

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6354

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR
Title: CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 2/16/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/9/2021

File No.: 10

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Currently there are requirements such as notarized correspondence and time sensitive deadlines for seniors and disabled residents must meet in order to participate in the Renters Rebate program. This bill proposes to reduce the obstacles currently faced by senior citizens and persons with disabilities to apply for rental assistance. It also provides direction as to how to manage these obstacles.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Representative Al Paolillo, Connecticut General Assembly: His testimony is in support of this proposal. He has a senior living community in his district and has heard from many constituents who have experienced frustration with the application process. He believes that changes outlined in this bill will help simplify the Renters Rebate application process and make it easier for seniors and those who are disabled, and who are otherwise qualified, to secure the benefits.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Marie Allen, Executive Director, Connecticut Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging: Their testimony was in support of this legislation. Accessible and affordable housing remains one of the most pressing issues facing older adults and persons with disabilities and these were greatly increased as a result of the pandemic. This bill would help those in the greatest need.

Kathleen Flaherty, Executive Director, Connecticut Legal Rights Project: They are in support of this bill and they believe that elimination of the requirement of a yearly submission of a notarized document when the tenant has not moved makes the application process easier for everyone.

Nicholas Coplavolpe, Commissioner for Elderly Services, New Haven: submitted testimony in support of this bill. The Renters Rebate Program is designed to help seniors and disabled persons with rent and utilities and this bill will help streamline the application process.

Michele Clary-Butler, City of New Haven, Elderly Services: They offered testimony in support of this proposal. She points out that many seniors have a difficulty getting in touch with their landlords. Her comments make several suggestions on how to streamline the process. (#'s 6 through 10)

Mary-Ann Langton, West Hartford, Connecticut Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance: She supports this bill because low-income seniors and persons with disabilities would have more opportunity to obtain rental assistance.

Unidentified submission: The testimony is in support of this bill. The information appears to be a copy of Michele Clary-Butler's comments from a previous year.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No opposition testimony was submitted.

Reported by: Joe Perkus, Clerk
Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk
Richard O'Neil, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/2/21