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2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

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11 A BILL  
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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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17 To amend the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to allow applicants for local  
18 rent supplement vouchers to self-certify eligibility factors; and to prohibit the Housing  
19 Authority from inquiring into an applicant's immigration status or prior criminal arrests,  
20 convictions, or pending criminal matters.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
22  
23 act may be cited as the "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Amendment Act of 2023".

24 Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective May 9,  
25 2000 (D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6-201 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

26 (a) Section 26a(c) (D.C. Official Code § 6-226(c)) is amended to read as follows:

27 "(c)(1) Except as prescribed in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, the  
28 Authority shall apply its existing Partnership Program and Housing Choice Voucher Program  
29 rules to govern eligibility, admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants in units receiving  
30 tenant-based, sponsor-based, or project-based voucher assistance under this section, §§ 6-227 , 2-  
31 228, and 6-229.

32 "(2) The Authority shall not inquire about nor consider for the purposes of  
33 eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy any information about citizenship, immigration  
34 status, or prior criminal arrests, convictions, or pending criminal matters.

35                   “(3) Rules governing eligibility, admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants  
36 in units receiving tenant-based, sponsor-based, or project-based voucher assistance under this  
37 section, § 6-227, 6-228, or § 6-229 shall not be inconsistent with this section, § 6-227, 6-228, or  
38 § 6-229.

39                   “(4)(A) The Authority shall allow applicants or participants to self-certify any  
40 required eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy factors when an applicant cannot easily  
41 obtain verification documentation.

42                   “(B) Self-certification by the applicant at the time of initial eligibility shall  
43 be final and remain sufficient for purposes of continued occupancy recertifications.

44                   (5) The Authority shall promulgate such additional rules as are necessary to  
45 ensure that eligibility for tenancy in the units supported by grants under this section is limited to  
46 households with gross income at or below 30% of the area median income.”.

47                   (b) Section 26b(c) (D.C. Official Code § 6-227(c)) is amended to read as follows:

48                   “(c)(1) Except as prescribed in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, the  
49 Authority shall apply its existing Partnership Program and Housing Choice Voucher Program  
50 rules to govern eligibility, admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants in units receiving  
51 sponsor-based or project-based voucher assistance under this section, §§ 6-226, and 6-229.

52                   “(2) The Authority shall not inquire about nor consider for the purposes of  
53 eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy any information about citizenship, immigration  
54 status, or prior criminal arrests, convictions, or pending criminal matters.

55                   “(3) Rules governing eligibility, admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants  
56 in units receiving sponsor-based or project-based voucher assistance under this section, § 6-226,  
57 or § 6-229 shall not be inconsistent with this section, § 6-226, or § 6-229.

58                   “(4)(A) The Authority shall allow applicants or participants to self-certify any  
59 required eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy factors when an applicant cannot easily  
60 obtain verification documentation.

61                   “(B) Self-certification by the applicant at the time of initial eligibility shall  
62 be final and remain sufficient for purposes of continued occupancy recertifications.

63                   (5) The Authority shall promulgate such additional rules as are necessary to  
64 ensure that eligibility for tenancy in the units supported by grants under this section is limited to  
65 households with gross income at or below 30% of the area median income.

66                   (c) Section 26c(a) (D.C. Official Code § 6-228(a) is amended to read as follows:

67                   “(a)(1)The funds allocated for tenant-based assistance shall be administered through the  
68 Authority’s Housing Choice Voucher Program.

69                   “(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of this section, tenant-  
70 based assistance provided through the Rent Supplement Program shall be subject to the  
71 Authority’s existing rules, regulations, policies, and procedures for the Housing Choice Voucher  
72 Program;

73                   “(3) The Authority shall not inquire about nor consider for the purposes of  
74 eligibility, admission or continued occupancy any information about immigration status or prior  
75 criminal arrests, convictions, or pending criminal matters.

76                   “(4) Rules governing eligibility, admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants  
77 in units receiving tenant-based voucher assistance under this section shall not be inconsistent  
78 with this section or § 6-226.

79                   “(5)(A) The Authority shall allow applicants or participants to self-certify any  
80 required eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy factors when an applicant cannot easily  
81 obtain verification documentation.

82                   “(B) Self-certification by the applicant at the time of initial eligibility shall  
83 be final and remain sufficient for purposes of continued occupancy recertifications.

84                   “(6) Existing rules, regulations, policies, and procedures affecting the Rent  
85 Supplement Program shall be submitted for Council review.”.

86                   Section 3. Fiscal impact statement.

87                   The Council adopts the fiscal impact statements in the committee report as the fiscal  
88 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
89 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

90                   Section 4. Effective date.

91                   This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
92 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
93 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
94 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
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