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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY - FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Crowley, Jabour, Ciccone, and Quezada

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 34-37-1, 34-37-2, 34-37-3, 34-37-4, 34-37-4.3, 34-37-5.2, 34-37-  
2   5.3 and 34-37-5.4 of the General Laws in Chapter 34-37 entitled "Rhode Island Fair Housing  
3   Practices Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **34-37-1. Finding and declaration of policy.**

5           (a) In the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, hereinafter referred to as the  
6   state, many people are denied equal opportunity in obtaining housing accommodations and are  
7   forced to live in circumscribed areas because of discriminatory housing practices based upon  
8   race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, [lawful](#)  
9   [source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or  
10   general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin,  
11   disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a tenant or applicant or a member of the  
12   household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or that the  
13   tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking, relief from any court in the form of a  
14   restraining order for protection from domestic abuse. These practices tend unjustly to condemn  
15   large groups of inhabitants to dwell in segregated districts or under depressed living conditions in  
16   crowded, unsanitary, substandard, and unhealthful accommodations. These conditions breed  
17   intergroup tension as well as vice, disease, juvenile delinquency, and crime; increase the fire  
18   hazard; endanger the public health; jeopardize the public safety, general welfare, and good order  
19   of the entire state; and impose substantial burdens on the public revenues for the abatement and

1 relief of conditions so created. These discriminatory and segregative housing practices are  
2 inimical to and subvert the basic principles upon which the colony of Rhode Island and  
3 Providence Plantations was founded and upon which the state and the United States were later  
4 established. Discrimination and segregation in housing tend to result in segregation in our public  
5 schools and other public facilities, which is contrary to the policy of the state and the constitution  
6 of the United States. Further, discrimination and segregation in housing adversely affect urban  
7 renewal programs and the growth, progress, and prosperity of the state. In order to aid in the  
8 correction of these evils, it is necessary to safeguard the right of all individuals to equal  
9 opportunity in obtaining housing accommodations free of discrimination.

10 (b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to assure to all individuals regardless  
11 of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status,  
12 [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable  
13 or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral  
14 origin, or disability, age, familial status, housing status, or those tenants or applicants or members  
15 of a household who are, or have been, or are threatened with being the victims of domestic abuse,  
16 or those tenants or applicants who have obtained, or sought, or are seeking relief from any court  
17 in the form of a restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, equal opportunity to live in  
18 decent, safe, sanitary, and healthful accommodations anywhere within the state in order that the  
19 peace, health, safety, and general welfare of all the inhabitants of the state may be protected and  
20 ensured.

21 (c) The practice of discrimination in rental housing based on the potential or actual  
22 tenancy of a person with a minor child, or on the basis that a tenant or applicant or a member of  
23 the household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or that the  
24 tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in the form of a  
25 restraining order for protection from domestic abuse is declared to be against public policy.

26 (d) This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the state for the  
27 protection of the public welfare, prosperity, health, and peace of the people of the state.

28 (e) Nothing in this section shall prevent a landlord from proceeding with eviction action  
29 against a tenant who fails to comply with § 34-18-24(7).

30 **34-37-2. Right to equal housing opportunities -- Civil rights.**

31 The right of all individuals in the state to equal housing opportunities regardless of race,  
32 color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source](#)  
33 [of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or general  
34 administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin,

1 disability, age, familial status, or regardless of the fact that a tenant or applicant or a member of  
2 the household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or that the  
3 tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking, relief from any court in the form of a  
4 restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, is hereby recognized as, and declared to be,  
5 a civil right. Nothing in this section shall prevent a landlord from proceeding with eviction action  
6 against a tenant who fails to comply with § 34-18-24(7).

7 **34-37-3. Definitions.**

8 When used in this chapter:

9 (1) "Age" means anyone over the age of eighteen (18).

10 (2) "Armed forces" means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant  
11 Marines, or Air Force of the United States and the Rhode Island National Guard.

12 (3) "Commission" means the Rhode Island commission for human rights created by §  
13 28-5-8.

14 (4) "Disability" means a disability as defined in § 42-87-1.

15 Provided, further, that the term "disability" does not include current, illegal use of, or  
16 addiction to, a controlled substance, as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 802.

