

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 247—ASSEMBLYMEN YEAGER, OHRENSCHALL, WATKINS, CARRILLO, MONROE-MORENO; ARAUJO, BILBRAY-AXELROD, BROOKS, DALY, FRIERSON, FUMO, JAUREGUI, JOINER, MCCURDY II, MILLER, NEAL, SPRINKLE, THOMPSON AND TOLLES

MARCH 1, 2017

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Provides for the early termination of certain rental agreements by victims of harassment, sexual assault or stalking. (BDR 10-655)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to residential leasing; providing for the early termination of certain rental agreements by victims of harassment, sexual assault or stalking under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law provides, under certain circumstances, for the early termination of
- 2 a rental agreement if a tenant, cotenant or household member is a victim of
- 3 domestic violence. (NRS 118A.345) **Section 1** of this bill similarly provides, under
- 4 certain circumstances, for the early termination of a rental agreement if a tenant,
- 5 cotenant or household member is a victim of the crime of harassment, sexual
- 6 assault or stalking.
- 7 Existing law prohibits a landlord from taking certain retaliatory actions against
- 8 a tenant, cotenant or household member who is a victim of domestic violence or
- 9 who terminates a rental agreement because he or she is a victim of domestic
- 10 violence. (NRS 118A.510) **Section 3** of this bill similarly prohibits a landlord from
- 11 taking certain retaliatory actions against a tenant, cotenant or household member
- 12 who is a victim of harassment, sexual assault or stalking or who terminates a rental
- 13 agreement because he or she is a victim of harassment, sexual assault or stalking.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 118A.345 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 118A.345 1. Notwithstanding any provision in a rental
4 agreement to the contrary, if a tenant, cotenant or household
5 member is the victim of domestic violence, *harassment, sexual*
6 *assault or stalking*, the tenant or any cotenant may terminate the
7 rental agreement by giving the landlord written notice of termination
8 effective at the end of the current rental period or 30 days after the
9 notice is provided to the landlord, whichever occurs sooner.

10 2. ~~The~~ *In the case of a termination of a rental agreement*
11 *pursuant to this section on the grounds that a tenant, cotenant or*
12 *household member is a victim of domestic violence, the* written
13 notice provided to a landlord pursuant to subsection 1 must describe
14 the reason for the termination of the rental agreement and be
15 accompanied by:

16 (a) A copy of an order for protection against domestic violence
17 issued to the tenant, cotenant or household member who is the
18 victim of domestic violence;

19 (b) A copy of a written report from a law enforcement agency
20 indicating that the tenant, cotenant or household member notified
21 the law enforcement agency of the domestic violence; or

22 (c) A copy of a written affidavit in the form prescribed pursuant
23 to NRS 118A.347 and signed by a qualified third party acting in his
24 or her official capacity stating that the tenant, cotenant or household
25 member is a victim of domestic violence and identifying the adverse
26 party.

27 3. *In the case of a termination of a rental agreement*
28 *pursuant to this section on the grounds that a tenant, cotenant or*
29 *household member is a victim of harassment, sexual assault or*
30 *stalking, the written notice provided to a landlord pursuant to*
31 *subsection 1 must describe the reason for the termination of the*
32 *rental agreement and be accompanied by:*

33 (a) *A copy of a written report from a law enforcement agency*
34 *indicating that the tenant, cotenant or household member notified*
35 *the law enforcement agency of the harassment, sexual assault or*
36 *stalking, as applicable; or*

37 (b) *A copy of a temporary or extended order issued pursuant to*
38 *NRS 200.378 or 200.591, as applicable.*

39 4. A tenant or cotenant may terminate a rental agreement
40 pursuant to this section only if the actions, events or circumstances
41 that resulted in the tenant, cotenant or household member becoming
42 a victim of domestic violence , *harassment, sexual assault or*



1 **stalking** occurred within the 90 days immediately preceding the
2 written notice of termination to the landlord.

3 ~~14~~ 5. A tenant or cotenant who terminates a rental agreement
4 pursuant to this section is only liable, if solely or jointly liable for
5 purposes of the rental agreement, for any rent owed or required to be
6 paid through the date of termination and any other outstanding
7 obligations. If the tenant or cotenant has prepaid rent that would
8 apply for the rental period in which the rental agreement is
9 terminated, the landlord may retain the prepaid rent and no refund is
10 due to the tenant or cotenant unless the amount of the prepaid rent
11 exceeds what is owed for that rental period. Except as otherwise
12 provided in NRS 118A.242, if the tenant or cotenant has paid a
13 security deposit, the deposit must not be withheld for the early
14 termination of the rental agreement if the rental agreement is
15 terminated pursuant to this section.

