



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 941

LCO No. 3174



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

AN ACT EXPANDING THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 47a-75 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Covered individual" means (A) any party to a covered matter
6 who is an income-eligible tenant, lessee or occupant, for residential
7 purposes, of any land or building, any apartment in any building, any
8 dwelling unit, any trailer or mobile manufactured home or any land
9 upon which a trailer or mobile manufactured home is used or stands, *or*
10 (B) any party to a covered matter who resides in a dwelling unit, trailer
11 or mobile manufactured home in a distressed municipality;

12 (2) "Covered matter" means any notice to quit delivered to, or any
13 summary process action instituted against, a covered individual
14 pursuant to chapter 832 or chapter 412 or any administrative proceeding
15 against a covered individual necessary to preserve a state or federal

16 housing subsidy or to prevent a proposed termination of the lease;

17 (3) "Designated organization" means any not-for-profit legal services
18 organization that provides legal representation in a covered matter to a
19 covered individual;

20 (4) "Administering entity" means the organization contracted by or
21 party to a memorandum of agreement with the Judicial Branch to
22 administer the right to counsel program in accordance with subsection
23 (b) of this section;

24 (5) "Legal representation" means representation in a covered matter
25 provided by a designated organization to a covered individual, and all
26 legal advice, advocacy and assistance associated with such
27 representation, subject to and in accordance with the Rules of
28 Professional Conduct;

29 (6) "Income-eligible" means (A) having household income at or below
30 eighty per cent of the state median income adjusted for family size, as
31 determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
32 Development, at the time of the request for representation; or (B)
33 receiving one of the following types of public assistance: (i) Temporary
34 Assistance for Needy Families, (ii) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
35 Program benefits, (iii) Medicaid, (iv) Supplemental Security Income, (v)
36 refugee resettlement benefits, (vi) rental assistance under chapter 138a
37 of the general statutes, or (vii) the federal Housing Choice Voucher
38 Program, 42 USC 1437f(o);

39 (7) "Distressed municipality" has the same meaning as provided in
40 section 32-9p;

41 [(7)] (8) "Tenant", "landlord", "owner" and "dwelling unit" have the
42 same meanings as provided in section 47a-1;

43 [(8)] (9) "Notice to quit" means any notice to quit possession or
44 occupancy delivered pursuant to chapter 832 or chapter 412 to a lessee
45 or occupant;

46 [(9)] (10) "Lessee or occupant" means any tenant, lessee or occupant,
47 for residential purposes, of any land or building, apartment in any
48 building, dwelling unit, trailer or mobile manufactured home, or land
49 upon which a trailer or mobile manufactured home is used or stands;
50 and

51 [(10)] (11) "Right to counsel program" means the state-wide right to
52 counsel program to provide legal representation to a covered individual
53 in a covered matter established under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	47a-75(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To expand the right to counsel program to include any resident of a distressed municipality.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]