17 (5) "Discriminate" includes segregate, separate, or otherwise differentiate between or  
18 among individuals because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or  
19 expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable  
20 discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed  
21 forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, housing status, or familial status or because of  
22 the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status,  
23 [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable  
24 or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral  
25 origin, disability, age, housing status, or familial status of any person with whom they are, or may  
26 wish to be, associated.

27 (6) The term "domestic abuse" for the purposes of this chapter shall have the same  
28 meaning as that set forth in § 15-15-1 and include all forms of domestic violence as set forth in §  
29 12-29-2, except that the domestic abuse need not involve a minor or parties with minor children.

30 (7) (i) "Familial status" means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of  
31 eighteen (18) years being domiciled with:

32 (A) A parent or another person having legal custody of the individual or individuals; or

33 (B) The designee of the parent or other person having the custody, with the written  
34 permission of the parent or other person, provided that, if the individual is not a relative or legal

1 dependent of the designee, that the individual shall have been domiciled with the designee for at  
2 least six (6) months.

3 (ii) The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall  
4 apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any  
5 individual who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years.

6 (8) The terms, as used regarding persons with disabilities, "auxiliary aids and services",  
7 "reasonable accommodation", and "reasonable modifications" have the same meaning as those  
8 terms are defined in § 42-87-1.1.

9 (9) The term "gender identity or expression" includes a person's actual or perceived  
10 gender, as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self image, gender-related  
11 appearance, or gender-related expression; whether or not that gender identity, gender-related self  
12 image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression is different from that traditionally  
13 associated with the person's sex at birth.

14 (10) "Housing accommodation" includes any building or structure, or portion of any  
15 building or structure, or any parcel of land, developed or undeveloped, that is occupied or is  
16 intended, designed, or arranged to be occupied, or to be developed for occupancy, as the home or  
17 residence of one or more persons.

18 (11) "Otherwise qualified" includes any person with a disability who, with respect to the  
19 rental of property, personally or with assistance arranged by the person with a disability, is  
20 capable of performing all the responsibilities of a tenant as contained in § 34-18-24.

21 (12) "Owner" includes any person having the right to sell, rent, lease, or manage a  
22 housing accommodation.

23 (13) "Person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations,  
24 corporations, labor organizations, mutual companies, joint stock companies, trusts, receivers,  
25 legal representatives, trustees, other fiduciaries, or real estate brokers or real estate salespersons  
26 as defined in chapter 20.5 of title 5.

27 (14) "Senior citizen" means a person sixty-two (62) years of age or older.

28 (15) The term "sexual orientation" means having, or being perceived as having, an  
29 orientation for heterosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexuality. This definition is intended to  
30 describe the status of persons and does not render lawful any conduct prohibited by the criminal  
31 laws of this state nor impose any duty on a religious organization. This definition does not confer  
32 legislative approval of said status, but is intended to ensure the basic human rights of persons to  
33 hold and convey property and to give and obtain credit, regardless of such status.

34 (16) The term "victim" means a family or household member and all other persons

1 contained within the definition of those terms as defined in § 12-29-2.

2 (17) The term "housing status" means the status of having or not having a fixed or  
3 regular residence, including the status of living on the streets or in a homeless shelter or similar  
4 temporary residence.

5 (18) The term "lawful source of income" means being the recipient of federal, state or  
6 local public assistance, including medical assistance, or the recipient of federal, state or local  
7 housing subsidies, including Section 8, and other rental assistance or rental supplements, or who  
8 is subject to the requirements of any public assistance, rental assistance or housing subsidy  
9 program.

