## **First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly** STATE OF COLORADO

## PREAMENDED

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 25-0563.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**HOUSE BILL 25-1004** 

#### HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Woodrow and Mabrey,

(None),

#### SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**House Committees** Business Affairs & Labor

**Senate Committees** 

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

#### 101 **CONCERNING PRICING COORDINATION BY LANDLORDS.**

#### **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.)

The bill prohibits:

- A landlord or an agent, a representative, or a subcontractor of a landlord from subscribing to, contracting with, or otherwise exchanging any form of consideration in return for the services of a coordinator;
- A coordinator from facilitating an agreement among landlords that restricts competition with respect to dwelling units, which includes performing a coordinating function;

or

• 2 or more landlords from engaging in consciously parallel pricing coordination.

A violation is deemed to be an illegal restraint of trade or commerce and is punishable in accordance with the "Colorado State Antitrust Act of 2023".

The division of housing within the department of local affairs is required to develop and undertake a public education program designed to inform Colorado residents of the provisions of the bill.

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

2 SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Agreements or conspiracies between competitors to fix prices
5 or other commercial terms are illegal under current Colorado law, and
6 algorithmic devices have made illegal agreements more challenging to
7 detect; and

8 (b) In recent years, several lawsuits have been filed alleging that 9 the use of algorithmic devices by landlords to set prices and other 10 commercial terms in the residential housing market results in higher rents 11 and constrained housing supply for residential tenants; and

12 (c) A recent White House study titled "The Cost of 13 Anticompetitive Pricing Algorithms in Rental Housing" estimated that in 14 2023, the cost to renters of anticompetitive pricing was \$3.8 billion, and 15 the cost to renters in the Denver metro area was the second highest of any 16 metro area in the country.

17 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that, with certain
18 exceptions, the distribution and use of an algorithmic device by a service
19 provider or landlord to set rents and other certain commercial terms
20 regarding the occupancy of rental housing is prohibited.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 38-12-703 as
 follows:

3 38-12-703. Determination of rent amount - sale, distribution, 4 and use of algorithmic devices prohibited - illegal restraint of trade 5 or commerce - definitions. (1) (a) THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR 6 CONSIDERATION OF AN ALGORITHMIC DEVICE WITH THE INTENT THAT IT BE 7 USED BY TWO OR MORE LANDLORDS IN THE SAME MARKET OR A RELATED 8 MARKET TO SET OR RECOMMEND THE AMOUNT OF RENT, LEVEL OF 9 OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER COMMERCIAL TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE 10 OCCUPANCY OF A RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IS PROHIBITED.

11 (b) THE USE OF AN ALGORITHMIC DEVICE BY A PERSON TO SET OR 12 RECOMMEND THE AMOUNT OF RENT, LEVEL OF OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER 13 COMMERCIAL TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUPANCY OF A RESIDENTIAL 14 PREMISES IS PROHIBITED IF THE PERSON KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN 15 THAT ANOTHER PERSON USED THE ALGORITHMIC DEVICE, OR AN 16 ALGORITHMIC DEVICE TRAINED ON SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR DATA, TO SET 17 OR RECOMMEND THE AMOUNT OF RENT, LEVEL OF OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER 18 COMMERCIAL TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUPANCY OF A RESIDENTIAL 19 PREMISES IN THE SAME MARKET OR A RELATED MARKET.

20 (c)A PERSON ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING 21 ALGORITHMIC DEVICE SERVICES OR PRODUCTS THAT ARE USED TO SET OR 22 RECOMMEND THE AMOUNT OF RENT, LEVEL OF OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER 23 COMMERCIAL TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUPANCY OF A RESIDENTIAL 24 PREMISES SHALL NOT USE NONPUBLIC COMPETITOR DATA PERTAINING TO 25 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN COLORADO IN ALGORITHMIC CALCULATIONS. 26 (2) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IS AN 27 ILLEGAL RESTRAINT OF TRADE OR COMMERCE IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 6-4-104 AND IS PUNISHABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "COLORADO

2 STATE ANTITRUST ACT OF 2023", ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 6.

3 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

4 (a) "ALGORITHMIC DEVICE" MEANS A DEVICE THAT USES ONE OR
5 MORE ALGORITHMS TO PERFORM CALCULATIONS OF DATA, INCLUDING
6 DATA CONCERNING LOCAL OR STATEWIDE RENT AMOUNTS BEING CHARGED
7 TO TENANTS BY LANDLORDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING A LANDLORD
8 CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF RENT, LEVEL OF OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER
9 COMMERCIAL TERM ASSOCIATED WITH RENTAL HOUSING. "ALGORITHMIC
10 DEVICE":

(I) INCLUDES A PRODUCT THAT INCORPORATES AN ALGORITHMIC
 DEVICE; AND

13 (II) DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(A) A PRODUCT THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND
NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING OR SETTING A COMMERCIAL
TERM BY TWO OR MORE PERSONS IN THE SAME MARKET OR A RELATED
MARKET, SO LONG AS THE INFORMATION WAS NOT TRAINED USING
NONPUBLIC COMPETITOR DATA; OR
(B) A PRODUCT USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING RENT OR
INCOME LIMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

21 PROGRAM GUIDELINES OF THE STATE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, A

22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

(b) "NONPUBLIC COMPETITOR DATA" MEANS NONPUBLIC DATA,
INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT ACTUAL RENT PRICES, OCCUPANCY
RATES, LEASE START AND END DATES, AND SIMILAR DATA, REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER THE DATA ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO A SPECIFIC COMPETITOR OR
ANONYMIZED, THAT ARE DERIVED FROM OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY A

PERSON THAT COMPETES IN THE SAME MARKET, OR IN A RELATED MARKET,
 AS ANOTHER PERSON.

3 (c) "NONPUBLIC DATA" MEANS INFORMATION THAT IS NOT WIDELY
4 AVAILABLE OR EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING
5 PUBLIC-FACING DATA MADE AVAILABLE UNDER TERMS OF SERVICE THAT
6 PROHIBIT THE USE OF THAT DATA.

7 (d) "RENT" MEANS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF RENT, INCLUDING
8 CONCESSIONS AND FEES, THAT A RESIDENTIAL TENANT IS REQUIRED TO
9 PAY PURSUANT TO A RENTAL AGREEMENT.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 6-4-123 as
follows:

6-4-123. Pleading standards. A PLAINTIFF PLAUSIBLY PLEADS A
VIOLATION OF SECTION 6-4-104 IF THE COMPLAINT CONTAINS FACTUAL
ALLEGATIONS DEMONSTRATING THAT THE EXISTENCE OF A CONTRACT,
COMBINATION IN THE FORM OF TRUST OR OTHERWISE, OR CONSPIRACY IN
RESTRAINT OF TRADE OR COMMERCE IS AMONG THE REALM OF PLAUSIBLE
POSSIBILITIES. A PLAINTIFF NEED NOT ALLEGE FACTS TENDING TO
EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENT ACTION.

19 SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date -20 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following 21 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the 22 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant 23 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an 24 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, 25 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the 26 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take 27 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the

- 1 governor.
- 2 (2) This act applies to conduct occurring on or after the applicable
- 3 effective date of this act.