



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require, on an emergency basis, that providers of commercial or residential rental property offer and maintain any rent payment plan agreed upon between March 11, 2020, and July 25, 2022, with eligible tenants, and to maintain the minimum requirements for such a plan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Tenant Payment Plan Phasing Emergency Act of 2025".

Sec. 2 Tenant payment plans.

(a) From March 11, 2020, through July 25, 2022 ("program period"), a provider shall offer a rent-payment-plan program ("program") for eligible tenants. Under its program, a provider shall:

(1) Make a payment plan available to an eligible tenant for the payment of gross rent, contractual increases agreed to in a commercial lease's rent escalation tables, and any other amounts that come due under the lease during the program period and prior to the cessation of tenancy ("covered time period"), with a minimum term length of one year unless a shorter payment plan term length is requested by the eligible tenant;

(2) Waive any fee, interest, or penalty that arises out of an eligible tenant entering into a payment plan;

32 (3) Not report to a credit reporting agency as delinquent the rent subject to the  
33 payment plan;

34 (4) Provide that an eligible tenant does not lose any rights under the lease by  
35 entering into the payment plan; and

36 (5) Notify all tenants of the availability, terms, and application process for its  
37 program.

38 (b)(l) Tenants entering into a payment plan shall be required to make payments in equal  
39 monthly installments for the duration of the payment plan unless a different payment schedule is  
40 requested by the tenant.

41 (2) A provider shall permit a tenant that has entered into a payment plan to pay an  
42 amount greater than the monthly amount provided for in the payment plan.

43 (3) A provider shall not require or request a tenant to provide a lump-sum  
44 payment under a payment plan.

45 (4) A provider shall agree in writing to the terms of a payment plan.

46 (c) A provider shall utilize existing procedures or, if necessary, establish new procedures  
47 to provide a process by which an eligible tenant may apply for a payment plan, which may  
48 include requiring the tenant to submit supporting documentation. A provider shall permit an  
49 application for a payment plan to occur online or by telephone.

50 (d) A provider shall approve each application for a payment plan submitted during a  
51 covered time period in which an eligible tenant:

52 (1) Demonstrates to the provider evidence of a financial hardship resulting  
53 directly or indirectly from the COVID-19 public health emergency, regardless of an existing

54 delinquency or a future inability to make rental payments established prior to the start of the  
55 COVID-19 public health emergency; and

56 (2) Agrees in writing to make payments in accordance with the payment plan.

57 (e)(1) A provider who receives an application for a payment plan shall retain the  
58 application, whether approved or denied, for at least 3 years.

59 (2) Upon request of the tenant, a provider shall make an application for a payment  
60 plan available to:

61 (A) For residential tenants, the Rent Administrator and the Office of the  
62 Tenant Advocate; and

63 (B) For commercial tenants, the Department of Licensing and Consumer  
64 Protection.

65 (f)(1) A residential tenant whose application for a payment plan is denied may file a  
66 written complaint with the Rent Administrator. The Rent Administrator shall forward the  
67 complaint to the Office of Administrative Hearings for adjudication.

68 (2) A commercial tenant whose application for a payment plan is denied may file  
69 a written complaint with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection.

70 (g) Tenant payment plans may not contain any waiver of the tenant's rights under the  
71 tenant's lease or District of Columbia law. A tenant entering into a tenant payment plan retains  
72 the right to contest the amount of rent due unless this is agreed to in writing by both parties.

73 (h) During the program period, unless the provider has offered a rent payment plan  
74 pursuant to this section and approved a rent payment plan pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
75 section, that provider shall be prohibited from filing any collection lawsuit or eviction for  
76 nonpayment of rent; provided, that the tenant does not default on the terms of the payment plan.

77 (i) For the purposes of this act, the term:

78 (1) "COVID-19 public health emergency" means the emergencies declared in the  
79 Declaration of Public Emergency (Mayor's Order 2020-045) together with the Declaration of  
80 Public Health Emergency (Mayor's Order 2020-046), declared on March 11, 2020, including any  
81 extension of those declared emergencies.

82 (2) "Eligible tenant" means a tenant that:

83 (A) Has notified a provider of an inability to pay all or a portion of the rent  
84 due as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

85 (B) Is not a franchisee unless the franchise is owned by a District resident;

86 and

87 (C) Has leased from a provider:

88 (i) A residential property;

89 (ii) Commercial retail space; or

90 (iii) Commercial space that is less than 6,500 square feet in size

91 and that comprises all or part of a commercial building.

92 (3) "Housing provider" means a person or entity who is a residential landlord,  
93 residential owner, residential lessor, residential sublessor, residential assignee, or the agent of  
94 any of the foregoing or any other person receiving or entitled to receive the rents or benefits for  
95 the use or occupancy of any residential rental unit within a housing accommodation within the  
96 District.

97 (4) "Non-housing provider" means a person or entity who is a non-residential  
98 landlord, non-residential owner, non-residential lessor, non-residential sublessor, non-residential  
99 assignee, a non-residential agent of a landlord, owner, lessor, sublessor, or assignee, or any other

100 person receiving or entitled to receive rents or benefits for the use or occupancy of a commercial  
101 unit.

102 (5) "Provider" means a housing provider or a non-housing provider.

103 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

104 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact  
105 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
106 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

107 Sec. 4. Effective date.

108 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
109 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto) and shall remain in effect for no longer than  
110 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section  
111 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;  
112 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).