

CHAPTER 254

AN ACT requiring local housing authorities and the Commissioner of Community Affairs to report certain information to the Legislature, supplementing chapter 27D of Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes and amending P.L.1992, c.79.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.52:27D-3.4 Report on violent crimes in certain types of housing.

1. a. Not later than September 1st of each year, the executive director of a housing authority created pursuant to the "Local Housing Authorities Law," P.L.1938, c.19 (C.55:14A-1 et seq.) or the "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law," P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et seq.) and the owner of a property consisting of 10 or more rental units receiving project-based federal section 8 rental assistance, hereinafter "project-based housing," shall report to the Commissioner of Community Affairs, on a form prepared and provided by the commissioner for this purpose, the number and type of violent crimes, as those crimes are delineated in the most recently issued Uniform Crime Report, published by the Department of Law and Public Safety, and drug offenses, as those offenses are enumerated in the "Comprehensive Drug Reform Act of 1987," N.J.S.2C:35-1 et al., involving the use, possession, manufacture, dispensing or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, controlled dangerous substance analog or drug paraphernalia, committed on property owned by the housing authority or committed on project-based housing, respectively, at any time during the preceding State fiscal year. The report shall also include the amount expended by the housing authority or the project-based housing entity for drug elimination and crime prevention and control.

b. Not later than January 1st of each year, the commissioner shall prepare and distribute to each member of the Legislature a report displaying all of the information reported by each housing authority and project-based housing entity required to report under this act. The report shall also assimilate and analyze the information reported by each housing authority and project-based housing entity required to report under this act.

c. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), not later than the 90th day following the effective date of P.L.2003, c.254 (C.52:27D-3.4 et al.).

2. Section 45 of P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-45) is amended to read as follows:

C.40A:12A-45 Standards for course of study for executive directors.

45. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall prescribe and enforce standards for the curriculum and administration of a course of study as he deems appropriate, the object of which shall be to assist members and executive directors of local housing authorities and municipal redevelopment agencies to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to oversee and administer the operations of such authorities or agencies in accordance with current law and in the best interests of the citizens served by such authorities. The commissioner shall adopt the standards by administrative rule, pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

The course shall consist of instruction in the principles of housing and redevelopment, which may include, but not be limited to, construction management and code compliance, financial management and public administration, and such other topics as the commissioner may deem appropriate. The commissioner shall, to the greatest extent possible, cooperate with organizations of housing authority representatives and redevelopment agency representatives, and shall consult with Rutgers, The State University, and other educational institutions in establishing the standards for the curriculum and administration of the course of study, as provided above. The course shall also include information concerning strategies for drug elimination and crime prevention and control and the use of drug elimination funds.

3. This act shall take effect 180 days following enactment; however, subsection c. of section 1 shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 14, 2004.