

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to establish a temporary Stabilization and Reform Board to govern the District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) and to require that the Board and the Executive Director of DCHA take specific actions to reform and revitalize the operations of DCHA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective May 9, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6-201 et seq.), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 6-201) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (6) is amended by striking the phrase “Board of Commissioners” and inserting the phrase “Stabilization and Reform Board” in its place.

(2) Paragraph (12) is repealed.

(3) A new paragraph (17A) is added to read as follows:

“(17A) “Dwelling unit” means any room or group of rooms located within a residential or mixed-use building and forming a single unit that is used or intended to be used for living, sleeping, and the preparation and eating of meals.”.

(b) Section 10(h) (D.C. Official Code § 6-209(h)) is amended as follows:

31 (1) Strike the phrase “or Commissioner of the Authority” and insert the phrase
32 “member of the Board, or member of the former Board of Commissioners” in its place.

33 (2) Strike the phrase “a Commissioner” and insert the phrase “a member of the
34 Board, member of the former Board of Commissioners,” in its place.

35 (c) New sections 11a, 11b, and 11c are added to read as follows:

36 “Sec. 11a. Stabilization and Reform Board.

37 “(a) The Authority shall, from and after the date set forth in subsection (i) of this section,
38 be governed by a Stabilization and Reform Board, which shall consist of the following members:

39 “(1) The following 9 voting members, each of whom shall be a resident of the
40 District:

41 “(A) One member with experience in housing development or operations;

42 “(B) One member with experience in affordable housing development,
43 operations, or finance;

44 “(C) One member with knowledge of federal housing law and regulation;

45 “(D) One member with experience in capital project financing;

46 “(E) One member who is a resident of a property owned, operated, and
47 managed by the Authority;

48 “(F) One member with experience as a voucher holder;

49 “(G) The current Executive Director of the Interagency Council on
50 Homelessness;

51 “(H) The Director of the District’s Office of Budget and Performance
52 Management; and

53 “(I) One member with experience in government procurement;

54 “(2) The Chief Financial Officer, or a designee of the Chief Financial Officer who
55 is an employee of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, who shall serve as a non-voting
56 member; and

57 “(3) The President of the City-Wide Resident Advisory Board, who shall serve as
58 a non-voting member.

59 “(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (c) and
60 (f)(1) of this section, each member of the Stabilization and Reform Board shall be appointed by
61 the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council pursuant to section 2(e) of the
62 Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-
63 523.01(e)).

64 “(2) The Director of the District’s Office of Budget and Performance
65 Management and the Chief Financial Officer, or the Chief Financial Officer’s designee, shall
66 serve as members of the Stabilization and Reform Board by virtue of their incumbency in the
67 position of Director of the District’s Office of Budget and Performance Management and Chief
68 Financial Officer or employee of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

69 “(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Mayor may appoint the following
70 individuals to the Stabilization and Reform Board without the advice and consent of the Council
71 pursuant to section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-
72 142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e)):

73 “(1) Raymond A. Skinner, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(A)
74 of this section and to serve as chairperson of the Stabilization and Reform Board;

75 “(2) James M. Dickerson, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(B)
76 of this section;

77 “(3) Christopher Murphy, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(C)
78 of this section;

79 “(4) Melissa Lee, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(D) of this
80 section;

81 “(5) Denise Blackson, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(E)
82 of this section;

83 “(6) Ronnie Harris, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(F) of this
84 section;

85 “(7) Theresa Silla, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(G) of this
86 section; and

87 “(8) Katrina D. Jones, to fill the Board seat described in subsection (a)(1)(I) of
88 this section.

89 “(d) The members of the Stabilization and Reform Board referred to in subsection
90 (a)(1)(A) through (I) of this section shall each serve for one term of 2 years or until the Board
91 sunsets; provided, that each such member may continue to serve until a successor board assumes
92 the responsibilities of the Stabilization and Reform Board; provided further, that in the event of a
93 vacancy in the seat of such a member of the Board, the Mayor may appoint a member, pursuant
94 to subsection (b)(1) of this section, to serve the remainder of the unexpired term or until a
95 successor board assumes the responsibilities of the Stabilization and Reform Board.

96 “(e) Upon a vacancy in the position chairperson of the Stabilization and Reform Board,
97 the Mayor shall designate a chairperson from among the members of the Stabilization and
98 Reform Board referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) through (I) of this section.

