



**Substitute House Bill No. 6606**

**Special Act No. 21-28**

**AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES AND THE RENOVATION OF HISTORIC MIXED-USE BUILDINGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall conduct a study relating to economic development issues affecting distressed municipalities and opportunity zones in the state. Not later than February 1, 2022, the commissioner shall submit a report on the results of such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study any impediments to the renovation of historic mixed-use buildings located in municipalities, including, but not limited to, distressed municipalities in the state. The task force shall (1) examine any financing tools that may assist in the renovation of such buildings and building safety codes that may be impediments to the renovation of such buildings; and (2) consider whether the state should implement a small real estate developer training program or a capacity building program.

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(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
- (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
- (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- (7) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;
- (8) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee;
- (9) The Banking Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- (10) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee; and
- (11) Three persons appointed by the Governor.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) Each member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (11) of subsection (b) of this section shall have expertise in the architecture of historic properties, construction or rehabilitation of historic properties, real estate financing, mortgage lending, real estate development, real estate transactions or municipal

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building codes.

(e) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(h) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.