



City of Holyoke

IN CITY COUNCIL

Introduced by Councilor **Jose Maldonado-Velez, Kevin A Jourdain**
Ordered, a Resolution in Support of Eviction Sealing to Promote Housing Opportunity and Mobility (Attached).

Presented to the Mayor	Mayor's Office
For Approval _____, 20	Holyoke, Mass. _____, 20
_____ City Clerk	Approved _____ Mayor

CITY OF HOLYOKE

BY CITY COUNCIL

DATE June 21, 22

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

DGR

BRENNA MURPHY MCGEE, CLERK

CITY OF HOLYOKE

In the City Council, May 17, 2022

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Maldonado Velez and Councilor Jourdain

Resolution in Support of Eviction Sealing to Promote Housing Opportunity and Mobility

WHEREAS: Since 1988, over 1 million such eviction cases have been filed in Massachusetts and once filed become part of that tenant's eviction record, documenting the tenant's history of ever having sued or been sued by a landlord; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of fault, outcome, or underlying basis for a court filing, possessing any record of an eviction filing can affect a tenant's ability to secure housing and may give a landlord reason to reject their application; and

WHEREAS: In 2013, the Massachusetts Trial Court began placing eviction record information online, making a tenant's court record history easily accessible to the public and to tenant screening companies, which routinely recommend rejections of tenants for having been in court, regardless of the outcome of the case or proof of clerical error; and

WHEREAS: Even children and minors named in eviction proceedings risk permanent records that impact their search for housing when they become adults; and

WHEREAS: Many landlords routinely file a notice to quit simply as a matter of course at the conclusion of a tenancy, and are unaware of the collateral consequences of eviction records or of the growing record of evictions they themselves are accumulating; and

WHEREAS: Bills H.3566 and S.824 'promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing (HOMES),' sponsored by Representative Michael Moran and Senator Joseph Boncore respectively have been assigned to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary for hearing on July 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS: These bills would protect tenants from being unfairly branded with an eviction record by sealing records until a judgment is rendered and ensuring the accuracy of records while not altering the legal rights of landlords, property owners or tenants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Holyoke City Council also hereby supports with co-sponsors Senator John Velis and Representative Patricia Duffy, S.824 and H.3566, the acts to promote housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the state sponsors of the Acts 'promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing,' Representative Michael Moran and Senator Joseph Boncore; Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Senator James B. Eldridge and Representative Claire D. Cronin; State Representative Lindsay Sadosa; State Senator Jo Comerford; House Speaker Robert DeLeo; Senate President Karen Spilka and Governor Charles Baker.