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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 6354**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, individuals seeking a rebate under the Renters' Rebate Program (see BACKGROUND) apply annually to local assessors or their agents between April 1 and October 1. The rebates are reimbursement for rent and utility payments made in the preceding calendar year.

Under this bill, municipalities that require applicants to notarize their landlord's verification of property rental must exempt applicants from this requirement if they previously notarized the landlord verification for the same property rental.

The bill also prohibits municipalities from delaying the submission of an application to the Office of Policy and Management for an otherwise qualified renter who fails to meet the deadline for (1) notarizing the landlord verification or (2) submitting the application to the municipality, if the failure is due to illness or incapacitation. In the latter case, the renter must have provided a medical certificate signed by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Renters' Rebate Program***

The Renters' Rebate Program provides rent and utility reimbursements to older adult or totally disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. It is open to people renting an apartment or room or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home. To be eligible, the recipient or his or her spouse must be (1) age 65 or

older; (2) age 50 or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified for and was entitled to tax relief, provided such spouse lived with such renter at the time of the renter's death; or (3) age 18 or older with a total and permanent disability. The recipient also must have lived in the state for at least one year.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/16/2021)