10 **34-37-4. Unlawful housing practices.**

11 (a) No owner having the right to sell, rent, lease, or manage a housing accommodation as  
12 defined in § 34-37-3(10), or an agent of any of these, shall, directly or indirectly, make, or cause  
13 to be made, any written or oral inquiry concerning the race, color, religion, sex, sexual  
14 orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, military status  
15 as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge,  
16 servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin or disability, age, familial status  
17 nor make any written or oral inquiry concerning whether a tenant or applicant or a member of the  
18 household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or whether a  
19 tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in the form of a  
20 restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, of any prospective purchaser, occupant, or  
21 tenant of the housing accommodation; directly or indirectly, refuse to sell, rent, lease, let, or  
22 otherwise deny to or withhold from any individual the housing accommodation because of the  
23 race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful  
24 source of income, military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or  
25 general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin,  
26 disability, age, or familial status of the individual or the race, color, religion, sex, sexual  
27 orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, military status  
28 as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge,  
29 servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin or disability, age, or familial  
30 status of any person with whom the individual is or may wish to be associated; or shall, or on the  
31 basis that a tenant or applicant, or a member of the household, is or has been, or is threatened with  
32 being, the victim of domestic abuse, or that the tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is  
33 seeking, relief from any court in the form of a restraining order for protection from domestic  
34 abuse. Nor shall an owner having the right to sell, rent, lease, or manage a housing

1 accommodation as defined in § 34-37-3(10), or an agent of any of these, directly or indirectly,  
2 issue any advertisement relating to the sale, rental, or lease of the housing accommodation that  
3 indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based upon race, color,  
4 religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source of](#)  
5 [income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable or general  
6 administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin,  
7 disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a tenant or applicant or a member of the  
8 household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or that the  
9 tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in the form of a  
10 restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, or shall, directly or indirectly, discriminate  
11 against any individual because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
12 identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an  
13 honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the  
14 armed forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a  
15 tenant or applicant or a member of the household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the  
16 victim of domestic abuse, or that the tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking  
17 relief from any court in the form of a restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, in the  
18 terms, conditions, or privileges of the sale, rental, or lease of any housing accommodation or in  
19 the furnishing of facilities or services in connection with it. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
20 construed to prohibit any oral or written inquiry as to whether the prospective purchaser or tenant  
21 is over the age of eighteen (18).

22 (b) No person to whom application is made for a loan or other form of financial  
23 assistance for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair, or maintenance of any housing  
24 accommodation, whether secured or unsecured shall directly or indirectly make or cause to be  
25 made any written or oral inquiry concerning the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation,  
26 gender identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran  
27 with an honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember  
28 in the armed forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, familial status, or any express  
29 written or oral inquiry into whether a tenant or applicant or a member of the household is, or has  
30 been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or whether a tenant or applicant  
31 has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in the form of a restraining order for  
32 protection from domestic abuse, of any individual seeking the financial assistance, or of existing  
33 or prospective occupants or tenants of the housing accommodation; nor shall any person to whom  
34 the application is made in the manner provided, directly or indirectly, discriminate in the terms,

1 conditions, or privileges relating to the obtaining or use of any financial assistance against any  
2 applicant because of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or  
3 expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable  
4 discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed  
5 forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a tenant or  
6 applicant or a member of the household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of  
7 domestic abuse, or that the tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from  
8 any court in the form of a restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, of the applicant or  
9 of the existing or prospective occupants or tenants. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
10 to prohibit any written or oral inquiry as to whether the applicant is over the age of eighteen (18).

11 (c) Nothing in this section contained shall be construed in any manner to prohibit or limit  
12 the exercise of the privilege of every person and the agent of any person having the right to sell,  
13 rent, lease, or manage a housing accommodation to establish standards and preferences and set  
14 terms, conditions, limitations, or specifications in the selling, renting, leasing, or letting thereof or  
15 in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith that do not discriminate on the  
16 basis of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital  
17 status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an  
18 honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of  
19 ancestral origin, disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a tenant or applicant or a  
20 member of the household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic  
21 abuse, or that the tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in  
22 the form of a restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, of any prospective purchaser,  
23 lessee, tenant, or occupant thereof or on the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
24 identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an  
25 honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the  
26 armed forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, or familial status of any person with  
27 whom the prospective purchaser, lessee, tenant, or occupant is or may wish to be associated.  
28 Nothing contained in this section shall be construed in any manner to prohibit or limit the  
29 exercise of the privilege of every person and the agent of any person making loans for, or offering  
30 financial assistance in, the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair, or maintenance of  
31 housing accommodations to set standards and preferences, terms, conditions, limitations, or  
32 specifications for the granting of loans or financial assistance that do not discriminate on the basis  
33 of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status,  
34 [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge or an honorable

