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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: Rep Jake Wheatley

DATE: December 13, 2011

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR SPONSORS: HOUSING AUTHORITIES LAW; POLICIES TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACTING/SUBCONTRACTING**

This memorandum seeks your sponsorship of a legislative proposal that I plan to introduce in the very near future.

Briefly, my legislation would amend the Housing Authorities Law by adding a provision that would require an Authority to develop binding policies or guidelines to ensure that all persons are accorded equal opportunity in employment and contracting associated with housing projects. The equal opportunity requirement would extend to an Authority's contractors, subcontractors, assignees, lessees, agents, vendors, and suppliers. As provided for in the legislation, an Authority could use the lists of minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned business enterprises certified by the Department of General Services to compete for and participate in contracts and subcontracts.

If you wish to join me as a sponsor of this legislation, please contact my Legislative Assistant, April Ashe, at aashe@pahouse.net or 783.3783.

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), entitled, as
2 amended, "An act to promote public health, safety, morals,
3 and welfare by declaring the necessity of creating public
4 bodies, corporate and politic, to be known as housing
5 authorities to engage in slum clearance, and to undertake
6 projects, to provide dwelling accommodations for persons of
7 low income; providing for the organization of such housing
8 authorities; defining their powers and duties; providing for
9 the exercise of such powers, including the acquisition of
10 property by purchase, gift or eminent domain, the renting and
11 selling of property, and including borrowing money, issuing
12 bonds, and other obligations, and giving security therefor;
13 prescribing the remedies of obligees of housing authorities;
14 authorizing housing authorities to enter into agreements,
15 including agreements with the United States, the
16 Commonwealth, and political subdivisions and municipalities
17 thereof; defining the application of zoning, sanitary, and
18 building laws and regulations to projects built or maintained
19 by such housing authorities; exempting the property and
20 securities of such housing authorities from taxation; and
21 imposing duties and conferring powers upon the State Planning
22 Board, and certain other State officers and departments,"
23 further providing for powers of an authority.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25 hereby enacts as follows:

26 Section 1. Section 10 of the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955,
27 No.265), known as the Housing Authorities Law, is amended by
28 adding a clause to read:

1 Section 10. Powers of an Authority.--An Authority shall
2 constitute a public body, corporate and politic, exercising
3 public powers of the Commonwealth as an agency thereof, which
4 powers shall include all powers necessary or appropriate to
5 carry out and effectuate the purpose and provisions of this act,
6 including the following powers, in addition to others herein
7 granted:

8 * * *

9 (e.1) To develop, adopt and implement binding policies or
10 guidelines to ensure that all persons are accorded equal
11 opportunity in employment and contracting associated with
12 housing projects. This clause shall apply to an Authority's
13 contractors, subcontractors, assignees, lessees, agents, vendors
14 and suppliers. An Authority may use the lists of certified
15 minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned business
16 enterprises which have been certified under the Department of
17 General Services' disadvantaged business program to compete for
18 and participate in the Authority's contracting process. The
19 Department of General Services shall cooperate with and assist
20 an Authority in carrying out the requirements of this clause.

21 * * *

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.