

HOUSE BILL 933

C8

8lr3238

By: **Delegates B. Barnes, Frush, and Pena–Melnik**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Housing and Community Development – Rental Allowance Program – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Housing and Community Development
4 from disqualifying from the Rental Allowance Program a person who is a participant
5 in a certain federally funded living assistance program; and generally relating to the
6 Rental Allowance Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Housing and Community Development
9 Section 4–1403
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2006 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

15 4–1403.

16 (a) **(1)** [The] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
17 Department shall administer the Rental Allowance Program to assist low–income
18 households that are homeless or at risk of being homeless by providing housing assistance
19 payments to or on behalf of eligible households.

20 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DISQUALIFY FROM THE RENTAL**
21 **ALLOWANCE PROGRAM A PERSON WHO IS A PARTICIPANT IN A FEDERALLY FUNDED**
22 **LIVING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH A PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OR**
23 **TRADITIONAL HOUSING COMPONENT.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) The Secretary shall establish:

2 (1) income limits for eligibility of low-income households not exceeding
3 30% of the State or area median income, whichever is higher; and

4 (2) minimum standards for eligible dwelling units.

5 (c) The Secretary shall establish the amount of payments made through the
6 Rental Allowance Program, taking into account factors identified in § 4-1405(d) of this
7 subtitle.

8 (d) Eligible uses of payments may include rent, security deposits, utilities, and
9 other housing-related expenses.

10 (e) The Department may administer the Rental Allowance Program by providing
11 monthly housing assistance payments to or on behalf of eligible households directly or
12 through political subdivisions, their local housing agencies or departments, or nonprofit
13 organizations.

14 (f) Funds appropriated to serve low-income households through the Rental
15 Allowance Program may not be used for other programs authorized under this subtitle.

16 (g) The Department may adopt regulations to carry out the Rental Allowance
17 Program, including time frames for assistance and other criteria the Secretary considers
18 appropriate.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2018.