99 “(f)(1) Upon a vacancy of any seat of the Stabilization and Reform Board, the Mayor
100 shall nominate a replacement who meets the qualifications of the vacant seat pursuant to
101 subsection (a)(1) of this section; provided, that this shall not apply to the seat established by
102 subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section. If the seat established by subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section
103 becomes vacant, the Council shall appoint a successor.

104 “(2) A Mayoral nomination shall be submitted to the Council pursuant to
105 subsection (b)(1) of this section.

106 “(g)(1) The Stabilization and Reform Board shall meet at least 10 times per year. All
107 meetings of the Stabilization and Reform Board shall be open to the public, except as may
108 otherwise be authorized by the Open Meetings Act, effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-350;
109 D.C. Official Code § 2-571 et seq.).

110 “(2) All regular meetings of the Board must be publicized through a notice,
111 published in the District of Columbia Register one week prior to the meeting that contains the
112 date, time, and location of the meeting.

113 “(3) Each regular meeting shall provide for a period of public comments, which
114 shall not be limited in time, except that the time allowed for each individual speaker may be
115 reasonably limited.

116 “(h) For the purposes of taking any official action, a quorum of the Stabilization and
117 Reform Board shall consist of 5 members

118 “(i) The Stabilization and Reform Board established by this section shall assume
119 authority from the Board of Commissioners established by section 12, and the Board of
120 Commissioners shall be dissolved, upon the swearing in of at least 5 members of the
121 Stabilization and Reform Board.

122 “(j) The Authority shall provide to the Stabilization and Reform Board at least 2 full-time
123 employees who are qualified to provide legal and policy research as requested by members of the
124 Board. Except as otherwise provided by law, a full-time employee provided to the Board
125 pursuant to this subsection shall not share with employees of the Authority information about
126 research performed for a Board member, unless the member of the Board authorizes sharing of
127 information.

128 “Sec. 11b. Reform activities.

129 “(a) Within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Executive Director shall,
130 after submission to the Stabilization and Reform Board and the City-Wide Resident Advisory
131 Board, submit a report to the Mayor and the Council that describes the progress of the Authority
132 in:

133 “(1) Addressing and remediating the issues identified by the U.S. Department of
134 Housing and Urban Development in its 2022 assessment of the Authority (the “HUD DC001
135 Assessment”);

136 “(2) Developing and implementing a plan to expedite the leasing of dwelling units
137 owned, operated, or managed by the Authority;

138 “(3) Identifying individual dwelling units within Housing Properties of the
139 Authority that are in a substandard condition and improving the condition of such units to a state
140 of good repair;

141 “(4) Developing and implementing a plan for the maintenance, in an ongoing state
142 of good repair, of Housing Properties of the Authority and individual dwellings units within
143 those Housing Properties;

144 “(5) Improving the management of the wait list for dwelling units within Housing
145 Properties of the Authority;

146 “(6)(A) Reviewing and developing recommendations for improvements of the
147 Authority’s:

148 “(i) Capital and operating budgets;

149 “(ii) Capital and operating expenditures;

150 “(iii) Accounting and fiscal management systems, controls and
151 procedures; and

152 “(iv) Contracting and procurement systems, controls, and
153 procedures.

154 “(B) Requirements of this paragraph are subject to review by the Chief
155 Financial Officer measured against industry and government standards and best practices; and

156 “(7) Meeting the training requirements established by sections 12(h) and 14(d).

157 “(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Executive
158 Director shall submit to the Council any updated policies, procedures, and reports provided to the
159 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as outlined in the Authority’s
160 “Response to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s March 2022 On-Site
161 Assessment Report,” published on November 29, 2022. Such policies, procedures and reports
162 shall be submitted no later than 48 hours after submission to the United States Department of
163 Housing and Urban Development.

164 “(c) The Stabilization and Reform Board shall:

165 “(1) Review the progress of the Authority in addressing the findings and
166 recommendations in the HUD DC001 Assessment each month;

167 “(2) Schedule and complete at least 4 listening sessions, 1 in each quadrant, to
168 hear from public housing residents about concerns and experiences by May 2023;

169 “(3) At least once a quarter, invite the City-Wide Resident Advisory Board to
170 report to the Board on any topics of interest or concerns, and respond to the concerns of the City-
171 Wide Resident Advisory Board in writing, no later than 45 days following the quarterly meeting;
172 and

173 “(4) Provide recommendations to the Mayor and the Council by July 1, 2024, for
174 the structure of a successor Board of Directors to govern the Authority on an ongoing basis.

