

1421 AMH HHSV EYCH 241

By Representative Gilday

HB 1421 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Housing, Human Services & Veterans

1 On page 1, beginning on line 7, after "(1)" strike all material
2 through "(2)" on line 11

3
4 Renumber the remaining subsections consecutively and correct any
5 internal references accordingly.

6
7 On page 4, line 9, after "(5)" strike "(a)"

8
9 On page 4, at the beginning of line 11, strike "(i)" and insert
10 "(a)"

11
12 On page 4, line 12, after "name;" strike "or"

13
14 On page 4, at the beginning of line 13, strike "(ii)" and insert
15 "(b)"

16
17 On page 4, beginning on line 15, after "name" strike all material
18 through "deposit" on line 18 and insert "; or

19 (c) Refuse to open an account in the name of a residential tenant
20 seeking utility services based on either of the following criteria:

21 (i) The fact that the individual is a residential tenant and not
22 the property owner; or

23 (ii) Unpaid utility charges that were accrued by the residential
24 tenant during the time the governor's emergency proclamation was in
25 effect.

26 (6) A city or town may charge a residential tenant seeking utility
27 services a reasonable deposit"

1 Renumber the remaining subsections consecutively and correct any
2 internal references accordingly.

3
4 On page 4, after line 28, insert the following:

5 "(8) Upon the expiration or termination of the governor's
6 emergency proclamation related to ratepayer assistance and
7 preservation of essential services, a city or town may implement a
8 repayment plan to collect from a residential tenant any unpaid utility
9 charges that were incurred by the tenant during the time the
10 governor's emergency proclamation was in effect. A city or town must
11 collect the unpaid utility charges within 12 months of the expiration
12 or termination of the governor's emergency proclamation. Any unpaid
13 utility charges remaining after the 12-month collection period is over
14 must be waived.

15 (9) For the purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Governor's emergency proclamation" means proclamation 20-23,
17 in effect beginning March 18, 2020, and includes all subsequent orders
18 extending and amending this proclamation.

19 (b) "Utility or service" means electricity, garbage collection and
20 disposal, internet, sewer, storm and surface water collection and
21 disposal, and water."

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

- Prohibits a city or town from refusing to open a utility account in the name of a residential tenant based on either the fact that the individual is a tenant and not the property owner, or based on the tenant's unpaid utility charges that accrued during the time the Governor's emergency proclamation 20-23, et seq. was in effect.
- Allows a city or town to implement a repayment plan to collect from a residential tenant any unpaid utility charges incurred by the tenant during the time the Governor's emergency proclamation 20-23, et seq. was in effect. The unpaid charges must be collected within 12 months of the expiration or termination of the proclamation and any remaining charges after the 12-month collection period is over must be waived.
- Amends the definition of "utility or service" to remove natural or liquid propane gas, oil, hot water, heat, and public services. Storm and surface water collection and disposal and internet are added to the definition.

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