

2017 -- H 5419

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY

Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Ucci, Winfield, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 08, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 34-18-22.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 34-18 entitled
2 "Residential Landlord and Tenant Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **34-18-22.3. Nonresident landlord to designate agent for service of process.**

4 A landlord who is not a resident of this state shall designate and continuously maintain an
5 agent upon whom service may be made of any process, notice, or demand required or permitted
6 by law to be served, including but not limited to notices of minimum housing code violations.
7 The agent shall be a resident of this state or a corporation authorized to do business in this state.
8 The landlord's designation shall be in writing, shall include the name and address of the agent,
9 shall include the street address of each property designated to said agent, and shall be filed with
10 the secretary of state and with the clerk of the city or town wherein the dwelling unit is located. ~~If~~
11 ~~a~~ Any landlord who fails to comply with the requirements of this section, ~~rent for the dwelling~~
12 ~~unit abates until designation of an agent is made and the landlord~~ shall be subject to a civil fine of
13 up to five hundred (\$500) dollars per violation, payable to the municipality.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2017.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would eliminate the penalty of abating rent in cases where a non-resident
2 landlord fails to designate an agent for service of process and would clarify that the fine for
3 violating this section is civil.

4 This act would take effect on September 1, 2017.

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