

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 879 - L.D. 1201

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options

Sec. 1. Fair chance housing examination. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority shall in collaboration with stakeholders examine fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions. This examination must consider policies that may be adopted in the State to address housing issues for formerly incarcerated individuals and to expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals without creating an excessive burden for housing providers.

The authority shall invite stakeholders that include but are not limited to:

1. Formerly incarcerated individuals;
2. Housing providers that own, lease or manage residential housing units that:
 - A. Are owned or subsidized by the Federal Government or the State; or
 - B. Are financed in whole or part by government subsidies or tax credits;
3. Landlords or representatives of statewide organizations representing landowners and property managers;
4. Representatives from a statewide organization that represents the interests of currently incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals;
5. Representatives from a statewide civil legal aid and economic justice organization;
6. Representatives of civil rights organizations whose primary mission is racial equity and justice; and
7. Representatives of organizations that advocate for residents of the State in the following areas:
 - A. Disability rights;
 - B. Mental health;
 - C. Substance use disorder and recovery; and
 - D. Homelessness.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That no later than February 15, 2022 the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report that includes findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The report must include a summary of any meetings that occur pursuant to section 1, a list of participants in the examination of fair chance housing policies, suggestions to increase the awareness among housing providers of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in finding housing and any other relevant information. The report may include suggested legislation. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.