Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Plan

A bill directing DHCD to conduct a housing needs assessment every 5 years and a housing plan biannually

The Goal

A housing needs assessment and housing plan will help Virginia plan for and take steps to meeting the growing housing affordability needs of its community members.

Why

IT’S A PRACTICE THAT OTHER STATES HAVE IMPLEMENTED
Many other states already use statewide housing plans to guide their efforts, including Maryland, South Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio.

VIRGINIA KNOWS HOW TO DO THIS!
Virginia already crafts and successfully implements statewide plans for other policy areas, including transportation, tourism, and higher education.

VIRGINIA IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN STATE HOUSING PROGRAMS
Virginia does impressive work in housing, with nearly 50 programs. With all the commitment of resources, a good planning component is key to guiding and accompanying these efforts.

IT WOULD HELP STREAMLINE AND CREATE EFFICIENCY ACROSS PROGRAMS
Virginia has never committed to a recurring, comprehensive state plan to address housing affordability. While agencies do create and follow plans for some specific initiatives, the lack of a high-level guiding framework limits efficiency and collaboration.

The Need

Virginia has a shortage of over 200,000 affordable, quality, and accessible rental homes

Nearly 1 in 3 Virginia Households
are housing cost burdened, paying more than 30% of their income towards housing.

JLARC, “Affordable Housing in Virginia” report, 2021

1 in 7 Virginia Households
are severely housing cost burdened, paying 50% or more of their income towards housing.

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