

A Win For Renters: HB 375

LaFHAC joined sexual assault survivors and their advocates, along with Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman, to pass HB 375 this spring. . HB 375 passed out of committee without objection after LSU students bravely shared their stories of sexual assault and will go into effect August 1, 2021.

What does this mean for survivors and renters in Louisiana?

HB 375 will ensure that survivors of sexual assault in Louisiana will be able to terminate their lease without penalty if necessary and if the assault occurred after the lease was signed. Advocates explained to legislators that:

- People are most often sexually assaulted by someone that they know
- Survivors could be in danger of future assault continuous harassment if the person who assaulted them knows their address
- Survivors could be at risk of retaliation for reporting the incident of sexual violence
- If the assault occurs at the survivor's home, remaining at the property could result in significantly increased mental health effects, such as PTSD related episodes, as the survivor recovers from the violence

HB 375 will help to prevent this additional burden for survivors and increase their ability to maintain safe housing.

For survivors to qualify for protections under the new law, they must:

- Inform their landlord within 60 days of the sexual assault
- Provide the landlord with either a temporary restraining order or a certification of sexual assault form available through a sexual assault center such as the Sexual Trauma and Response (STAR) or the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). You can reach STAR at 855-435-STAR (24/7 hotline) or star.ngo and LaFASA at 888-995-7273 or www.lafasa.org
- Not knowingly or voluntarily allow the person who committed the assault back in their home
- Mutually agree on an early termination date with the landlord
- Pay rent until the early termination date

If a landlord refuses to offer an early termination date, please contact the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center at 504-596-2100 or through our website at info@lafairhousing.org.



Brave LSU students share their stories at committee.