

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1240

S.P. 408

In Senate, March 25, 2021

Resolve, To Review Barriers to Regional Solutions for Housing Choices

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 23, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsored by Senators: CURRY of Waldo, HICKMAN of Kennebec, LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: BAILEY of Gorham, MORALES of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor, TEPLER of Topsham.

Sec. 1. Review of barriers to regional housing solutions. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development shall conduct a review of barriers to regional solutions to making housing affordable, accessible, available, functional and compatible with strategies outlined in the December 2020 climate action plan of the Maine Climate Council, "Maine Won't Wait: A Four-year Plan for Climate Action." The office shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by December 1, 2021 with a summary of these barriers, their implications and potential solutions.

The office shall also include in its report:

- 1. Proposals to update the planning and land use regulation laws pertaining to growth management with a focus on regional solutions recognizing the interrelationships of housing, transportation, climate action and land use;
- 2. An assessment of the implications of housing choices of state and regional transportation investments and policies, produced with the advice of the Department of Transportation and regional transportation agencies;
- 3. Identification of regional approaches to address significant mill rate differentials between rural and urban service center hubs and surrounding communities that increase associated living expenses by driving housing out of established communities; and
- 4. Strategies for offering choices to local governments about how to meet statewide housing goals through their comprehensive plans and land use codes.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development to conduct a review of barriers to regional solutions to making housing affordable, accessible, available, functional and compatible with strategies outlined in the December 2020 climate action plan of the Maine Climate Council, "Maine Won't Wait: A Four-year Plan for Climate Action." It directs the office to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by December 1, 2021 with a summary of these barriers, their implications and potential solutions.