

S 2076

Fair Chance at Housing Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Housing and Community Development

Introduced: Jul 10, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (Jul 10, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2076>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 10, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 10, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Housing and Community Development

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3685	Related bill	Jul 10, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Fair Chance at Housing Act of 2019

This bill limits the authority of public housing agencies (PHAs) to deny or terminate federally assisted housing based on criminal conduct by the applicant or tenant.

Specifically, PHAs may deny or terminate assistance based only on criminal conduct that threatens the health or safety of other tenants or the employees or owner of the PHA, excluding misdemeanors and certain other lesser criminal offenses. Furthermore, with respect to applicants, a denial may be based only on a felony conviction other than a conviction for a drug offense for which the individual served less than 10 years.

Before denying or terminating assistance based on criminal conduct, a PHA must conduct an individualized review and consider specified factors, including evidence of rehabilitation. PHAs must also give the household an opportunity to remove the culpable member before proceeding with the denial or termination.

Additionally, PHAs may not drug test applicants or tenants as a condition of assistance.

Under current law, PHAs must deny, and may terminate, federally assisted housing upon a determination that any household member is illegally using a controlled substance. Current law also allows PHAs to take such actions if there is reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. Further, tenants evicted on the basis of drug-related criminal activity are not eligible under current law for federally assisted housing for three years, unless the tenant successfully completes a rehabilitation program.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 10, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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