

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2655

To establish neighborhood review committees to advise public housing agencies regarding the enforcement of laws and regulations governing assistance provided under tenant-based rental assistance programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish neighborhood review committees to advise public housing agencies regarding the enforcement of laws and regulations governing assistance provided under tenant-based rental assistance programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Section 8 Voucher Res-
5 idential Screening Committees Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEW COMMITTEES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the United States
3 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) is amended by
4 inserting after subsection (k) the following new subsection:

5 “(l) NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEW COMMITTEES.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each public housing
7 agency that administers tenant-based assistance
8 under subsection (b) or (o) of this section shall es-
9 tablish and maintain a neighborhood review com-
10 mittee (in this subsection referred to as the ‘com-
11 mittee’). The committee shall consist of not less
12 than 3 and not more than 6 individuals, who shall
13 be appointed by the public housing agency and shall
14 include not less than 3 individuals who are not, di-
15 rectly or indirectly, recipients of housing assistance
16 under this section or any other housing assistance
17 provided by the Federal Government or any State or
18 local government (not including single family mort-
19 gage insurance provided under title II of the Na-
20 tional Housing Act). The members of the committee
21 shall be residents of the jurisdiction served by the
22 agency. Members of the committee shall serve for
23 terms of not more than 2 years and there shall be
24 no limit to the number of terms that any member
25 may serve.

1 “(2) FUNCTIONS.—The committee shall obtain
2 and review information referred to in paragraphs (3)
3 and (4) for the purpose of advising the public hous-
4 ing agency regarding enforcement of laws and regu-
5 lations governing assistance provided under the ten-
6 ant-based rental assistance programs under this sec-
7 tion and assisting the agency to enforce such laws
8 and regulations.

9 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS REGARDING
10 ASSISTED FAMILIES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
12 other provision of Federal or State law (includ-
13 ing any law regarding confidentiality of such in-
14 formation), the committee for a public housing
15 agency may obtain any of the following records
16 and information relating to any member of a
17 household on whose behalf tenant-based assist-
18 ance under subsection (b) or (o) of this section
19 is provided and who resides within the jurisdic-
20 tion of the agency:

21 “(i) Criminal conviction, arrest, and
22 activity records from any law enforcement
23 agency.

24 “(ii) Police reports.

1 “(iii) Juvenile arrest and punishment
2 records.

3 “(iv) References and reports of past
4 or present lessors.

5 “(v) Records of civil actions filed
6 against the member and any related judg-
7 ments, settlements, or other dispositions.

8 “(vi) Any other information reason-
9 ably related to the procurement of infor-
10 mation described in this paragraph.

11 “(B) APPLICABILITY AND NOTICE.—This
12 paragraph shall apply with respect to any mem-
13 ber of any household on whose behalf such ten-
14 ant-based assistance is provided after the date
15 on which the regulations implementing this sub-
16 section take effect. A public housing agency
17 shall provide written notice to each applicant
18 for tenant-based assistance from the agency of
19 the effect of the provisions of this paragraph on
20 the applicant’s rights to confidentiality of infor-
21 mation described in this paragraph.

22 “(4) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS REGARDING
23 LANDLORDS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
25 other provision of Federal or State law (includ-

1 ing any law regarding confidentiality of such in-
2 formation), the committee for a public housing
3 agency may obtain any of the following records
4 and information relating to any owner of a
5 dwelling unit located within the jurisdiction of
6 the agency for which assistance payments are
7 made under subsection (b) or (c) of this sec-
8 tion:

9 “(i) Criminal conviction, arrest, and
10 activity records from any law enforcement
11 agency.

12 “(ii) Police reports.

13 “(iii) Citations, convictions, fines, or
14 judgments for violations of any laws, regu-
15 lations, standards, or codes relating to
16 housing quality or habitability.

17 “(iv) Complaints, grievances, or ac-
18 tions filed by any current or former ten-
19 ants, and any records of any related judg-
20 ments, settlements, or other dispositions.

21 “(v) Any other information reasonably
22 related to the procurement of information
23 described in this paragraph.

24 “(B) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph
25 shall apply with respect to any owner of an as-

1 sisted dwelling unit for which assistance pay-
2 ments are made after the date on which the
3 regulations implementing this subsection take
4 effect.

5 “(5) PENALTY.—Any person who obtains or
6 uses information under this subsection for purposes
7 other than those described in paragraph (2), or dis-
8 closes such information in any manner to any indi-
9 vidual not authorized under law to receive such in-
10 formation, shall be imprisoned not more than one
11 year and fined not more than \$10,000 (and such of-
12 fense is hereby exempted from the applicability of
13 the fine provided under section 3571 of title 18,
14 United States Code), or both.”.

15 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and
16 Urban Development shall issue any regulations necessary
17 to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a) not
18 later than the expiration of the 12-month period beginning
19 on the date of the enactment of this Act, and such regula-
20 tions shall take effect not later than the expiration of the
21 90-day period beginning upon such issuance.

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