

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 17-0439.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**HOUSE BILL 17-1035**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Jackson,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**  
Judiciary

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING ALLOWING CERTAIN CRIME VICTIMS TO BREAK THEIR**  
102      **RENTAL AGREEMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

Under current law, if a tenant notifies his or her landlord in writing that he or she is the victim of domestic violence or domestic abuse and provides to the landlord evidence in the form of a police report written within the prior 60 days or a valid protection order, and the tenant seeks to vacate the premises due to fear of imminent danger for self or children, then the tenant may terminate the rental agreement or lease and vacate the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

premises with minimal remaining obligations. The bill extends this privilege to victims of unlawful sexual behavior and stalking. The bill also provides that a statement from a medical professional or from an application assistant designated by the address confidentiality program confirming the tenant's victim status is a third means of presenting evidence to the landlord.

Under current law, a dangerous or uninhabitable condition in a rented property does not constitute a breach of the warranty of habitability if the condition is caused by the misconduct of the tenant, a member of the tenant's household, a guest or invitee of the tenant, or a person under the tenant's direction or control. However, such a condition is not misconduct by a victim of domestic violence or domestic abuse if the condition is the result of domestic violence or domestic abuse and the landlord has been given written notice and evidence of domestic violence or domestic abuse. The bill adds language to provide the same protection for tenants who are victims of unlawful sexual behavior or stalking.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** part 4 of  
3 article 12 of title 38 as follows:

4 **PART 4**

5 **VICTIMS OF UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, STALKING,**  
6 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

7 **38-12-401. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context  
8 otherwise requires:

9 (1) "APPLICATION ASSISTANT" HAS THE SAME MEANING PROVIDED  
10 IN SECTION 24-30-2103 (4).

11 ~~(1)~~ (2) "Domestic abuse" ~~shall have~~ HAS the same meaning as  
12 provided in section 13-14-101 (2). ~~C.R.S.~~

13 ~~(2)~~ (3) "Domestic violence" ~~shall have~~ HAS the same meaning as  
14 provided in section 18-6-800.3 (1). ~~C.R.S.~~

15 (4) "MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PERSON LICENSED TO  
16 PRACTICE MEDICINE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 36 OR 38 OF TITLE 12.

1 (5) "STALKING" MEANS THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN  
2 SECTION 18-3-602.

3 (6) "UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR" MEANS THE CRIMINAL  
4 OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-22-102 (9).

5 **38-12-402. Protection for victims of unlawful sexual behavior,**  
6 **stalking, or domestic violence.** (1) A landlord shall not include in a  
7 residential rental agreement or lease agreement for housing a provision  
8 authorizing the landlord to terminate the agreement or to impose a penalty  
9 on a residential tenant for calls made by the residential tenant for peace  
10 officer assistance or other emergency assistance in response to a ~~domestic~~  
11 ~~violence or domestic abuse~~ situation INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
12 DOMESTIC ABUSE, UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, OR STALKING. A  
13 residential tenant may not waive the residential tenant's right to call for  
14 police or other emergency assistance.

15 (2) (a) If a tenant to a residential rental agreement or lease  
16 agreement notifies the landlord in writing that he or she is the victim of  
17 UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, STALKING, domestic violence, or domestic  
18 abuse and provides to the landlord evidence of UNLAWFUL SEXUAL  
19 BEHAVIOR, STALKING, domestic violence, or domestic abuse  
20 VICTIMIZATION in the form of a police report written within the prior sixty  
21 days, ~~or~~ a valid protection order, OR A STATEMENT FROM A MEDICAL  
22 PROFESSIONAL OR APPLICATION ASSISTANT THAT CONFIRMS SUCH FACT,  
23 and the residential tenant seeks to vacate the premises due to fear of  
24 imminent danger for self or children because of the UNLAWFUL SEXUAL  
25 BEHAVIOR, STALKING, domestic violence, or domestic abuse, then the  
26 residential tenant may terminate the residential rental agreement or lease  
27 agreement and vacate the premises without further obligation except as

1 otherwise provided in ~~paragraph (b) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION  
2 (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (b) If a tenant to a residential rental agreement or lease agreement  
4 terminates the residential rental agreement or lease agreement and vacates  
5 the premises pursuant to ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION  
6 (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, then the tenant ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for one  
7 month's rent following vacation of the premises, which amount ~~shall be~~  
8 IS due and payable to the landlord within ninety days after the tenant  
9 vacates the premises. The landlord ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT obligated to refund  
10 the security deposit to the tenant until ~~such time as~~ the tenant has paid the  
11 one month's rent pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding the provisions  
12 of section 38-12-103, the landlord and the tenant to a residential rental  
13 agreement or lease agreement may use any amounts owed to the other to  
14 offset costs for the one month's rent or the security deposit. The  
15 provisions of this ~~paragraph (b) shall~~ SUBSECTION (2)(b) apply only if the  
16 landlord has experienced and documented damages equal to at least one  
17 month's rent as a result of the tenant's early termination of the agreement.

18 (3) Nothing in this part 4 authorizes the termination of tenancy  
19 and eviction of a residential tenant solely because the residential tenant  
20 is the victim of UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, STALKING, domestic  
21 violence, or domestic abuse.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-12-503, **amend**  
23 (3) as follows:

24 **38-12-503. Warranty of habitability.** (3) When any condition  
25 described in subsection (2) of this section is caused by the misconduct of  
26 the tenant, a member of the tenant's household, a guest or invitee of the  
27 tenant, or a person under the tenant's direction or control, the condition

1 ~~shall~~ DOES not constitute a breach of the warranty of habitability. It ~~shall~~  
2 IS not ~~be~~ misconduct by a victim of domestic violence; ~~or~~ domestic abuse;  
3 UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-22-102 (9);  
4 OR STALKING under this subsection (3) if the condition is the result of  
5 domestic violence; ~~or~~ domestic abuse; UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, AS  
6 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-22-102 (9); OR STALKING and the landlord has  
7 been given written notice and evidence of domestic violence, ~~or~~ domestic  
8 abuse; UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
9 16-22-102 (9); OR STALKING, as described in section 38-12-402 (2)(a).

10 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.