

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 5, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 7, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 4, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 24, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 725**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Lieber and DeVore  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Beall, Hancock, and Hayashi)**

February 22, 2007

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An act to add Section 50455.7 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to housing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 725, as amended, Lieber. Housing: ~~universal~~ *uniform* rental housing application.

Existing law requires the California State Housing Plan to include a housing strategy that coordinates housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies.

This bill, on or before April 1, 2009, would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to convene a first meeting of a working group consisting of specified ~~governmental agencies and~~

private associations, ~~as specified,~~ to draft a uniform subsidized affordable housing application, and would require the department to take other specified actions upon the development of a uniform application.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to create a  
2 uniform affordable housing rental application, including two  
3 formats accessible to people with disabilities, to benefit both of  
4 the following:

5 (a) Low- and moderate-income housing applicants, by allowing  
6 them to fill out and copy a single application that they can use to  
7 apply for multiple affordable housing opportunities.

8 (b) Subsidized housing providers, by allowing them to collect  
9 all the information that they typically request, including all the  
10 information that state and federal funding agencies require them  
11 to gather, on a single application.

12 SEC. 2. Section 50455.7 is added to the Health and Safety  
13 Code, to read:

14 50455.7. (a) (1) On or before April 1, 2009, the department  
15 shall convene a first meeting of a working group to draft a uniform  
16 subsidized affordable housing application. The department shall  
17 invite organizations representing subsidized affordable housing  
18 providers, including, but not limited to, the Affordable Housing  
19 Management Association of Northern California; the Affordable  
20 Housing Management Association-Pacific Southwest; the Aging  
21 Services of California; the Apartment Association, Southern  
22 California Cities; the California Apartment Association; the  
23 California Association of Realtors; the California Housing  
24 Consortium; Housing California; the Non-Profit Housing  
25 Association of Northern California; and the Southern California  
26 Association of Nonprofit Housing.

27 (2) The working group may organize itself as it chooses and  
28 schedule future meetings.

29 (3) Nothing in this section shall require the department to  
30 participate in the working group or to pay the travel or other

1 expenses of any person attending any meeting of the working  
2 group.

3 (b) If the working group develops a draft uniform application,  
4 the department shall do each of the following:

5 (1) Review the draft for compliance with ~~state and federal legal~~  
6 ~~requirements~~ and department policy and, if the draft does not  
7 comply, return it to the working group to make the necessary  
8 changes.

9 (2) *Provide the draft to the Department of Fair Employment*  
10 *and Housing, which shall review the draft for compliance with the*  
11 *fair housing statutes that it enforces, make any necessary changes*  
12 *to the draft, and return the draft to the department.*

13 ~~(2)~~

14 (3) Add the following statement to the application:

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16 “This uniform application is available in a downloadable text  
17 file format and in formats accessible to people with disabilities at  
18 [insert the URL of the page on the department’s Internet Web site  
19 where the application is posted].”

20

21 ~~(3)~~

22 (4) Provide the completed uniform application to the State  
23 Council on Developmental Disabilities, which shall do all of the  
24 following:

25 (A) Select a contractor, to be paid an amount not to exceed ~~five~~  
26 ~~thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~ *four thousand dollars (\$4,000)*, to  
27 develop two accessible formats of the uniform application as  
28 follows:

29 (i) One application in plain English, with a large font.

30 (ii) One application in plain English, with a large font and color  
31 illustrations.

32 (B) Require the contractor to conduct at least one test with a  
33 focus group of persons with diverse disabilities.

34 (C) Review and approve the accessible formats developed by  
35 the contractor and provide them to the department.

36 ~~(4)~~

37 (5) Post the application in a downloadable text file format,  
38 including, but not limited to, in the formats accessible to people  
39 with disabilities, on the department’s Internet Web site.

40 ~~(5)~~

1 (6) Reconvene the working group in the future as necessary to  
2 draft revisions in the uniform application to comply with changes  
3 in law or in the requirements of federal or state funding agencies.  
4 (c) After the department completes all the requirements of  
5 subdivision (b), the department, the California Tax Credit  
6 Allocation Committee, and the California Housing Finance Agency  
7 shall do each of the following:  
8 (1) Inform current and future recipients of state affordable  
9 housing subsidies of the existence of the uniform application,  
10 including, but not limited to, all of the following:  
11 (A) The accessible formats of the uniform application.  
12 (B) Where the application is located on the Internet Web site.  
13 (C) The goals of the uniform application, as declared in Section  
14 1 of the act that enacts this section.  
15 (2) Consider awarding additional points to future funding  
16 applicants who agree to distribute and accept the uniform  
17 application.  
18 (d) Nothing in this section shall require a housing provider to  
19 use the uniform application or shall prevent a housing provider  
20 from requesting additional information from rental applicants.  
21 (e) Any requirement of this section relating to the accessible  
22 formats shall be inapplicable if the State Council on Developmental  
23 Disabilities does not produce the accessible formats because of  
24 the financial limitation of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of  
25 subdivision (b).  
26 (f) The department's adoption of the ~~universal~~ *uniform* rental  
27 housing application and compliance with the other requirements  
28 of this section shall not be subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing  
29 with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the  
30 Government Code. Nothing in this section shall authorize the  
31 department to adopt or amend any regulation.

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