

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1455

S. P. 439

In Senate, April 4, 1975

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Trotzky of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Tenants Serving on State and Local Housing Authorities.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§1, ¶ A, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is amended to read:

Each authority shall have 5 commissioners appointed, except that an authority in a municipality with housing which is subsidized or assisted by programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development shall have 7 commissioners appointed, 2 of whom shall be residents of such housing; where tenant associations exist, the appointing authority shall give priority consideration to nominations made by the associations.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is amended by adding at the end the following:

The first commissioners appointed to an authority who are residents of subsidized or assisted housing shall be designated to serve for terms of 2 and 4 years respectively from the date of their appointment, and thereafter said commissioners shall be appointed as aforesaid for a term of 5 years, except that all vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term.

Sec. 3. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§ 1, ¶ D, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is amended to read:

Three commissioners in the case of an authority with 5 commissioners, and 4 commissioners in the case of an authority with 7 commissioners, shall constitute a quorum of such authority for the purpose of conducting its business

and exercising its powers and for all other purposes, notwithstanding the existence of any vacancies.

Sec. 4. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is amended to read:

The state authority shall have ~~5~~ 7 commissioners appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive Council. Said ~~5~~ 7 commissioners shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of bankers and of low income or elderly people. **Two commissioners shall be residents of housing which is subsidized or assisted by programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or of the Maine State Housing Authority. In making such appointments, the Governor shall give priority consideration to nominations that may be made by tenant associations established in the State.** One member of said ~~5~~ 7 commissioners shall be the director of the state authority serving ex officio and he shall be chairman of the commissioners.

Sec. 5. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, last ¶, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is amended to read:

Following reasonable notice to each commissioner, ~~3~~ 4 commissioners of the state authority shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes, notwithstanding the existence of any vacancies.

Sec. 6. 30 MRSA § 4602, sub-§ 2, ¶ D, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term, all such appointments to be made in the same manner as the original appointment.

Sec. 7. Transitional clause. Of the first appointed commissioners to the Maine State Housing Authority who are residents of housing which is subsidized or assisted by programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or of the Maine State Housing Authority, one commissioner shall be designated to serve for a 2-year term and one shall be designated to serve for a 4-year term.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for tenant representation on housing authority boards in keeping with federal requirements for citizen participation in the development and operation of housing projects. Such representation provides an immediate channel for the identification and resolution of problems and may, with tenant involvement, lead to reduced management and maintenance costs in housing projects.