

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB99

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Rasoul

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices, status as a victim of family abuse.

5. Summary: Requires a landlord to consider evidence of an applicant's status as a victim of family abuse to mitigate any adverse effect of an otherwise qualified applicant's application. A landlord shall consider evidence of an applicant's status as a victim of family abuse, to mitigate any adverse effect of an otherwise qualified applicant's low credit score. In order to establish the applicant's status as a victim of family abuse, an applicant may submit to the landlord (i) a letter from a sexual and domestic violence program, a housing counselor certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or an attorney representing the applicant; (ii) a law-enforcement incident report; or (iii) a court order. If a landlord does not comply, the applicant may recover actual damages, including all amounts paid to the landlord as an application fee, application deposit, or reimbursement for any of the landlord's out-of-pocket expenses that were charged to the prospective tenant, along with attorney fees. Any information received by a landlord shall remain a confidential tenant record and shall not be released to any person except in response to a subpoena.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Attorney General and Department of Law, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; Attorney General and Department of Law; Department of Housing and Community Development.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.