1 or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country of ancestral  
2 origin, disability, age, familial status, or on the basis that a tenant or applicant or a member of the  
3 household is, or has been, or is threatened with being the victim of domestic abuse, or that the  
4 tenant or applicant has obtained, or sought, or is seeking relief from any court in the form of a  
5 restraining order for protection from domestic abuse, of the applicant for the loan or financial  
6 assistance or of any existing or prospective owner, lessee, tenant, or occupant of the housing  
7 accommodation.

8 (d) An owner may not refuse to allow a person with a disability to make, at his or her  
9 expense, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the person  
10 if the modifications may be necessary to afford the person full enjoyment of the premises, except  
11 that, in the case of a rental, the owner may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission  
12 for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition  
13 that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted. Where it is necessary in  
14 order to ensure with reasonable certainty that funds will be available to pay for the restorations at  
15 the end of the tenancy, the landlord may negotiate as part of the restoration agreement a provision  
16 requiring that the tenant pay into an interest bearing escrow account, over a reasonable period, a  
17 reasonable amount of money not to exceed the cost of the restorations. The interest in the account  
18 shall accrue to the benefit of the tenant. The restoration deposition shall be exempt from § 34-18-  
19 19(a) but will be subject to § 34-18-19(b) -- (f).

20 (e) (1) An owner may not refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies,  
21 practices, or services when those accommodations may be necessary to afford an occupant with a  
22 disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.

23 (2) Every person with a disability who has a guide dog or other personal assistive  
24 animal, or who obtains a guide dog or other personal assistive animal, shall be entitled to full and  
25 equal access to all housing accommodations provided for in this section and shall not be required  
26 to pay extra compensation for the guide dog or other personal assistive animal but shall be liable  
27 for any damage done to the premises by a guide dog or other personal assistive animal. For the  
28 purposes of this subsection, a "personal assistive animal" is an animal specifically trained by a  
29 certified animal training program to assist a person with a disability to perform independent living  
30 tasks.

31 (f) Any housing accommodation of four (4) units or more constructed for first occupancy  
32 after March 13, 1991, shall be designed and constructed in such a manner that:

33 (1) The public use and common use portions of the dwellings are readily accessible to  
34 and usable by persons with disabilities;



1 (2) All the doors designed to allow passage into and within all premises within the  
2 dwellings are sufficiently wide to allow passage by persons with disabilities in wheelchairs;

3 (3) All premises within the dwellings contain the following features of adaptive design:

4 (i) Accessible route into and through the dwelling;

5 (ii) Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls in  
6 accessible locations;

7 (iii) Reinforcements in bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars; and

8 (iv) Usable kitchens and bathrooms such that an individual in a wheelchair can maneuver  
9 about the space. To the extent that any state or local building codes, statutes, or ordinances are  
10 inconsistent with this section, they are hereby repealed. The state building code standards  
11 committee is hereby directed to adopt rules and regulations consistent with this section as soon as  
12 possible, but no later than September 30, 1990.

13 (g) Compliance with the appropriate requirements of the state building code 14  
14 "accessibility for individuals with disabilities for residential use groups" suffices to satisfy the  
15 requirements of subsection (f).

16 (h) As used in subsection (f), the term "housing accommodation of four (4) units or  
17 more" means:

18 (1) Buildings consisting of four (4) or more units if those buildings have one or more  
19 elevators; and

20 (2) Ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four (4) or more units;

21 (i) Nothing in subsection (f) shall be construed to limit any law, statute, or regulation that  
22 requires a greater degree of accessibility to persons with disabilities.

23 (j) Nothing in this section requires that a dwelling be made available to an individual  
24 whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or  
25 whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others.

26 (k) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit an owner, lessee,  
27 sublessee, or assignee from advertising or selecting a person of the same or opposite gender to  
28 rent, lease, or share the housing unit that the owner, lessee, sublessee, or assignee will occupy  
29 with the person selected.

