

Protect Children from Having an Eviction Record

Support Senate Bill S. 781: *An Act to protect the privacy of children in eviction proceedings*



What Does S. 781 Do?

This bill clarifies that minors and others who are not responsible for paying the rent because they have not signed a lease agreement cannot be named in an eviction case. The bill says that their names must be removed (expunged) from both the record in the courthouse and the court record that is available online to the public.

What is the Problem?

Sometimes minors who are 17 years old or younger are named in eviction complaints. Innocent kids and other occupants who are not responsible for the rent - just by being named on eviction complaints - now have an "eviction record." These eviction records are used by private credit reporting companies and landlords who use the court's online database to do tenant screening. These kids and others will now be haunted for years by a permanent "eviction record."

For example, a minor who was named on his mother's eviction case when he was 15 years old may later be unable to get a loan for college, a loan for car to get to a job, have a poor credit score, or be unfairly and repeatedly denied housing because of this eviction records. We need safeguards to protect minors and other innocent tenants. **S. 781 solves this problem.**

Who Sponsored S. 781?

Senator Brownsberger is the lead sponsor of S. 781 and he is joined by Sen. DiDomenico and Representatives Rushing, Honan, Provost, Barber, and Connolly. This bill is currently in the Judiciary Committee awaiting action.



Action Needed Today

The clock is ticking and the legislative session will end soon.

Please contact the Chairs of the Judiciary Committee and ask your Senator and Representative to contact the Chairs of the Judiciary.

Urge them to report S. 781 out favorably before the 2018 session ends.

Chairs of the Judiciary Committee

- Senator William Brownsberger, State House, 24 Beacon St. Rm 504, Boston, MA, 02133
617-722-1280, William.Brownsberger@masenate.gov
- Representative Claire Cronin, State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 136, Boston, MA, 02133
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