175 “(d) If requested by the Council, a quorum of members of the Stabilization and Reform
176 Board shall attend a Council oversight hearing on the Authority and provide testimony.

177 “(e) A quorum of members of the Stabilization and Reform Board shall be present at each
178 listening session held pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of this section.

179 “Sec. 11c. City-Wide Resident Advisory Board.

180 “(a) The Authority shall establish and implement a comprehensive training program for
181 members of the City-Wide Resident Advisory Board with the goal of enabling tenant members to
182 participate fully in the oversight of the housing authority’s operation and capital planning. The
183 Authority shall develop the training program in consultation with public housing residents and
184 public housing industry professional organizations.

185 “(b)(1) The City-Wide Resident Advisory Board shall be provided access to trainings
186 referenced in section 12(h)(1) and (2).

187 “(2) Additionally, the Authority shall provide training on relevant federal and
188 District laws, leadership development, communication, and negotiations.

189 “(c) The Authority shall provide a copy of resolutions on the agenda for consideration by
190 the Stabilization and Reform Board to the City-Wide Resident Advisory Board at least 24 hours
191 prior to the scheduled date and time of the Stabilization and Reform Board meeting at which the
192 resolution will be considered.

193 “(d) The Authority shall seek and consider the input of the City-Wide Resident Advisory
194 Board when a policy or program change affects residents.”.

195 (d) Section 12 (D.C. Official Code § 6-211) is amended as follows:

196 (1) The section heading is amended to read as follows:

197 “Sec. 12. Additional Board provisions.”.

198 (2) Subsections (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q),
199 (v)(3), and (w) are repealed.

200 (3) Subsection (r) is amended by striking the phrase “No Commissioner” and
201 inserting the phrase “No member of the Board” in its place.

202 (4) Subsection (s) is amended by striking the phrase “Commissioners shall” and
203 inserting the phrase “Each member of the Board referred to in section 11a(a)(1)(A) through (I)
204 shall” in its place.

205 (5) Subsection (u) is amended by striking the phrase “any Commissioner” and
206 inserting the phrase “any member of the Board” in its place.

207 (e) Section 14 (D.C. Official Code § 6-213) is amended as follows:

208 (1) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase “direction and supervision”
209 and inserting the word “oversight” in its place.

210 (2) A new subsection (e) is added to read as follows:

211 “(e) As part of the process of selecting an Executive Director, the Board shall seek and
212 consider the input of public housing residents, voucher holders, and the resident advisory board
213 for the Authority.”.

214 (f) Section 21 (D.C. Official Code § 6-220) is amended as follows:

215 (1) The section heading is amended by striking the phrase “Board of
216 Commissioners” and inserting the word “Board” in its place.

217 (2) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “each Commissioner” and
218 inserting the phrase “each member of the Board” in its place.

219 (3) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

220 (A) Strike the phrase “as a Commissioner” and insert the phrase “as a
221 member of the Board or a member of the former Board of Commissioners” in its place.

222 (B) Strike the phrase “former Commissioner” and insert the phrase
223 “former member of the Board or former member of the former Board of Commissioners” in its
224 place.

225 (C) Strike the phrase “as Commissioner” and insert the phrase “as a
226 member of the Board or a member of the former Board of Commissioners” in its place.

227 (D) Strike the phrase “any former Commissioner” and insert the phrase
228 “any former member of the Board or former member of the former Board of Commissioners” in
229 its place.

230 (4) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase “any Commissioner” and
231 inserting the phrase “any member of the Board” in its place.

232 (g) Section 26g(b)(2)(C) (D.C. Official Code § 6-232(b)(2)(C)) is amended by striking
233 the phrase “resident commissioner and to vote for candidates for resident commissioner to serve

234 on the Board, as provided in section 12” and inserting the phrase “resident commissioner” in its
235 place.

236 Sec. 3. Conforming amendment.

237 Section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142;
238 D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e)), is amended by adding a new paragraph (27A) to read as
239 follows:

240 “(27A) The Stabilization and Reform Board of the District of Columbia Housing
241 Authority, established by section 11a of the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999,
242 passed on 2nd reading on January 3, 2023 (Enrolled version of Bill 24-1145);”.

243 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

244 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
245 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
246 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

247 Sec. 5. Effective date.

248 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
249 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
250 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section
251 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
252 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).