



## 2018 New York State YMCA

### Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #: AL-11

1 **Sponsors:** Colleen Griffin - Turk and Julia Colbert

2

3 **AN ACT TO:** Amend § 301 of the Public Housing Law to require that residents of  
4 public housing be subjected to a drug test before moving in and then monthly on a  
5 random date.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the*  
8 *Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

9 **Purpose:**

10 To decrease and over time eliminate drug consumption among public housing  
11 residents and to increase the safety of the Public Housing locations by decreasing  
12 the amount of violence that arises from drugs.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions:**

15 Section 1

16 Public housing- may be a form of housing tenure in which the property is owned by  
17 a government authority, which may be central or local.

18 Tenant-a person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord

19 Drug test- A drug test is a technical analysis of a biological specimen, for example  
20 urine, hair, blood, breath, sweat, and/or oral fluid/saliva — to determine the  
21 presence or absence of specified parent drugs or their metabolites.

22 Rehab- a course of treatment for drug or alcohol dependence, typically at a  
23 residential facility.

24 Section 2

25 The people of New York State who benefit from Public Housing should be  
26 subjugated to a drug test before they move in and then random monthly drug tests  
27 to ensure they are not abusing drugs and the law while residing on state property.

28 If the drug tests come back positive and the person is found to be taking any illegal  
29 drugs, which have not been prescribed to them for medicinal use, they will be

30 offered the option to attend a rehab program, at no cost of the individual. If they  
31 deny this offer they will be denied public housing, because they should not be given

32 the privilege of public housing if they are not going to abide by the law. § 301 This  
33 bill would put in place the option of rehab programs for individuals who receive

34 public housing and test positive for drug use. (1) the state has a duty to provide  
35 public housing that is decent, safe, and free from illegal drugs; (2) public  
36 housing projects in many areas suffer from rampant drug-related crime;

37

38 **Justification**

39 New York City alone houses 400,000 people in public housing. The public housing is  
40 paid for through New York State residents' taxes. If taxpayers have to pay for  
41 affordable housing for other people, the individuals benefiting should abide by the  
42 law and not do drugs. Subjecting the people who benefit from public housing to  
43 random drug tests monthly and a drug test before they move in, and this will not  
44 only insure that they are abiding by the law but it will also increase the safety of



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45 the public housing locations. Public housing within New York State has long  
46 struggled with the issue of drug use. Drug deals and the consumption of drugs  
47 occur frequently in these locations. This puts the people living in the public housing  
48 at risk because violence is frequently a result of drug deals and drug consumption.  
49 It is imperative that these locations be safe because so many children live within  
50 public housing. The children should not have to suffer because of the problems that  
51 arise from drugs. If tenants are subjugated to random drug tests the amount of  
52 tenants possessing or consuming drugs would significantly decrease. If there drug  
53 test comes back negative and they are found to be taking drugs they will be given  
54 the option to attend rehab at no cost to the individual. If they chose not to go to  
55 the rehab program they will be kicked out of public housing, because they should  
56 not be given the privilege of public housing if they are not going to abide by the  
57 law. The option of rehab is beneficial because not only would it help to rid drug  
58 consuming tenants of their drug problem, but in addition it is a good use of  
59 taxpayer money. Rehab is cheaper than going to prison and this is where the  
60 tenants would go if caught participating in the action of buying, selling, or using  
61 illegal drugs. Therefore, in the long term, this program would save taxpayers  
62 money.

63

#### **Fiscal Implications:**

64 The cost of a drug tests ranges from \$12 to \$50. This cost for drug tests and rehab  
65 programs would be covered through NYS taxpayer money which goes towards  
66 funding public housing projects.

67

#### **Effective Date:**

68  
69 This bill will go into effect one year after it is passed in legislative.  
70