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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- IMMIGRATION STATUS

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, Murray, Cano, Lawson, and Kallman

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3           **34-18-58. Inquiries regarding immigration status.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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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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