

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1303

Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by: (HSG)

AN ACT CONCERNING NONRESIDENT LANDLORD REGISTRATION AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR REPEAT BUILDING AND FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 47a-6a of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):
- 3 (a) As used in this section: [,]
- (1) ["address"] <u>"Address"</u> means a location as described by the full
 street number, if any, the street name, the city or town, and the state,
 and not a mailing address such as a post office box; [,]
- 7 (2) ["dwelling unit"] "Dwelling unit" means any house or building, or 8 portion thereof, which is rented, leased or hired out to be occupied, or 9 is arranged or designed to be occupied, or is occupied, as the home or 10 residence of one or more persons, living independently of each other, 11 and doing their cooking upon the premises, and having a common right 12 in the halls, stairways or yards; [,]

(3) ["agent in charge"] <u>"Agent in charge"</u> or "agent" means [one] <u>an</u>
<u>individual</u> who manages real [estate] <u>property</u>, including, but not
limited to, the collection of rents and supervision <u>and maintenance</u> of
<u>such property</u>, <u>including for the purposes of compliance with state and</u>
<u>local codes;</u>

(4) ["controlling participant"] <u>"Controlling participant"</u> means an
individual [that] <u>who</u> exercises day-to-day financial or operational
control; [, and]

(5) ["project-based housing provider"] <u>"Project-based housing</u>
<u>provider</u>" means a property owner who contracts with the United States
Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing to
tenants under the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, 42 USC
1437f(o);

(6) "Identifying information" means proof of an individual's name,
 date of birth, current residential address, motor vehicle operator's
 license number or other identification number issued by any
 government agency or entity;

30 (7) "Nonresident owner" means an individual, corporation,
 31 partnership, trust or other legally recognized entity, who does not reside
 32 at rental real property who is (A) an owner, as defined in section 47a-1,
 33 of such real property, or (B) the controlling participant of the entity that

34 <u>owns such real property; and</u>

35 (8) "Population" means the number of persons according to the most
 36 recent federal decennial census.

(b) Any municipality may, and any municipality with a population of twenty-five thousand or more shall, require the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of occupied or vacant rental real property to report to the tax assessor, or other municipal [office] <u>officer</u> designated by the municipality, the current residential address of the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of such property,

43 if the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider is an 44 individual, or the current residential address of the agent in charge of 45 the building, if the nonresident owner or project-based housing 46 provider is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legally recognized 47 entity owning rental real property in the state. If the nonresident owners 48 or project-based housing providers are a corporation, partnership, trust 49 or other legally recognized entity owning rental real property in the 50 state, such report shall also include identifying information and the 51 current residential address of each controlling participant associated 52 with the property. If such residential address changes, notice of the new 53 residential address shall be provided by such nonresident owner, 54 project-based housing provider or agent in charge of the building to the 55 office of the tax assessor or other designated municipal office not more 56 than twenty-one days after the date that the address change occurred. If 57 the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent fails to 58 file an address under this section, the address to which the municipality 59 mails property tax bills for the rental real property shall be deemed to 60 be the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent's 61 current address. Such address may be used for compliance with the 62 provisions of subsection [(c)] (d) of this section.

63 (c) In addition to the residential address required pursuant to 64 subsection (b) of this section, any municipality with a population of 65 twenty-five thousand or more shall require the nonresident owner, 66 project-based housing provider or agent in charge, as applicable, to 67 report to the tax assessor, or other municipal officer designated by the 68 municipality, accurate identifying information concerning such 69 nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent in charge.

[(c)] (d) Service of state or municipal orders relating to maintenance of such rental real property or compliance with state law and local codes concerning such real property directed to the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent at the address on file, or deemed to be on file in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be sufficient proof of service of notice of such orders in any subsequent criminal or civil action against the owner, project-based housing provider or agent for failure to comply with the orders. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the validity of any other means of giving notice of such orders that may be used by the state or such municipality.

- [(d)] (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall
 have committed [an infraction] <u>a violation</u>.
- [(e)] (f) Any report provided to a tax assessor pursuant to subsection
 (b) or (c) of this section [on or after October 1, 2023,] shall be confidential
 and shall not be disclosed under chapter 14.
- Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 47a-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2025):

89 (a) A landlord shall: (1) Comply with the requirements of chapter 90 3680 and all applicable building and housing codes materially affecting 91 health and safety of both the state or any political subdivision thereof; 92 (2) make all repairs and do whatever is necessary to put and keep the 93 premises in a fit and habitable condition, except where the premises are 94 intentionally rendered unfit or uninhabitable by the tenant, a member 95 of [his] such tenant's family or other person on the premises with [his] 96 such tenant's consent, in which case such duty shall be the responsibility 97 of [the] such tenant; (3) keep all common areas of the premises in a clean 98 and safe condition; (4) maintain in good and safe working order and 99 condition all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating and 100 other facilities and appliances and elevators, supplied or required to be 101 supplied by him; (5) provide and maintain appropriate receptacles for 102 the removal of ashes, garbage, rubbish and other waste incidental to the 103 occupancy of the dwelling unit and arrange for their removal; [and] (6) 104 supply running water and reasonable amounts of hot water at all times 105 and reasonable heat except if the building which includes the dwelling 106 unit is not required by law to be equipped for that purpose or if the

