

2024 -- H 7959

LC005271

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Perez, Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Fellela, Diaz, Hull,
Felix, Alzate, Sanchez, and Bennett

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 34-18 of the General Laws entitled "Residential Landlord and Tenant
2 Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **34-18-61. Inquiries regarding immigration status.**

4 (a) No landlord or any agent of the landlord shall:

5 (1) Make any inquiry regarding or based on the immigration or citizenship status of a
6 tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of residential rental property; or

7 (2) Require that any tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of the
8 rental property make any statement, representation, or certification concerning their immigration
9 or citizenship status.

10 (b) No municipality or housing agency shall compel a landlord or any agent of the landlord
11 to make any inquiry, compile, disclose, report, or provide any information, prohibit offering or
12 continuing to offer accommodations in the property for rent or lease, or otherwise take any action
13 regarding or based on the immigration or citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant
14 or prospective occupant of residential rental property.

15 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a landlord from:

16 (1) Complying with any legal obligation under federal law; or

17 (2) Requesting information or documentation necessary to determine or verify the financial
18 qualifications of a prospective tenant, or to determine or verify the identity of a prospective tenant
19 or prospective occupant.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

1 This act would prohibit a landlord from asking about the immigration status of a tenant,
2 prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of residential rental property, subject to any
3 federal laws or regulations, but would allow a landlord to request information or documentation
4 necessary to determine or verify the financial qualifications of a prospective tenant or to determine
5 or verify the identity of a prospective tenant.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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