



Substitute House Bill No. 7225

Public Act No. 19-168

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HOUSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 47a-6a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

(a) As used in this section, "address" means a location as described by the full street number, if any, the street name, the city or town, and the state, and not a mailing address such as a post office box, "dwelling unit" means any house or building, or portion thereof, which is rented, leased or hired out to be occupied, or is arranged or designed to be occupied, or is occupied, as the home or residence of one or more persons, living independently of each other, and doing their cooking upon the premises, and having a common right in the halls, stairways or yards, [and] "agent in charge" means one who manages real estate, including, but not limited to, the collection of rents and supervision of property, "controlling participant" means an individual or entity that exercises day-to-day financial or operational control, and "project-based housing provider" means a property owner who contracts with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing to tenants under the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, 42 USC 1437f(o).

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(b) Any municipality may require the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of occupied or vacant rental real property to maintain on file in the office of the tax assessor, or other municipal office designated by the municipality, the current residential address of the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of such property, if the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider is an individual, or the current residential address of the agent in charge of the building, if the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legally recognized entity owning rental real property in the state. In the case of a project-based housing provider, such information shall also include identifying information and the current residential address of each controlling participant associated with the property, except that, if such controlling participant is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legally recognized entity, the project-based housing provider shall include the identifying information and the current residential address of an individual who exercises day-to-day financial or operational control of such entity. If such residential address changes, notice of the new residential address shall be provided by such nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent in charge of the building to the office of the tax assessor or other designated municipal office not more than twenty-one days after the date that the address change occurred. If the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent fails to file an address under this section, the address to which the municipality mails property tax bills for the rental real property shall be deemed to be the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent's current address. Such address may be used for compliance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Service of state or municipal orders relating to maintenance of such rental real property or compliance with state law and local codes concerning such real property directed to the nonresident owner,

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project-based housing provider or agent at the address on file, or deemed to be on file in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be sufficient proof of service of notice of such orders in any subsequent criminal or civil action against the owner, project-based housing provider or agent for failure to comply with the orders. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the validity of any other means of giving notice of such orders that may be used by the state or such municipality.

(d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall have committed an infraction.

Sec. 2. Section 47a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 51-164p, any municipality may by ordinance adopted by its legislative body establish a civil penalty for a violation of section 47a-6a, as amended by this act, provided the amount of such civil penalty shall be not more than [two] five hundred [fifty] dollars for the first violation and not more than one thousand dollars for any subsequent violation. Any person who is assessed a civil penalty pursuant to this section may appeal therefrom to the Superior Court. An appeal shall be instituted not later than thirty days after the mailing of notice of such assessment by filing a petition to reopen assessment, together with an entry fee in an amount equal to the entry fee for a small claims case pursuant to section 52-259, at the Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator, which shall entitle such person to a hearing in accordance with the rules of the judges of the Superior Court.