

**SUBJECT:** Allowing housing assistance recipients on public housing authorities

**COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Talton, Wong, A. Allen, Bailey, Blake, Menendez, Rodriguez  
0 nays

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 28 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

**WITNESSES:** For — Carl S. Richie, Texas Chapter National Association of Housing  
Redevelopment Officials  
  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, ch. 392, provides for the creation of city, county, and regional public housing authorities to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income persons and families. A public housing authority is governed by a commission appointed by the governing body of the city, county, or participating counties, as appropriate. At least one member of any public housing authority commission must be a tenant of a public housing project over which the authority has jurisdiction; municipal housing authority commissions with seven or more members must include at least two tenants. A tenant commissioner may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms and may not be an employee of the city or county that appoints the member. A tenant commissioner also is prohibited from participating in any vote or discussion concerning the termination of the occupancy right of the tenant commissioner or a family member of the first degree, as well as from any grievance or administrative hearing in which the commissioner or a family member of the first degree is a party. If a tenant commissioner ceases to reside in a housing unit operated by the authority, a majority of the other commissioners must decide whether to request that a new commissioner be appointed.

**DIGEST:** SB 1841 would define an "eligible tenant" commissioner as either a tenant of a public housing project over which the housing authority had jurisdiction or a recipient of federal housing assistance under section 8 of

the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill would prohibit a tenant commissioner from participating in any vote or discussion of the commissioner's right to housing assistance or the corresponding right of a family member of the first degree. If a tenant commissioner ceased to receive section 8 housing assistance, a majority of the other commissioners would have to decide whether to request that a new commissioner be appointed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005, and would not affect the service of a current housing authority commissioner.