



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairman Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

HB964 is a crucial piece of legislation that proposes significant reforms to our housing system, aimed at fostering inclusivity, fairness, and transparency.

The Fair Chance in Housing Act proposes the implementation of a "ban the box" policy for rental applications, with the exception of individuals listed on the sex offender registry. This provision is essential in removing barriers related to criminal history inquiries, ensuring that individuals with past convictions are not automatically disqualified from accessing housing opportunities.

This bill also limits the timeframe for considering criminal records to the past three years. This provision recognizes the potential for rehabilitation and reintegration into society after an individual has served their sentence. It ensures that outdated or minor offenses do not unjustly hinder someone's ability to secure housing.

Housing providers will also be mandated to provide a physical disclosure outlining the reasons for an applicant's denial. This transparency requirement is crucial in empowering individuals to understand why they were denied housing and to challenge any potentially discriminatory practices.

Additionally, this bill prohibits housing providers from publishing any content that discourages applicants with a criminal history from applying. By eliminating discriminatory advertising practices, we can create a more inclusive housing market where individuals are judged based on their qualifications and merits as tenants, rather than their past mistakes.

In conclusion, the Fair Chance in Housing Act represents a significant step forward in reducing recidivism. By banning the box, promoting transparency, prohibiting discriminatory advertising, and limiting the consideration of criminal records, this legislation will ensure individuals have a fair chance at rehabilitation.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB964.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Boafo'.

Delegate Adrian Boafo