



Bill No: HB 828—Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program – Establishment

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 28, 2023

Position: Favorable with amendments

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) represents members that own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties.

House Bill 826 establishes a statewide rental assistance voucher program by the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide housing vouchers and assistance payments for low-income families still waiting under the federal voucher program. The bill also requires local jurisdiction to administer the program.

AOBA supports measures that preserve the state's housing supply and provides additional aid to residents that need assistance with paying rent. HB 826 will expand and increase needed funding for a statewide housing voucher program for low-income families across the state. Over the past months, renters have experienced increased costs in rent, utilities, and other energy; this bill is essential in addressing the challenges of many financially burdened residents by creating this program.

However, AOBA agrees with affordable housing providers and voucher program administrators that the formula for administrative costs is far too low. This could potentially make the program difficult, if not impossible, to administer. AOBA recommends amending the bill to follow HUDs formula for administrative fees.

For these reasons, AOBA urges a favorable with amendments report on HB 826.

For further information, contact Ryan Washington, AOBA Government Affairs Manager, at rwashington@aoba-metro.org or call 202-770-7713.