



**State Senator
Kirk Watson
District 14**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watson files bills to expand access to affordable housing

Senator Kirk Watson on Thursday filed six bills to preserve and expand the availability of affordable housing.

“Everyone should have the opportunity to sleep in a bed with a roof over their head. As housing costs rise, an increasing number of Texans cannot afford this most basic right. Affordable, stable housing is a crucial aspect of personal and economic prosperity. These six bills will help move us toward ensuring all Texans are able to achieve this prosperity by preserving existing housing and directing our resources as effectively as possible,” Sen. Watson said.

SB 542 allows for affordable housing developments to be built in an area with demonstrated need with the approval of the city council or commissioners’ courts.

SB 543 protects thousands of older affordable housing units from converting to market rate by closing a loophole that allows certain developers to get around the current 30-year federal affordability requirement.

SB 544 ensures that Texas remains compliant with the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act so that Texas will not be in jeopardy of having critical HOME affordable housing funds returned to the federal government.

SB 545 provides needed clarity to developers receiving housing tax credits regarding who they need to notify upon applying for tax credits. This change guarantees that local neighborhood organization receive notice of these applications.

SB 546 ensures the public voice on local housing authorities is preserved by expanding the pool of who may serve as the public member on a local housing authority commission.

SB 547 makes it easier economically for charitable organizations to provide low-income housing through the tax code.

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