistance for such households. The Agency also is directed to promote community development, economic stability, and growth within Ohio. To accomplish its purposes and mission, the Agency must work with eligible households, nonprofit organizations and for-profit housing development entities, public entities, and lending institutions. The Agency may monitor recipients' use of Agency funds to assure compliance with Agency programs. (R.C. 175.02(A).)

The Agency is charged with determining income limits for low- and moderate-income individuals and families and establish periodic review of those limits, which may vary from area to area within the state; serve housing needs in instances that the Agency determines necessary as a public purpose; and do all things necessary or appropriate to exercise the powers it is granted and to carry out its statutory and Constitutional duties (R.C. 175.05).¹

¹ *These Constitutional duties include (1) the duty to create or preserve opportunities for safe and sanitary housing and to improve the economic welfare of the people of the state, by borrowing money and issuing bonds and other obligations to make financing available at reasonable interest rates to consumers for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, remodeling, and improvement of certain types of privately owned real estate including dwellings used and occupied exclusively by persons 62 years of age and older (Article VIII, Section 14 of the Ohio Constitution), and (2) the duty to assist in providing, by grants and various types of loans, housing in the state for individuals and families by the acquisition, financing, construction, leasing, rehabilitation, remodeling, improvement, or equipping of publicly or privately owned housing, including the acquisition of real property and interests in real property (Article VII, Section 16 of the Ohio Constitution).*

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

12-22-05

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