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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1878

02/25/2014 Authored by Mullery

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Housing Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to housing; criminal background checks in residential tenant screening;  
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 504B.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. [504B.174] APPLICANT SCREENING; CRIMINAL BACKGROUND  
1.6 CHECK.

1.7 (a) A landlord may not request information on a prospective tenant's criminal  
1.8 background in an application for a rental unit, except as provided for in this section.

1.9 (b) A landlord may conduct a criminal background check once a rental unit is  
1.10 offered to a prospective tenant and the landlord may make the offer contingent on the  
1.11 criminal background check. Any other tenant screening the landlord requires must have  
1.12 been completed prior to the criminal background check.

1.13 (c) A landlord may include in a rental application or other notice to the prospective  
1.14 tenant any criminal activity that would prevent the tenant from being offered the rental  
1.15 unit. Not providing notice to the tenant does not prohibit the landlord from rejecting a  
1.16 prospective tenant based on the criminal background of the tenant.