107 dwelling unit is so constructed that heat or hot water is generated by an

108 installation within the exclusive control of the tenant or supplied by a

109 direct public utility connection; and (7) comply with the requirements

110 of section 47a-6a, as amended by this act.

111 Sec. 3. Section 29-254a of the general statutes is repealed and the 112 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

Any person who violates any provision of the State Building Code shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, and, for any subsequent offense, be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars.

Sec. 4. Section 29-291c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

120 (a) When the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal ascertains that 121 there exists in any building, or upon any premises, a condition that 122 violates the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code, the State Fire 123 Marshal or local fire marshal shall order such condition remedied by the 124 owner or occupant of such building or premises. Any such remedy shall 125 be in conformance with all building codes, ordinances, rules and 126 regulations of the municipality involved. Such owner or occupant shall 127 be subject to the penalties prescribed by subsection (e) of this section 128 and, in addition, may be fined fifty dollars a day for each day's 129 continuance of each violation, to be recovered in a proper action in the 130 name of the state.

(b) Upon failure of an owner or occupant to abate or remedy a violation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section within a reasonable period of time specified by the State Fire Marshal or the local fire marshal, the local fire marshal shall promptly notify, in writing, the prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction in the municipality in which such violation or condition exists of all of the relevant facts. The local fire marshal may request the chief executive officer, any official of the 138 municipality authorized to institute actions on behalf of the 139 municipality in which the hazard exists or the State Fire Marshal, to 140 apply to any court of equitable jurisdiction for an injunction against 141 such owner or occupant for the purpose of closing or restricting from 142 public service or use the place or premises containing the violation or 143 condition until the violation or condition has been remedied, or the State 144 Fire Marshal may apply for such an injunction without such request.

145 (c) The State Fire Marshal or any local fire marshal empowered to 146 enforce the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code may, as an 147 alternative to issuing an order pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, 148 give the owner or occupant a written citation for any violation of the 149 applicable code. No such citation may be issued if the owner or 150 occupant has been previously issued a citation for the same violation by 151 the State Fire Marshal or the local fire marshal within six months prior 152 to the current violation. Such citation shall contain the name and 153 address, if known, of the owner or occupant, the specific offense 154 charged and the time and place of the violation. The citation shall be 155 signed by the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal and shall be signed 156 by the owner or occupant in acknowledgment that such citation has 157 been received. The State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal shall, if 158 practicable, deliver a copy of the citation to the owner or occupant at the 159 time and place of the violation or shall use some other reasonable means 160 of notification. Any person who is issued a citation for violation of any 161 provision of the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code in 162 accordance with this subsection shall be fined not more than two 163 hundred fifty dollars.

(d) If a local fire marshal issues a citation pursuant to subsection (c)
of this section, the state shall remit to the municipalities in which the
violations occurred ninety per cent of the proceeds of the fine and shall
remit to the State Treasurer the remaining ten per cent. If the State Fire
Marshal issues a citation pursuant to said subsection, the state shall
remit to the State Treasurer the entire proceeds of the fine. Each clerk of
the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, on or before the

thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, shall
certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter
under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the
clerk or official.

(e) In addition to the fine prescribed in subsection (a) of this section,
any person who violates any provision of the State Fire Prevention Code
or Fire Safety Code shall, for a first offense, be fined not less than two
hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned
not more than six months, or both, and, for any subsequent offense, be
fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand
dollars.

182 Sec. 5. Section 29-394 of the general statutes is repealed and the 183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

184 Any person who, by himself or his agent, fails to comply with the 185 written order of a building inspector for the provision of additional exit 186 facilities in a building, the repair or alteration of a building or the 187 removal of a building or any portion thereof, shall, for a first offense, be 188 fined not less than two hundred dollars nor more than one thousand 189 dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, and, for any 190 subsequent offense, be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more 191 than two thousand dollars.

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sections: Section 1 July 1, 2025 47a-6a July 1, 2025 Sec. 2 47a-7(a) Sec. 3 July 1, 2025 29-254a Sec. 4 July 1, 2025 29-291c Sec. 5 July 1, 2025 29-394

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require certain nonresident landlords, project-based housing providers or agents in charge of rental properties to register certain

personal identifying information, and (2) increase penalties for repeat violations of building and fire codes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]