



# Senate LIHC Bill Delayed in Order to Generate More Support

*By Michael J. Novogradac, CPA*

Once again, Sens. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and Bob Graham (D-Fla.) have delayed introducing their much-anticipated tax credit cap increase legislation until the second week of May, a Senate Finance Committee staffer confirmed. Mack and Graham hope to sign up at least 50 Senate supporters by the time they unveil their proposal. The Mack/Graham bill would increase the low-income housing tax credit (LIHC) from the current \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita, as well as index the cap to inflation in future years. As of April 29 the Mack/Graham proposal has gained an impressive 41 cosponsors including Senate Finance Committee members, Sens. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), John Chafee (R-R.I.) and Richard Bryan (D-Nev.). Despite the strong support, Mack and Graham decided to wait for political reasons. "They want to have a very strong showing of support before they actually introduce the bill," said a National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) legislative analyst. "[Mack and Graham] want to be able to say on the Senate floor, 'I am standing here today with 50 of my colleagues to introduce this critical bill.'" Some affordable housing policy experts believe it's essential for the Mack/Graham bill to have support from the majority of Senators before introduction in order to solidify their political position. The now defunct S. 1252, last year's LIHC cap increase bill, failed despite having an impressive 66 Senate cosponsors. In a climate of myriad competing interests and limited federal resources, LIHC practitioners agree the more support the measure can generate, the better chance it has for enactment. ❖

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