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Legislative Document

No. 1397

H.P. 1031

House of Representatives, April 7, 2021

**An Act Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Create a
Commission To Develop a Comprehensive Rental Registry for
Multifamily Housing**

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 5, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, MORALES of South Portland, SACHS of Freeport, SUPICA of Bangor, SYLVESTER of Portland, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4726** is enacted to read:

3 **§4726. Rental registry for multifamily housing**

4 The Maine State Housing Authority shall create a commission to develop a
5 comprehensive rental registry, referred to in this section as "the registry" for multifamily
6 housing in the State. The commission must consist of representatives of large and small
7 municipalities, multifamily housing owners and renters and other interested parties invited
8 to participate by the Maine State Housing Authority. The commission shall:

9 **1. Information.** Design the registry to include information that the commission
10 determines relevant, including data on ownership, management, occupancy status,
11 condition, code violations, lead abatement and inspection history of all multifamily housing
12 in the State;

13 **2. Available to public.** Make the registry available on a publicly accessible website;

14 **3. Outreach.** Investigate models and best practices for outreach to rental property
15 owners and managers and for data collection, formatting, display, consolidation and
16 updating of data;

17 **4. Common platform.** Identify or create and implement a common platform for data
18 collection, formatting and display;

19 **5. Data consistency.** Establish an ongoing process for maintaining data consistency
20 and quality; and

21 **6. Disseminate information.** Disseminate information on the registry, including
22 processes and systems, to interested municipalities.

23 **Sec. 2. Report.** By February 1, 2022, the commission shall submit a report on the
24 progress of the comprehensive rental registry of multifamily housing to the Maine State
25 Housing Authority. On or before January 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, the Maine State
26 Housing Authority shall report on the progress of the registry to the joint standing
27 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor and housing matters.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to create a commission to develop,
30 implement and disseminate to municipalities and post on a publicly accessible website a
31 comprehensive rental registry of multifamily housing in the State. The commission consists
32 of representatives of large and small municipalities, owners and renters of multifamily
33 housing and other interested parties invited by the authority. The authority is directed to
34 report annually to the Legislature on the progress of the registry.