

**Draft language for H.169**

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 4456a is amended to read:

§ 4456a. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL APPLICATION ~~FEES~~; PROHIBITED ACTS

(a) A landlord or a landlord's agent shall not:

(1) charge an application fee to any individual in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit; or

(2) request the Social Security number of an individual or a member of an individual's household in order to apply to enter into a rental agreement for a residential dwelling unit or to conduct a criminal background or credit check.

(b) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a person from charging a fee to a person in order to apply to rent commercial or nonresidential property.

(c) If required during the application process, a landlord or a landlord's agent shall accept an original or a copy of any form of government-issued identification.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) of this section, a landlord or landlord's agent may request a Social Security number solely when said request is required by federal law to apply for a housing benefit. In such cases, a landlord or landlord's agent shall provide in writing the reason for the information requested.