

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING PAPER HOUSING TRUST FUND

BACKGROUND:

Currently, all counties in Pennsylvania have the ability to enact local housing trust funds in order to provide more affordable housing in their communities. Efforts are underway at the state level to provide a statewide housing trust fund to help accomplish the same objective. If Pennsylvania is successful in passing legislation, it will join 38 other states that have created statewide housing trust funds.

KEY POINTS OF THE LEGISLATION:

House Bill 60 (Daley, D-Fayette) is the “Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Act” and will allow the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency to develop programs to build, rehab and preserve homes specifically for low to moderate income individuals and families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

PAR POSITION

At the January 2009 Business Meetings, the PAR Board of Directors established a Legislative Priority Level II to support the legislation.

TALKING POINTS:

- The lack of affordable housing is a significant hardship for low-income and working households and prevents them from meeting other basic needs, such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.
- Availability of housing for all income levels is critical for balanced and healthy growth of the Commonwealth and its individual communities.
- HB 60 does not include an appropriation, but rather it creates the framework for a trust fund that will be in place to receive state and federal money when our economy gets back on track.
- With a trust fund in place, Pennsylvania will be able to create jobs and tax revenue as well as provide affordable homes for the many Pennsylvanians who are unable to maintain their home or find a decent place to live.

**For further information, contact Derenda Updegrave, Director, Government Affairs.
Document Date: February 9, 2009.**