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Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To amend, on a temporary basis, the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to
allow applicants for local rent supplement vouchers to self-certify eligibility factors; and
to prohibit the Housing Authority from inquiring into an applicant's immigration status or
prior criminal arrests, convictions, or pending criminal matters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

Act may be cited as the "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Temporary Amendment

Act of 2023".

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective May 9, 2000

(D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6-201 et seq.), is amended as follows:

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

"(c)(1) Except as provided in this subsection the Authority shall apply its existing

Partnership Program and Housing Choice Voucher Program rules to govern eligibility,

admission, and continuing occupancy by tenants in units receiving tenant-based, sponsor-based,

or project-based voucher assistance under this section and sections 26b, 26c, and 26d.

"(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the Authority shall not inquire about nor

consider any information about citizenship, immigration status, prior criminal arrests,

convictions, or pending criminal matters for the purposes of eligibility, admission, or continued

occupancy for the programs established under this section and sections 26b, 26c, and 26d and

shall not maintain rules inconsistent with this subsection.

32   "(3)(A) The Authority shall allow applicants or participants to self-certify any

33 required eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy factors when an applicant cannot easily

34 obtain verification documentation.

35   "(B) Self-certification by the applicant at the time of initial eligibility shall

36 be final and remain sufficient for purposes of continued occupancy recertifications.

37   "(4) The Authority shall promulgate such additional rules as are necessary to

38 ensure that eligibility for tenancy in the units supported by grants under this section and section

39 26b are limited to households with gross income at or below 30% of the area median income."

40   "(5) Rules affecting the Rent Supplement Program shall be submitted to the

41 Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding days of Council recess. If the Council does not

42 approve or disapprove the proposed rules by resolution within the 45-day review period, the

43 proposed rules shall be deemed approved.".

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

45   "(c) Rules regarding the implementation of this section shall be promulgated according to

46 section 26a(c) of this act.".

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

48   "(a) The funds allocated for tenant-based assistance shall be administered through the

49 Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program.".

50   Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

51   The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact

52 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved

53 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

54   Sec. 4. Effective date.

55   (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by

56   the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review

57   as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

58   24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of

59   Columbia Register.

60   (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.