LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - COVID-19 Tenant Protections]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to prohibit landlords from evicting residential tenants for non-payment of rent that came due between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, that was not paid due to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided the tenant has paid at least 25 percent of the rent owed; to prohibit landlords from imposing late fees, penalties, or similar charges on such tenants; and making findings as required by the California Tenant Protection Act of 2019.

Existing Law

The Tenant, Homeowner, and Small Landlord Relief and Stabilization Act of 2020 (hereafter, "SB 91") grants certain eviction protections to residential tenants who have paid at least 25% of the rent owed but were unable to pay the remainder due to COVID-19. SB 91 applies to rent payments that came due on or before June 30, 2021, but does not protect tenants from being evicted due to rent payments missed on or after July 1, 2021. Under the City's Rent Ordinance, a landlord generally can evict their tenant for not paying the rent, and charge the tenant late fees or interest due to missed rent payments.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance would restrict landlords from evicting tenants due to the non-payment of rent that originally came due between July 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, if tenant has paid the landlord at least 25% of all the rental payments that have come due between July 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, and can show with documentation that their failure to pay the remaining rent arose out of the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ordinance would restrict evictions for non-payment of rent but the rent would still be owed. Also, the ordinance would prohibit landlords from imposing late fees or penalties or similar charges on a tenant who missed their post-July rent in these circumstances, and would prohibit landlords from evicting due to these unpaid fees/charges.

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