

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSE

Clearinghouse Rule Number: 08-008		Hearing Location: Madison, Wisconsin	
Rule Number: Chapter Comm 156		Hearing Date: February 29, 2008	
Relating to: A Grant Program for Rehabilitation and Recycling of Manufactured Housing			
Comments: Oral or Exhibit No.	Presenter, Group Represented, City and State	Comments/Recommendations	Agency Response
Oral	Ross Kinzler Wisconsin Housing Alliance 301 North Broom Street Madison, Wisconsin	1a. Comm 156.20 (1): Recommends modifying the definition of “abandoned” to include manufactured homes for which ownership has been relinquished because of hospitalization or other incapacity-type conditions; and to not require a terminal vacancy of at least four months for those homes.	1a. The definition has been modified to not exclude these circumstances, and to not require a four-month vacancy.
		1b. Comm 156.20 (7): Recommends clarifying the reference for “manufactured home” to more clearly convey that the term includes mobile homes as defined in the <i>Wisconsin Statutes</i> as being manufactured or assembled before June 15, 1976.	1b. The informational note in this section has been revised to more clearly convey that these mobile homes are included.
		1c. Comm 156.34 (1): Recommends replacing the 1-year lease period with a requirement to instead have a written lease in accordance with section 710.15 of the Statutes, in order to accommodate the month-to-month leases that are commonly used.	1c. The rule text has been modified as recommended.
Oral	Amy Bliss Tomorrow’s Home Foundation, and the Wisconsin Housing Alliance 301 North Broom Street Madison, Wisconsin	2a. Is very much in favor of the program. Recommends keeping in mind that the program established by the rules will be somewhat of a homeless-prevention program, because it can help some homes from becoming inhabitable. States the homeowners which the Foundation helps typically have very low incomes and frequently are disabled or are elderly, but the homes are often affordable because of being free of debt. Hopes the program funds will be largely spent on repairs to homes such as these, rather than substantially on inspections, appraisals or administrative costs.	2a. Support is noted, and the rule text has been modified to further direct the funding to actual repairs for homeowners who are most in need of the financial assistance, rather than to inspections, appraisals and administrative costs.
		2b. Hopes the program can help fund needed repairs that are too expensive for the Foundation, such as for roofs, wells, and septic systems.	2b. Recommendation is noted.

File reference: Comm 156/Hearing summary