

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 558

H. P. 424

House of Representatives, February 3, 1971

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Doyle of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Tenants Serving on Local Housing Authorities.

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

R. S., T. 30, § 4602, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, amended. The first sentence of paragraph A of subsection 1 of section 4602 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 8 of chapter 470 of the public laws of 1969, is amended to read as follows:

Each authority shall have ~~5~~ 7 commissioners appointed, ~~4~~ of whom shall be residents of an existing public housing project or prospective tenants where an authority is newly created and a public housing project has not been so designated.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is the intent and purpose of this legislation to help with funding through Housing and Urban Development because it demonstrates activity participation on the part of the low-income people. Only people caught up in the daily process of living in public housing can really understand the problems and needs of people in public housing. In a democracy, people have a right and responsibility to influence decisions that affect them. In a democracy, full participation from the total community is the only right and fair way to government. Tenants have a great deal to contribute to a housing authority to make that authority totally aware of the problems of people and ways to deal with these problems, to help authority meet the needs of people and to

help the authority towards meaningful communication with the people. It is to the advantage of the total community that persons of low-income develop problem-solving skills and become oriented toward making their own decisions. Tenants serving on an authority could go a long way toward helping solve and prevent many of the misunderstandings and mistrust between residents and authority. Tenants or prospective tenants could dramatically contribute to the adoption of meaningful public housing project that will better serve further residents. Tenants are beginning to increasingly express a desire for participation in the decision-making process and to be able to participate in the management of low-income housing projects.