



AB 312 (Reyes): State Partnership for Affordable Housing Registries in California (SPAHRC) Program

SUMMARY

This bill would establish the State Partnership for Affordable Housing Registries in California (SPAHRC) grant program. SPAHRC will be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development with the purpose of creating a state-managed online database of affordable housing listings and applications.

BACKGROUND

Recent estimates demonstrate California has over 500,000 deed-restricted multifamily affordable housing rental units, according to California Housing Partnershipⁱ. While there may be a variety of deed-restricted affordable housing units across the state, low-income households are required to search for these units across various posting sites. These sites often do not tailor the search results accurately for renters and may even display both non-subsidized housing and affordable housing options.

In addition to the already difficult nature of searching and applying for affordable housing, renters are faced with the challenge of finding options that meet their specific needs, particularly renters such as seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Due to the absence of a centralized system, renters often apply for multiple listing options they do not qualify for or have already applied for on another posting site – leading to a duplication of efforts and a delay in the renter’s path to housing.

In its 2022 release of the Statewide Housing Plan, the California Department of Housing and

Community Development (HCD) identified recommendations to reach state goals of building strong data foundations to locate and track the development of deed-restricted affordable housing, which includes providing technical assistance to support localities with data collection and standardizationⁱⁱ.

A statewide system does not exist and many regions in California do not have a centralized platform. To further the state’s housing priorities, a housing data platform must be designed to streamline systems and connect renters and their families to deed-restricted affordable housing units they qualify for.

THIS BILL

AB 312 would create the State Partnership for Affordable Housing Registries in California (SPAHRC) Grant Program. The SPAHRC grant program will require The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to develop an affordable housing listing and application platform in coordination with eligible entities (Counties, Councils of Government, qualifying cities, etc.) that apply for the program funds.

SUPPORT

Housing California (Co-Sponsor)
Residents United Network (Co-Sponsor)

CONTACT

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ⁱ California Housing Partnership. “Affordable Homes at Risk.” February 2022. <https://chpc.net/how-many-affordable-homes-are-at-risk-2022/>

ⁱⁱ California Department of Housing and Community Development. “Data Strategy: An Appendix to the Statewide Housing Plan.” March 2022. <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/docs/data-strategy.pdf>