

Reinstating the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Private Right of Action

Sec. 8-37cc. Housing agencies to serve households with incomes less than fifty per cent of area median income and to promote fair housing choice and racial and economic integration.

(a) Each housing agency, as defined in section 8-37aa, shall, within available resources and to the extent practicable, serve households with incomes less than fifty per cent of the area median income, including households with incomes less than twenty-five per cent of the area median income. In administering its programs each housing agency shall attempt to serve households in the lower range of the income group for which the housing program was developed.

(b) In addition to those housing agencies defined in section 8-37aa, Each housing state agency providing or supporting, financially or otherwise, affordable housing shall affirmatively promote fair housing choice and racial and economic integration in all programs administered or supervised by such housing agency.

Section 1. Section 46a-98a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of section 8-37cc, 46a-64c or 46a-81e or by a breach of a conciliation agreement entered into pursuant to this chapter, may bring an action in the Superior Court, or the housing session of said court if appropriate within one year of the date of the alleged discriminatory practice or of a breach of a conciliation agreement entered into pursuant to this chapter. No action pursuant to this section may be brought in the Superior Court regarding the alleged discriminatory practice after the commission has obtained a conciliation agreement pursuant to section 46a-83 or commenced a hearing pursuant to section 46a-84, except for an action to enforce the conciliation agreement. The court shall have the power to grant relief, by injunction or otherwise, as it deems just and suitable. The court may grant any relief which a presiding officer may grant in a proceeding under section 46a-86 or which the court may grant in a proceeding under section 46a-89. The commission, through commission legal counsel or the Attorney General, may intervene as a matter of right in any action brought pursuant to this section without permission of the court or the parties.