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**Fair Housing.**  *An Act Relating to Fair Housing Practices Act.* A landlord is prohibited from discriminating against a tenant or applicant for housing solely on the basis that the tenant or applicant is a victim of domestic violence. Effective June 14, 2002. 2002 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 118.

**Summary**

This legislation (the Act) amends sections 34-37-1 through 34-37-4, and adds section 34-37-2.4, of the Rhode Island General Laws to include victims of domestic violence within the class of those protected by the Fair Housing Practices Act. The protected class includes those persons that have been, are, or are threatened with being, a victim of domestic abuse, and those persons seeking restraining orders from a court for protection from domestic abuse. The Act specifies that the terms “domestic abuse” and “victim” shall have the same meanings as defined in sections 15-15-1 and 12-29-2, with the exception that the term domestic abuse need not be limited to those instances involving a minor. The Act further prevents any written or oral inquiry as to whether a person has been, is, or is threatened with being, a victim of domestic abuse or whether they are seeking a protective restraining order. The Act clarifies that nothing within the Act prevents a landlord from proceeding with an eviction under section 34-18-24, which allows eviction if domestic violence occurs on, or adjacent to, the premises.

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3. Id. § 34-37-3(18), (19).
4. Id. § 34-37-4.
5. Id. §§ 34-18-24(10), 34-37-2, 34-37-4(n).