



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 244**

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Bill No. 866

*Senate, March 26, 2009*

The Committee on Housing reported through SEN. GOMES of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING NONPAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS IN CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Whenever the history  
2 concerning nonpayment of utility bills of an applicant for rental  
3 housing operated by a housing authority is one of the reasons such  
4 housing authority intends to deny an application for housing, the  
5 housing authority shall notify the applicant of such reason in  
6 accordance with this section. The notification shall state (1) the name of  
7 the utility company providing information to the housing authority  
8 concerning the nonpayment by the applicant; and (2) the telephone  
9 number of the utility company where the applicant may obtain  
10 services for development of a bill payment plan. If, not more than  
11 ninety days after the notification is mailed by the authority, the  
12 applicant submits evidence, satisfactory to the housing authority, of a  
13 bill payment plan with the utility company, then the nonpayment of  
14 utility bills shall not be a factor in denying such application for rental

15 housing.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The first and last sentences of section 1 were reworded for clarity.

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill alters the process through which housing authorities consider rental applications and has no fiscal impact.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 866*****AN ACT CONCERNING NONPAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS IN CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires housing authorities to notify a rental housing applicant when utility bill nonpayment is one of the reasons it intends to deny his or her application. The notice must include the (1) utility company's name and (2) telephone number for the company office where the applicant might obtain services to develop a payment plan. A housing authority cannot use utility bill nonpayment as a determining factor for eligibility if the housing applicant submits satisfactory evidence of a utility bill payment plan to the authority no more than 90 days after the authority mailed the required notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)