

Thank you, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

My name is Representative Alicia Collins. I represent the people of District 61, the towns of Sidney and Vassalboro.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you this day on LD 963 – **An Act to Standardize Subsidized Housing Application Forms.**

I'll take a moment to share the why behind this bill, the commonsense element of this bill, and my apprehension to sponsor this bill.

A constituent reached out to me in December to explain she had helped a family member to file for housing over the second half of 2024. She and her family member had a difficult time filling out the variety of applications simply because the information was varied, even within the same organization.

For example, Waterville Housing Authority has applications for each of their properties and they are all different.

A commonsense approach to this is to have Maine State Housing Authority design a form for the numerous property management companies that participate in affordable housing programs.

A universal form that meets the minimum requirements of a housing application. Such as person applying for housing, roommates, income, previous landlord, references, and one that uses understandable language without legalese or real estate jargon.

This form could be filled out once and used on any housing on the MSHA list for housing.

I will say, while I support this bill and the reasoning behind sponsoring it, I am apprehensive about the long-term implications of the government getting more involved in Maine housing.

Thank you for your time today,

Alicia Collins

Resident and Citizen of Sidney.