

SUPPORT SB 3081: Applicants Have a Right to Know their Public Housing Waiting List Status

(Senate Sponsor: Murphy; House Sponsor: Moylan) Passed Both Houses on 5/30/18

SB 3081 is meant to ensure that people who have applied to a Public Housing Authority (PHA) for housing—either a public housing unit and/or a Housing Choice Voucher—can find out their status on the waiting list, so that they can plan other parts of their life accordingly.

Waiting lists can be months or years long. Knowing whether you are close to the top of the list or not may impact other life decisions, such as whether to move to a new town or not.

Some PHAs may not make any contact with a person on the waiting list until their name gets close to the top of the list, when the PHA will begin checking landlord references, credit reports and criminal background for the household.

Most PHAs already have procedures to follow for people to inquire regarding the waiting list status. However, others do not. SB 3081 is meant to address past instances of people who have had trouble getting information about their waiting list status, so this won't be an issue in the future.

SB 3081 simply ensures that all PHAs have such procedures in place and respond in a timely manner.

PHAs retain their flexibility to design procedures to comply with waiting lists status requests that work for their agency, e.g., whether the request has to be in writing, over the telephone and/or in person.

SB 3081 amends the Housing Authorities Act to add this language:

Sec. 25.06. Waiting list information. Upon request by an applicant for a Housing Authority's public housing, a Housing Choice Voucher, or other housing owned or operated by a Housing Authority for which the Housing Authority manages a waiting list, the Housing Authority shall provide the applicant with information on that applicant's position on the waiting list within 10 business days."

Supporters include:

Housing Action Illinois, Illinois NOW, Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, National Association of Social Workers - Illinois Chapter, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law and Uptown People's Law Center



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For more information, please contact:
Bob Palmer, Policy Director, Housing Action Illinois
312-939-6075 | bob@housingactionil.org