



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

## Legislative Summary

# HB 960 Session 2021-2022 Fighting Blight and Homelessness Simultaneously

### Sponsors

Representative Robert  
Freeman (D, 136)

### Summary

This legislation will expand the powers of land banks to enter partnerships with organizations in the private sector to create local solutions to address the lack of housing for the homeless population within their communities and will exempt land bank transactions from both state and local realty transfer taxes.

### Geographic Applicability

Statewide

### Bill Requirements and/or Changes from an Existing Law

The legislation amends Title 68 relating to Real and Personal Property to as follows:

- 1.) A paragraph is added to Section 2102 on Legislative Findings and Purpose to declare that land banks can be powerful tools in fighting homelessness with tangible benefits for municipalities.
- 2.) Land bank powers are expanded to include the ability to enter into partnerships, joint ventures, and other collaborative relationships with other entities, including private developers, to convert blighted properties into housing for the homeless.
- 3.) "Housing for homeless individuals" is added to a list of possible uses that a land bank jurisdiction may wish to prioritize.
- 4.) Transfers of property to or from a land bank are exempt from both state and local Realty Transfer Tax.

### Companion Bill?

No

### Latest Action on Bill

Referred to Urban Affairs, June 8, 2021

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### Housing Alliance Position

Support