

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2019
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative MaryLouise Isaacson
SUBJECT: Pet Deposits in Residential Rentals

It has come to my attention that some landlords are charging exorbitant non-refundable pet fees separate from a security deposit. The landlord then pockets the pet fee, even when no damage occurs to the property. In some cases, this fee has become predatory against renters with pets.

I am proposing legislation that will prohibit landlords from requiring the payment of any “nonrefundable” deposits, whether they be the normal security deposit or related to the tenant’s pet, in lease agreements. This legislation follows the standard of protection set by California and other states to prevent landlords from extracting additional, improper fees from renters.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation safeguarding Pennsylvania’s renting population.