

Submitter: Matthew Harrell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967

HB2967 unfairly prohibits applicant screening fees, forcing housing providers to absorb the costs of background and credit checks, which are essential for responsible tenant selection and property management that impacts every single tenant.

Eliminating screening fees shifts the financial burden of necessary background and credit checks entirely onto housing providers, increasing operational expenses. Cost is about \$50 per application.

Without screening fees to deter frivolous applications, providers may face a higher volume of unqualified applicants, wasting additional time and resources.

To recover costs, housing providers may raise overall rents, affecting all tenants, even those who did not benefit from the waived fees.

We respectfully ask the committee to oppose HB2967. In addition to debt payments and infrastructure repairs, HOUSING PROVIDERS ARE GRAPPLING WITH RISING EXPENSES ACROSS ALL AREAS, INCLUDING INSURANCE, UTILITIES, PROPERTY TAXES, PAYROLL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FEES. Thank you for your time and consideration.