30 (l) No person shall aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce the doing of any act declared by  
31 this section to be an unlawful housing practice; or obstruct or prevent any person from complying  
32 with the provisions of this chapter or any order issued thereunder; or attempt directly or indirectly  
33 to commit any act declared by this section to be an unlawful housing practice.

34 (m) No owner; person defined in § 34-37-3(13); person to whom application is made for

1 a loan or other form of financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair,  
2 or maintenance of any housing accommodation, whether secured or unsecured; no financial  
3 organization governed by the provisions of title 19 or any other credit-granting commercial  
4 institution; or respondent under this chapter; or any agent of these shall discriminate in any  
5 manner against any individual because he or she has opposed any practice forbidden by this  
6 chapter, or because he or she has made a charge, testified, or assisted in any manner in any  
7 investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this chapter.

8 (n) Nothing in this section shall prevent a landlord from proceeding with eviction action  
9 against a tenant who fails to comply with § 34-18-24(7).

10 **34-37-4.3. Discrimination in granting credit or loans prohibited.**

11 No financial organization governed by the provisions of title 19 or any other credit  
12 granting commercial institution may discriminate in the granting or extension of any form of loan  
13 or credit, or the privilege or capacity to obtain any form of loan or credit, on the basis of the  
14 applicant's sex, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an  
15 honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the  
16 armed forces, race or color, religion or country of ancestral origin, disability or age or familial  
17 status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression and the form of loan and credit shall  
18 not be limited to those concerned with housing accommodations and the commission shall  
19 prevent any violation hereof in the same manner as it is to prevent unlawful housing practices  
20 under the provisions of this chapter.

21 **34-37-5.2. Discrimination in brokerage services.**

22 It shall be unlawful to deny any person who meets licensing and other non-discriminatory  
23 requirements that are also applied to other applicants and members access to, or membership or  
24 participation in, any real estate listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service,  
25 organization, or facility relating to the business of selling, leasing, or renting a housing  
26 accommodation or to discriminate against him or her in the terms or conditions of the access,  
27 membership, or participation on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
28 identity or expression, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an  
29 honorable discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the  
30 armed forces, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, or familial status.

31 **34-37-5.3. Fostering of segregated housing prohibited.**

32 It shall be an unlawful discriminatory housing practice to for profit induce, or attempt to  
33 induce, any person to sell or rent any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or  
34 prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, color, religion,

1 marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge  
2 or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country  
3 of ancestral origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, or  
4 familial status.

5 **34-37-5.4. Discrimination in residential real estate related transactions.**

6 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or other entity whose business includes engaging  
7 in residential real estate-related transactions to discriminate against any person in making  
8 available a transaction, or in the terms and conditions of the transaction, because of race, color,  
9 religion, marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable  
10 discharge or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed  
11 forces, country of ancestral origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age,  
12 disability, or familial status.

13 (b) As used in this section, the term "residential real estate-related transaction" means  
14 any of the following:

15 (1) The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance:

16 (i) For purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling; or

17 (ii) Secured by residential real estate.

18 (2) The selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property.

19 (c) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a person engaged in the business of furnishing  
20 appraisals of real property to take into consideration factors other than race, color, religion,  
21 marital status, [lawful source of income](#), military status as a veteran with an honorable discharge  
22 or an honorable or general administrative discharge, servicemember in the armed forces, country  
23 of ancestral origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, or  
24 familial status.

25 SECTION 2. Chapter 34-37 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Fair Housing  
26 Practices Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

27 **34-37-2.5. Right to equal housing opportunities - Lawful source of income.**

28 [Whenever in this chapter there shall appear the words "marital status" there shall be](#)  
29 [inserted immediately thereafter the words "lawful source of income."](#)

30 **34-37-4.6. Discrimination based on lawful source of income - Exemption.**

31 [Nothing in this title shall prohibit an owner of a housing accommodation from refusing to](#)  
32 [rent to a person based on their lawful source of income if the housing accommodation is three \(3\)](#)  
33 [units or less, one of which is occupied by the owner.](#)

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO PROPERTY - FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES

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1           This act would prohibit discrimination in housing against those persons who have a  
2 lawful source of income.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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