16 ~~15~~ 6. A person who is named as the adverse party may be
17 civilly liable for all economic losses incurred by a landlord for the
18 early termination of a rental agreement pursuant to this section,
19 including, without limitation, unpaid rent, fees relating to early
20 termination, costs for the repair of any damages to the dwelling and
21 any reductions in or waivers of rent previously extended to the
22 tenant or cotenant who terminates the rental agreement pursuant to
23 this section.

24 ~~16~~ 7. A landlord shall not provide to an adverse party any
25 information concerning the whereabouts of a tenant, cotenant or
26 household member if the tenant or cotenant provided notice
27 pursuant to subsection 1.

28 ~~17~~ 8. If a tenant or cotenant provided notice pursuant to
29 subsection 1, the tenant, the cotenant or a household member may
30 require the landlord to install a new lock onto the dwelling if the
31 tenant, cotenant or household member pays the cost of installing the
32 new lock. A landlord complies with the requirements of this
33 subsection by:

34 (a) Rekeying the lock if the lock is in good working condition;
35 or

36 (b) Replacing the entire locking mechanism with a new locking
37 mechanism of equal or superior quality.

38 ~~18~~ 9. A landlord who installs a new lock pursuant to
39 subsection ~~17~~ 8 may retain a copy of the new key. Notwithstanding
40 any provision in a rental agreement to the contrary, the landlord
41 shall:

42 (a) Refuse to provide a key which unlocks the new lock to an
43 adverse party.

44 (b) Refuse to provide to an adverse party, whether or not that
45 party is a tenant, cotenant or household member, access to the



1 dwelling to reclaim property unless a law enforcement officer is
2 present.

3 ~~9.1~~ 10. This section shall not be construed to limit a landlord's
4 right to terminate a rental agreement for reasons unrelated to
5 domestic violence ~~f~~

6 ~~—10.1~~, *harassment, sexual assault or stalking.*

7 11. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
8 termination of a rental agreement pursuant to this section:

9 (a) Must not be disclosed, described or characterized as an early
10 termination by a current landlord to a prospective landlord; and

11 (b) Is not required to be disclosed as an early termination by a
12 tenant or cotenant to a prospective landlord.

13 ~~11.1~~ 12. As used in this section:

14 (a) "Adverse party" means a person who is named in an order
15 for protection against domestic violence, *harassment, sexual*
16 *assault or stalking*, a written report from a law enforcement agency
17 or a written statement from a qualified third party and who is
18 alleged to be the cause of the early termination of a rental agreement
19 pursuant to this section.

20 (b) "Cotenant" means a tenant who, pursuant to a rental
21 agreement, is entitled to occupy a dwelling that another tenant is
22 also entitled to occupy pursuant to the same rental agreement.

23 (c) "Domestic violence" means the commission of any act
24 described in NRS 33.018.

25 (d) *"Harassment" means a violation of NRS 200.571.*

26 (e) "Household member" means any person who is related by
27 blood or marriage and is actually residing with a tenant or cotenant.

28 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Qualified third party" means:

29 (1) A physician licensed to practice in this State;

30 (2) A psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this State
31 and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,
32 Inc. or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and
33 Psychiatry of the American Osteopathic Association;

34 (3) A psychologist licensed to practice in this State;

35 (4) A social worker licensed to practice in this State;

36 (5) A registered nurse holding a master's degree in the field
37 of psychiatric nursing and licensed to practice professional nursing
38 in this State;

39 (6) A marriage and family therapist or clinical professional
40 counselor licensed to practice in this State pursuant to chapter 641A
41 of NRS;

42 (7) Any person *who*:

43 (1) *Is* employed by an agency or service which advises
44 persons regarding domestic violence or refers them to persons or
45 agencies where their request and needs can be met and who is



1 licensed to provide health care pursuant to the provisions of title 54
2 of NRS, or is a member of the board of directors or serves as the
3 executive director of an agency or service which advises persons
4 regarding domestic violence or refers them to persons or agencies
5 where their request and needs can be met;

6 ***(II) Has received training relating to domestic violence;***

7 ***and***

8 ***(III) Is a resident of this State;*** or

9 (8) Any member of the clergy of a church or religious society
10 or denomination that is recognized as exempt under section
11 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 501
12 (c)(3), who has been chosen, elected or appointed in conformity
13 with the constitution, canons, rites, regulations or discipline of the
14 church or religious society or denomination ***† and who is a***
15 ***resident of this State.***

