

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 547

Representatives Wiggam, Gross

Cosponsors: Representatives Johnson, Miller, K., Williams, Click, King, Dean,  
Lear, Klopfenstein, Barhorst, Creech

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A BILL

To enact section 175.061 of the Revised Code to 1  
limit state low-income housing tax credits to 2  
projects that verify tenant immigration status. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 175.061 of the Revised Code be 4  
enacted to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 175.061.** (A) The Ohio housing finance agency shall 6  
not award the tax credit authorized under section 175.16 of the 7  
Revised Code to a project unless the owner of the project does 8  
all of the following: 9

(1) Prohibits any premises that are part of the project 10  
from being let to a person who is unlawfully present in the 11  
United States; 12

(2) Requires every prospective tenant to present proof of 13  
the person's legal presence in the United States in the form of 14  
one of the following: 15

(a) An original or certified copy of a birth certificate 16

issued by an appropriate governmental agency of any state, 17  
territory, or possession of the United States; 18

(b) A valid and unexpired United States passport or United 19  
States passport card; 20

(c) A consular report of birth abroad issued by the United 21  
States department of state or its successor agency; 22

(d) A certificate of naturalization issued by the United 23  
States department of homeland security or its successor agency; 24

(e) A certificate of citizenship issued by the United 25  
States department of homeland security or its successor agency; 26

(f) Other original and valid documentation issued by 27  
United States citizenship and immigration services or its 28  
successor agency, showing the person's dates of legal presence 29  
in the United States; 30

(g) A valid and unexpired driver's license or 31  
identification card, as those terms are defined in section 32  
4507.01 of the Revised Code. 33

(3) Maintains a copy of the document provided by each 34  
tenant under division (A) (2) of this section until that tenant's 35  
tenancy ends; 36

(4) Allows the attorney general to access the records 37  
maintained pursuant to division (A) (3) of this section upon 38  
request. 39

(B) Before awarding any such tax credit to a project, the 40  
agency shall obtain a written declaration from the project's 41  
owner, on a form prescribed by the agency, that the owner will 42  
comply with division (A) of this section. The agency shall 43  
revoke any such tax credit awarded to a project if the agency 44

determines that the owner of the project has failed to comply 45  
with division (A) of this section. 46

(C) The attorney general may investigate alleged 47  
violations of this section. When it appears, as the result of 48  
the investigation, that there is cause to believe that a 49  
violation of this section has occurred, the attorney general 50  
shall refer the evidence to the agency. 51