



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 919

PRINTERS NO. 1549

PRIME SPONSOR: Haywood

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
Housing Authority Funds	\$0	\$0
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Allows a resident of a housing authority to request relocation if they, or someone affiliated with them, has experienced domestic or sexual violence. The resident must certify their status as a victim of such violence. This legislation would take effect in six months.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Housing Authorities Law to permit a victim of domestic or sexual violence to be relocated. Specifically, the legislation would authorize a housing authority to cooperate and execute agreements with other housing authorities to accommodate a tenant who requests to be relocated.

A tenant of a housing authority who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence may request an emergency transfer and be relocated if the tenant or affiliated individual has experienced such violence, on or near the premises, within 90 calendar days of the request or the tenant reasonably believes that they, or an affiliated individual, is threatened with imminent harm of domestic or sexual violence if they remain on the premises.

Under the legislation, a housing authority is required to make a good faith effort to reasonably relocate the tenant to a safe and suitable dwelling under the control of the authority or another authority.

A tenant seeking relocation may submit to an authority a request for any of the following:

- Relocation from the tenant's existing dwelling unit to another unit under the control of the authority;
- Receipt of a housing choice voucher;
- Assistance in identifying other housing providers which may have safe and available dwelling units; or
- Assistance with contacting local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic or sexual violence.

A housing authority must review and make a determination on each completed request within five business days of its submission. A completed request would be a request supplemented with information which the authority requires to determine the tenant's eligibility for relocation assistance under this section.

The legislation also stipulates standards of sufficient proof of domestic or sexual violence that must be provided to the housing authority in order to qualify for relocation under this section.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth, housing authority, or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 16, 2018

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.