

- SUBJECT:** Revising the state's low-income housing plan and annual report
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Dutton, Alvarado, Anchia, Elkins, Leach, J. Rodriguez, Sanford
0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 13 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is the state's lead agency responsible for affordable housing. The department is required annually to provide a comprehensive report that provides an overview of statewide housing needs and a resource allocation plan to meet those needs.
- DIGEST:** SB 109 would add veterans, farmworkers, youth who were aging out of foster care, and the elderly to the list of people the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs would include in its estimate and analysis for the department's annual low-income housing plan. The bill also would add the size of these populations and their different housing needs to the analysis for the plan. The study would include data showing the number and location of residential foreclosures in the state.
- The bill also would include in the department's annual low-income housing report the progress of meeting goals established with respect to the populations analyzed for the report and recommendations to improve coordination of department services to those populations.
- SB 109 would repeal Property Code, sec. 51.0022, which is a foreclosure notification process used by the department.
- This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 109 would improve the annual study that helps the state in assisting individuals and families to obtain affordable housing. Adding veterans, farmworkers, youth who were aging out of foster care, and the elderly to those addressed by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs would help the state be more efficient with its mandate.

These new demographics can show the need for specific services and would be a timely sharpening of the department's analysis. From 2007 to 2011, more than 1.5 million older Americans lost their homes as a result of the mortgage crisis, according to the AARP. Providing the department with a measure that offered insight into this cohort and three others, including a new wave of veterans borne by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, would be an important tool to help ensure state revenues were efficiently expended. The data are easily available and would come at no cost to the state.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.