

2020 -- S 2485

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Metts, and Quezada

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 45-25-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-25 entitled "City
2 Housing Authorities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-25-18. Tenant selection.**

4 (a) In the operation or management of housing projects, the authority shall at all times
5 observe the following duties with respect to rentals and tenant selections: (1) it may rent or lease
6 the dwelling accommodations of housing projects only to persons who lack the amount of income
7 necessary (as determined by the housing authority undertaking the project) to enable them,
8 without financial assistance, to live in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings, without overcrowding;
9 and (2) it may rent or lease to a tenant dwelling accommodations only at rentals within the
10 financial reach of that person; provided, that an authority may agree to conditions as to tenant
11 eligibility or preference required by the federal government pursuant to federal law in any
12 contract for financial assistance with the authority.

13 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, in the operation or management
14 of housing projects, the authority shall not discriminate or deny equal opportunity in obtaining
15 housing based upon a criminal conviction, criminal history or history of arrests.

16 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any criminal
17 conviction for a sexual assault in violation of chapter 37 of title 11 or any offense requiring
18 registration pursuant to § 11-37.1-3.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

1 This act would prohibit discrimination against criminally convicted persons in public
2 housing project assignments. Exception is made for sexual assault violations and offenses that
3 require registration pursuant to the provisions of the sexual offender registration and community
4 notification chapter.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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