



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 24, 2012

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

**FROM:** Terri A. Hancharick, Chairperson  
GACEC

**RE:** House Substitute 1 to House Bill No. 227 Affordable Housing/Universal Design

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Substitute 1 for House Bill No. 227 on affordable housing and universal design. Council understands that this bill will require that bids for all newly constructed dwelling units using public financial assistance shall indicate the extent of the universal design standards in the proposal. The bill sets up a 40-point scale covering the key elements of universal design with incentives for builders using universal design elements. In selecting a bid, the extent of universal design use may form a basis to award the contract based on the best value, rather than the lowest bidder. The GACEC **endorses** and supports House Substitute 1 to House Bill No. 227.

Council has long maintained that it is more feasible economically and aesthetically to build new homes using universal design standards than to renovate when necessary. Universal design features are useful not only for individuals with disabilities but for our aging population as well. Thank you for your time and attention in reviewing our position and commentary. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss, GACEC Executive Director, if you have any questions.