



City of Houston Testimony Supporting House Bill 1193
Senate Committee on Local Government
May 16, 2023

The City of Houston (Houston or City) appreciates the opportunity to support House Bill 1193, which would prohibit landlords from refusing to lease property to section 8 voucher holders in deed restrictions and similar instruments.

Chapter 202 of the Texas Property Code governs the construction and enforcement of restrictive covenants and other similar dedicatory instruments established by property owners. HB 1193 would add Section 202.024 (Discrimination Against Tenant Based on Method of Payment Prohibited) which would not allow a property owners' association to include or enforce a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts, or has the effect of prohibiting or restricting, a property owner from renting a dwelling to a person based on the person's method of payment.

This would include payments made wholly or partly by Section 8 housing choice vouchers or any other federal or state of local housing assistance.

- Currently, no such statute exists in Chapter 202.

HB 1193 would benefit Houston operations and City of Houston residents by increasing and improving housing options for residents who receive rental assistance from the City. More housing options will become available to these renters since certain dwellings may be unavailable due to these discriminatory practices.

The City will be able to provide assistance to more residents in their current dwellings who would otherwise be prohibited from paying rent with rental assistance. Also, the increase in housing options is beneficial to City when assisting residents relocate to new dwellings under the Uniform Relocation Act.

For these reasons, the City of Houston is pleased to support Senator Miles on House Bill 1193 and urges members of Senate Local Government Committee to support it as well.