



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7113

LCO No. 5572



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

AN ACT PERMITTING MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH LIGHT TOUCH DENSITY HOUSING.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Light touch density housing" means buildings that are
3 compatible in scale, form and character with single-family residential
4 dwellings and contain two or more attached, detached, stacked or
5 clustered dwellings, two, three or four family residential dwellings,
6 duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, cottage housing, accessory
7 dwelling units, single-family attached dwellings on smaller lots and
8 single-family detached dwellings on smaller lots where water and sewer
9 are available.
- 10 (2) "Objective zoning standards", "objective subdivision standards"
11 and "objective health or safety standards" mean zoning, health or safety
12 standards that (A) are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external
13 benchmark or criterion that is available to both a development applicant
14 or proponent and the public official, (B) do not discourage the
15 development of light touch density housing through unreasonable

16 costs, fees, delays or other requirements that individually, or
17 cumulatively, make impracticable the permitting, siting or construction
18 of light touch density housing or the ownership of such housing, (C) do
19 not require through development regulations any standards for light
20 touch density housing that are more restrictive than those required for
21 detached single-family dwellings, and (D) apply to light touch density
22 housing the same development permit, environmental review and
23 available expedited processes that apply to detached single-family
24 dwellings.

25 (3) "Building-coverage ratio" means the ratio of the building footprint
26 area divided by the total area of the parcel.

27 (4) "Floor-area ratio" means the ratio of the total closed, conditioned
28 floor area of the building divided by the total area of the parcel.

29 (b) Proposed light touch density housing containing no more than
30 four residential units on a lot in a single-family zone shall be considered
31 administratively, without discretionary review or hearing when there is
32 an available source of water and sewage for such housing.

33 (c) A municipal agency may adopt objective zoning standards,
34 objective subdivision standards and objective health or safety standards
35 that do not conflict with the provisions of this section.

36 (d) A municipal agency shall not adopt objective zoning standards,
37 objective subdivision standards, objective health or safety standards or
38 other standards on proposed light touch density housing that would
39 have the effect of: (1) Setting a minimum or maximum unit size
40 requirement; (2) setting a minimum lot size requirement of greater than
41 five thousand square feet or setting any maximum lot size requirement;
42 (3) setting a maximum floor-area ratio of less than one hundred fifty per
43 cent; (4) setting a maximum building-coverage ratio of less than fifty per
44 cent; (5) precluding the construction of any unit on a parcel due to such
45 parcel having an interior lot configuration; (6) imposing a height limitation
46 that would preclude any stipulated dwelling units from being not less than

47 three stories in height; (7) imposing fee requirements beyond those
48 required for traditional single-family dwelling units; and (8) imposing
49 owner occupancy standards, income limits or affordability set-aside
50 requirements.

51 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, a
52 municipal agency may adopt objective zoning standards, objective
53 subdivision standards, objective health or safety standards or other
54 standards on proposed light touch density housing that would have the
55 effect of: (1) Not requiring a setback for an existing structure or a
56 structure constructed on the same parcel and to the same dimensions as
57 an existing structure; (2) in circumstances not described in subdivision
58 (1) of subsection (d) of this section, requiring proposed light touch
59 density housing to have a front and rear setback of up to ten feet and
60 side setbacks of five feet; or (3) requiring off-street parking of up to one
61 space per unit for residential dwelling units, except that (i) a municipal
62 agency shall not impose parking requirements if the parcel is located
63 within a one-half mile radius of a rail, transit stop or a bus transfer
64 station, or (ii) within a one-quarter mile radius of a bus stop with regular
65 service.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage municipalities to develop light touch density housing.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]