

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 2888

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to recipients of financial assistance administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 2306.111, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

(k) The department by rule shall:

(1) adopt policies to ensure that each housing development that receives financial assistance administered by the department, including financial assistance from the proceeds of bonds issued by the department:

(A) reserves a certain number of units in the development for individuals and families of very low income; and

(B) accepts as tenants individuals and families receiving rental assistance under Section 8, United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f), or some other form of rental assistance from a political subdivision of this state or from the state or federal government; and

(2) establish enforcement mechanisms with respect to those housing developments that refuse to admit individuals and families described by Subdivision (1)(B).

SECTION 2. Section 301.021, Property Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) A person may not discriminate against another person

1 in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the rental of a dwelling
2 or in providing services or facilities in connection with the
3 rental of a dwelling because the other person receives a rent
4 subsidy or other public assistance from a political subdivision of
5 this state or from the state or federal government.

6 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act in adding
7 Section 2306.111(k), Government Code, applies only to an
8 application for financial assistance that is submitted by a housing
9 development to the Texas Department of Housing and Community
10 Affairs on or after January 1, 2010. An application for financial
11 assistance that is submitted by a housing development to the
12 department before January 1, 2010, is governed by the law in effect
13 when the application was submitted, and the former law is continued
14 in effect for that purpose.

15 (b) Not later than December 1, 2009, the Texas Department of
16 Housing and Community Affairs shall adopt the rules required by
17 Section 2306.111(k), Government Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.