

# Department of Finance and Administration

## Legislative Impact Statement

**Bill: HB1642**

**Bill Subtitle: TO PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING.**

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### **Basic Change :**

**Sponsor: Rep. Underwood**

SB1642 would require that public housing authorities implement a local preference prioritizing the applications of persons who are compliant with the child support cooperation requirement described in federal regulations applicable to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regardless of whether the applicant receives SNAP benefits and to require cooperation as a condition of receiving housing benefits and assistance. The weight given to child support cooperation as compared to other local preferences would be determined by each entity. Housing authorities would be directed to seek waivers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by January 1, 2022 to implement the act by January 1, 2023.

### **Revenue Impact :**

None.

### **Taxpayer Impact :**

Taxpayers seeking housing assistance and who are parents of minor children who do not live with them or whose other parent does not live in the household would be entitled to a preference in access to such assistance so long as they were compliant with child support activities.

### **Resources Required :**

Data system development costs of approximately \$15,000 to revise existing forms used to provide information to public housing authorities.

### **Time Required :**

Adequate time is provided for development and implementation of necessary forms changes.

### **Procedural Changes :**

Minor DFA/Office of Child Support Enforcement procedural changes would be required to instruct staff regarding the cooperation requirement and how to respond to requests for information from applicants and housing authorities. Adequate time is provided to implement any needed procedural changes.

### **Other Comments :**

DFA/OCSE routinely provides child support income information to housing assistance applicants and directly to housing authorities with the authorization of the applicant. It is anticipated that existing processes could be adapted to provide cooperation information to housing authorities.

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### Legal Analysis :

DFA/OCSE provides child support enforcement services authorized under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. 42 U.S.C. § 651 et seq. Services are provided to individuals either: requesting such services; receiving TANF or Medicaid benefits; and at state option, individuals receiving SNAP benefits. (45 C.F.R. §§ 302.33, 302.31, and 7 CFR § 273.11.) Services are provided to TANF, Medicaid, and SNAP recipients by referral through an automated data system interface between DFA/OCSE and the Department of Human Services. Individuals seeking services do so by application.

Federal law does not authorize an automated process for housing authorities to open a case for child support services on behalf of applicants for housing benefits. Individuals seeking to demonstrate cooperation as contemplated under HB1642 would be required to independently apply for such services and pay an application and other fees as provided by § 9-14-212 if not already receiving services or exempt from fees due to their receipt of TANF, Medicaid, or SNAP benefits.