

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5375

As of February 1, 2021

Title: An act relating to a study of the differences in low-income housing development in urban and rural locations.

Brief Description: Concerning a study of the differences in low-income housing development in urban and rural locations.

Sponsors: Senators Warnick, Fortunato, Rolfes, Van De Wege and Wilson, J..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Housing & Local Government: 2/04/21.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct a study of the differences in low-income housing development in urban and rural counties by December 2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Brandon Popovac (786-7465)

Background: The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) is a joint committee consisting of eight senators and eight representatives, with nonpartisan staff conducting performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, and other analyses, including analyses on housing issues and tax-related policies, as assigned by the Legislature and the committee itself. Since 2018, for example, JLARC has analyzed the costs of developing low-income housing and compared them with market-rate costs, reviewed multifamily housing property tax exemptions in Mason County and in urban areas, and reviewed a sales and use tax exemption for providers of farmworker housing.

Summary of Bill: JLARC must conduct a study of the differences in low-income housing

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development in urban and rural counties by December 2022. Specifically, the study must identify or review the following:

- the amount of publicly subsidized low-income housing developed in urban and rural counties between 2010 and 2020 compared to the demographics and populations of such counties;
- any contributing factors that may impact differences in the amount of development in urban and rural counties; and
- what funding sources have been provided to low-income housing projects built in urban and rural counties.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 30, 2021.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.