16 ***(g) "Sexual assault" means a violation of NRS 200.366.***

17 ***(h) "Stalking" means a violation of NRS 200.575.***

18 **Sec. 2.** NRS 118A.347 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 118A.347 An affidavit submitted by a tenant or cotenant
20 pursuant to ***subsection 2 of*** NRS 118A.345 must be in substantially
21 the following form:

22
23
24 (Name of the qualified third party, as defined in NRS
25 118A.345, including, if applicable, the name of the
26 organization with which the qualified third party is affiliated)

27
28 I (and/or)
29 (name of cotenant or household member)

30 am a victim of domestic violence as defined in
31 NRS 118A.345.

32
33 Brief description of incident(s) constituting domestic
34 violence:
35

36
37

38
39 The incident(s) that I described above occurred on the
40 following date(s) and time(s), and in the following locations:

41
42
43



The incident(s) that I described above were committed by the following person(s):

.....
.....
.....

I state under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this day of, 20....., at (city), Nevada,

.....
(Signature of tenant, cotenant or household member)

I verify that the person whose signature appears above was a victim of domestic violence and that the person informed me of the name of the adverse party as defined in NRS 118A.345.

Dated this day of, 20....., at (city), Nevada,

.....
(Signature of qualified third party)

Sec. 3. NRS 118A.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:

118A.510 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the landlord may not, in retaliation, terminate a tenancy, refuse to renew a tenancy, increase rent or decrease essential items or services required by the rental agreement or this chapter, or bring or threaten to bring an action for possession if:

(a) The tenant has complained in good faith of a violation of a building, housing or health code applicable to the premises and affecting health or safety to a governmental agency charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of that code;

(b) The tenant has complained in good faith to the landlord or a law enforcement agency of a violation of this chapter or of a specific statute that imposes a criminal penalty;

(c) The tenant has organized or become a member of a tenant's union or similar organization;

(d) A citation has been issued resulting from a complaint described in paragraph (a);



1 (e) The tenant has instituted or defended against a judicial or
2 administrative proceeding or arbitration in which the tenant raised
3 an issue of compliance with the requirements of this chapter
4 respecting the habitability of dwelling units;

5 (f) The tenant has failed or refused to give written consent to a
6 regulation adopted by the landlord, after the tenant enters into the
7 rental agreement, which requires the landlord to wait until
8 the appropriate time has elapsed before it is enforceable against the
9 tenant;

10 (g) The tenant has complained in good faith to the landlord, a
11 government agency, an attorney, a fair housing agency or any other
12 appropriate body of a violation of NRS 118.010 to 118.120,
13 inclusive, or the Fair Housing Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et
14 seq., or has otherwise exercised rights which are guaranteed or
15 protected under those laws; or

16 (h) The tenant or, if applicable, a cotenant or household
17 member, is a victim of domestic violence , *harassment, sexual*
18 *assault or stalking* or terminates a rental agreement pursuant to
19 NRS 118A.345.

20 2. If the landlord violates any provision of subsection 1, the
21 tenant is entitled to the remedies provided in NRS 118A.390 and has
22 a defense in any retaliatory action by the landlord for possession.

23 3. A landlord who acts under the circumstances described in
24 subsection 1 does not violate that subsection if:

25 (a) The violation of the applicable building, housing or health
26 code of which the tenant complained was caused primarily by the
27 lack of reasonable care by the tenant, a member of his or her
28 household or other person on the premises with his or her consent;

29 (b) The tenancy is terminated with cause;

30 (c) A citation has been issued and compliance with the
31 applicable building, housing or health code requires alteration,
32 remodeling or demolition and cannot be accomplished unless the
33 tenant's dwelling unit is vacant; or

34 (d) The increase in rent applies in a uniform manner to all
35 tenants.

36 ➔ The maintenance of an action under this subsection does not
37 prevent the tenant from seeking damages or injunctive relief for the
38 landlord's failure to comply with the rental agreement or maintain
39 the dwelling unit in a habitable condition as required by this chapter.

40 4. As used in this section:

41 (a) "Cotenant" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 118A.345.

42 (b) "Domestic violence" has the meaning ascribed to it in
43 NRS 118A.345.

44 (c) *"Harassment" means a violation of NRS 200.571.*



- 1 *(d)* “Household member” has the meaning ascribed to it in
2 NRS 118A.345.
3 *(e)* “**Sexual assault**” means a violation of **NRS 200.366**.
4 *(f)* “**Stalking**” means a violation of **NRS 200.575**.

