

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2011 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Community Affairs

HB 639 — Affordable Housing

by Rep. Aubuchon and others (SB 912 by Senators Bennett and Smith)

This bill removes the statutory limitation on documentary stamp tax revenues that go into the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds and prohibits the use of affordable housing funds for new construction activities until July 1, 2012. The bill also provides targeted assistance for persons with special needs.

The bill allows the Florida Housing and Finance Corporation (FHFC) to receive federal funds for which no corresponding program has been created in statute and empowers local housing authorities to invest surplus funds. The bill provides preference for general contractors who demonstrate the highest rate of Florida job creation in the development and construction of affordable housing and deletes current preference language. The bill also authorizes an inspector general position within the FHFC and deletes the requirement that the inspector general of the Department of Community Affairs serve that function on behalf of the FHFC.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2011.

Vote: Senate 37-2; House 117-0