

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Judiciary to meet and study how to mitigate the long-term consequences of eviction records and rent debt on renters and the economy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting unemployment crisis.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has sparked an unprecedented unemployment crisis resulting in hundreds of thousands of Louisianans losing income through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Housing Agencies estimates that the unemployment crisis will have prompted Louisiana renters to accrue two hundred eighty-one million dollars to three hundred ninety-four million dollars in rent debt and face one hundred forty thousand evictions by January 1, 2021, and these impacts are expected across the state in rural and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association's House of Delegates passed a resolution in August of 2020, urging state legislatures to exempt from tenant screening processes evictions filed during and immediately following the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, large data aggregation and tenant screening companies often use automated systems to compile "risk" scores for prospective tenants that are presented with little context and have resulted in hundreds of lawsuits over the past ten years due to inaccuracies; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 46 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session sought to seal COVID-19 related eviction records in order to help renters have a fair chance at finding a new home after an eviction; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 62 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session sought to ensure rent debt acquired during the COVID-19 emergency was not reported to consumer reporting agencies; and

WHEREAS, the housing instability associated with eviction and denial of a home results in long-term poor health outcomes, unemployment, academic decline, and downward movement to substandard, overcrowded housing that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, and this instability also results in costs for communities and society in the form of higher healthcare expenditures and increased costs to tax payers for relief programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Judiciary to meet and study how to mitigate the long-term consequences of eviction records and rent debt on renters and the economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a written report of its findings along with any specific proposals for legislation to the legislature on or before March 1, 2021.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES