

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3263

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 12, 2023

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3263.

As amended by the committee, the bill clarifies the roles of a Resource Navigator and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in administering the Rental Assistance Navigation Program, established pursuant to P.L.2021, c.313.

The bill requires the DCA to develop and conduct a survey of any newly evicted tenant who is willing to participate in a survey. The survey is to be used by the Resource Navigators to assess the circumstances and needs of individuals facing eviction and homelessness. The bill would require the survey to include questions concerning demographic information about the recently evicted tenant and their household. The survey would also include questions to assess: (a) the ability of a recently evicted tenant and their household to secure housing immediately following eviction and in the future; (b) the municipality and county in which the recently evicted tenant was evicted and the municipality and county in which the evicted tenant will seek shelter or new housing; and (c) the recently evicted tenant and their household's financial circumstances. The DCA is required to establish record retention and reporting standards for the surveys to include regular reports of all relevant information to the organization commissioned by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency to coordinate point-in-time counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, as required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The bill also requires the DCA to refer newly evicted tenants to housing assistance and homelessness prevention services and provide information on how to apply for such assistance.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3263 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4757 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments require the DCA, instead of a Resource Navigator, as originally provided in the bill, to develop and conduct the survey of newly evicted tenants, establish record retention

and reporting standards for the surveys, and refer newly evicted tenants to, and provide information on applying for, housing assistance and homelessness prevention services.