

HB 802 -- NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT

SPONSOR: Tracy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, a person or family is considered eligible to qualify for assistance from the Missouri Housing Development Commission under the Neighborhood Assistance Act for an affordable housing unit if the household's combined, adjusted gross income is equal to or less than the specified percentages of the median family income for the geographic area in which the residential unit is located or the median family income for the state, whichever is greater. This applies to rental units and owner-occupied units. This bill increases the income threshold for an owner-occupier of an affordable housing unit so that it is double the threshold required for a rental unit.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows more people to be eligible for the credit for owner-occupied homes built by Habitat for Humanity. While Jefferson City has not used the credits, Cape Girardeau is using them to trade for donations and in-kind labor. The increased income limits are 60% of the medium family income in Jefferson City. Those who get a home from Habitat in Jefferson City have a need for housing, can't get a loan from a bank, and have an average income of \$1,600 per month.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Tracy; and Kelly Smith, Habitat for Humanity.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.