2020 -- S 2258

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- IMMIGRATION STATUS

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Quezada, Cano, Goldin, and Crowley

Date Introduced: February 04, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 34-18 of the General Laws entitled "Residential Landlord and Tenant Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

34-18-58. Inquiries regarding immigration status.

(a) No landlord or any agent of the landlord shall:

(1) Make any inquiry regarding or based on the immigration or citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of residential rental property; or

(2) Require that any tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of the rental property make any statement, representation, or certification concerning their immigration or citizenship status.

(b) No municipality or housing agency shall compel a landlord or any agent of the landlord to make any inquiry, compile, disclose, report, or provide any information, prohibit offering or continuing to offer accommodations in the property for rent or lease, or otherwise take any action regarding or based on the immigration or citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant of residential rental property.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a landlord from:

(1) Complying with any legal obligation under federal law; or

(2) Requesting information or documentation necessary to determine or verify the financial qualifications of a prospective tenant, or to determine or verify the identity of a prospective tenant or prospective occupant.

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PROPERTY -- IMMIGRATION STATUS

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1 This act would prohibit a landlord from asking about the immigration status of a tenant,
2 prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of residential rental property.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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