

# ACTION ALERT!

## OPPOSE HB 1388 & HB 1389 – Rent Control Bill Tuesday, January 24 at 4:00 p.m.

**Urging all Members to Come to Olympia to OPPOSE Rent Control bills**

### HB 1388 & HB 1389

**HB 1388 – Protecting tenants by prohibiting predatory residential rent practices and by applying the consumer protection act to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act.**

- A landlord may not rent or seek to rent a dwelling unit at an excessive rent if such rent increase is not justified by costs necessary to maintain the dwelling unit.
- A landlord may not charge a higher rent or include terms of payment that are more burdensome to a tenant for a month-to-month rental agreement than for a rental agreement where the term is greater than month-to-month, or vice versa
- A landlord may not charge a tenant move-in fees or security deposits before a tenant takes possession of a dwelling unit that exceed one month's rent.
- \$25,000 per violation. Additional civil penalties may not be assessed for the same violation under the consumer protection act pursuant to RCW 19.86.140.12
- A tenant can be awarded damages equal to three months of the unlawful higher rent or charges that the tenant paid, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing the action.
- Defines "Excessive rent" as a rent increase during any 12-month period that is greater than the rate of inflation up to 7% percent above the existing rent.
- The Attorney General is given authority to prosecute and provide a cease-and-desist order.
- The Attorney General would have until July 2024 to post the bill in 10 languages on its website.

**Sponsors:** Representatives: Macri, Ramel, Peterson, Thai, Gregerson, Hackney, Ormsby, Alvarado, Doglio, Cortes, Riccelli, Mena, Kloba, Bateman, Fitzgibbon, Street, Taylor, Lekanoff, Simmons, Farivar, Pollet, Stonier, Berry, Reed, Bergquist, Morgan, Davis, Santos, Chopp, Reeves, Stearns, Fosse

**STATUS SB:** [House Housing Committee](#)

Hearing: Tuesday, January 24 at 4:00 p.m.

- **Testify in-person, [click here](#)**
- **Testify virtually, [click here](#)**
- **To Submit **written testimony, [click here](#)****
- **To Provide opposition to be noted for the legislative record, [click here](#)**

## **HB 1389 – Concerning residential rent increases under the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act.**

- A landlord may not increase the rent for a month-to-month tenancy or a tenancy with a term greater than month-to-month:
  - During the first 12 months after the tenancy begins; in an amount greater than the rate of inflation or 3%, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of 7% above the existing rent.
- If a landlord increases the rent above the amount allowed, the landlord must include facts supporting the exemption claimed in the notice.
- Exemptions include federally subsidized housing such as Section 8, and houses built within the last 10 years.
- Other justification but still limited to 4-7% increase include improvements to the property, significant hardship to be approved by the Dept of Commerce (which needs to be granted prior and attached to the increase notice); and banked capacity program as defined by this bill an additional 3% a year, or banked capacity plus 3% a year. This requires annual notice prior to new tenants to participate in the program including current banked capacity.
  - If the tenant is evicted the rent increase for the property is limited to 3%
- New owners of a property may not increase rent beyond what the original landlord could.
- The Department of commerce will list the maximum calculated rent increase percentage for any given year on its website by September 30th, 2023.
- Annual notices to current and prospective tenants of rent increases and future possible rent increases. The bill provides the format of the new annual notice requirement.

**Sponsors:** *Representatives: Ramel, Macri, Peterson, Duerr, Gregerson, Alvarado, Ormsby, Doglio, Riccelli, Cortes, Mena, Thai, Kloba, Bateman, Street, Taylor, Lekanoff, Simmons, Farivar, Pollet, Stonier, Berry, Reed, Bergquist, Davis, Santos, Senn, Reeves, Stearns, Fosse*

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Please note that you must sign in **1 hour before the hearing** to **testify or provide position** to be placed on legislative record. After the hearing, you have **24 hours** to **submit written testimony**.

Please also **contact the members** of the  
**House Housing Committee** Urging them to **OPPOSE Rent Control Legislation –**  
**HB 1388 & HB 1389**



Please take action right away.

### House Housing Committee Members:

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