

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1387 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, SABATINA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BREWSTER,
TEPLITZ, SCHWANK AND KITCHEN, OCTOBER 17, 2016

REFERRED TO URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, OCTOBER 17, 2016

AN ACT

Amending the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), entitled, as amended, "An act to promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare by declaring the necessity of creating public bodies, corporate and politic, to be known as housing authorities to engage in slum clearance, and to undertake projects, to provide dwelling accommodations for persons of low income; providing for the organization of such housing authorities; defining their powers and duties; providing for the exercise of such powers, including the acquisition of property by purchase, gift or eminent domain, the renting and selling of property, and including borrowing money, issuing bonds, and other obligations, and giving security therefor; prescribing the remedies of obligees of housing authorities; authorizing housing authorities to enter into agreements, including agreements with the United States, the Commonwealth, and political subdivisions and municipalities thereof; defining the application of zoning, sanitary, and building laws and regulations to projects built or maintained by such housing authorities; exempting the property and securities of such housing authorities from taxation; and imposing duties and conferring powers upon the State Planning Board, and certain other State officers and departments," further providing for powers of the authority; and providing for relocation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 10 of the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), referred to as the Housing Authorities Law, is amended

by adding a clause to read:

Section 10. Powers of an Authority.--An Authority shall constitute a public body, corporate and politic, exercising public powers of the Commonwealth as an agency thereof, which powers shall include all powers necessary or appropriate to carry out and effectuate the purpose and provisions of this act, including the following powers, in addition to others herein granted:

* * *

(hh) To cooperate and execute agreements with other authorities in the same geographic region for the purposes of accommodating any tenant who requests to be relocated under section 13.3.

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 13.3. Relocation.--(a) A tenant may submit to the Authority a request to be relocated from the tenant's existing dwelling to another dwelling under the control of the Authority to which the request is submitted or to a dwelling under the control of an Authority within the same geographic region.

(b) Each Authority shall review and approve a request submitted under subsection (a) within five (5) days of receipt of the request.

(c) An Authority shall relocate the tenant making the request and any member of the tenant's household requesting to be relocated to another dwelling unit under the control of the Authority or under the control of an Authority within the same geographic region within thirty (30) days of the submission of the request.

(d) An Authority may not disclose the new address of a

relocated tenant to an individual identified by the tenant as the perpetrator or an individual or entity representing the perpetrator, unless by court order.

(e) All information submitted to an Authority by a tenant seeking relocation under this section shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure under any State law unless ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) For purposes of this section, the term "tenant" shall mean an individual residing in a dwelling unit of the Authority who is any of the following:

(1) A victim of abuse as defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6102 (relating to definitions) who files an affidavit with the Authority stating the affiant's eligibility for a protection from abuse order and further stating that the affiant fears future violent acts by the perpetrator of abuse.

(2) A victim of sexual violence as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 62A03 (relating to definitions) who files an affidavit with the Authority describing the perpetrator's violent actions or threatened violent actions toward the affiant and further stating that the affiant fears future violent acts by the perpetrator of the sexual violence.

(3) A victim of stalking who files an affidavit with the Authority describing the perpetrator's course of conduct or repeated actions toward the affiant meeting the criteria enumerated under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2709.1 (relating to stalking) and further stating that the affiant fears future violent acts by the perpetrator of the stalking.

(4) An individual, other than the perpetrator, who is a member of the same household as the tenant requesting

relocation.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.