HOUSE BILL 110:
Landlord Submission of HOPE Application.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Commerce and Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	**Date:**	August 24, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Hanig, Brody	**Prepared by:**	Amy Darden Jeremy Ray Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H110-CSBB-14		

OVERVIEW: The PCS to House Bill 110 would remove the prior contents and replace with a new subsection to Session Law 2021-25 that would allow a landlord to submit an application, on behalf of a tenant, under the Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program (HOPE), provided the application meets all the federal program requirements.

CURRENT LAW: The North Carolina HOPE program is managed by the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), a division of the Department of Public Safety. The program seeks to provide rent and utility bill assistance to low-income tenants who have been financially impacted during the pandemic. Low-income tenants must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive assistance and may apply by submitting an application with the NC HOPE Program. A tenant who is approved and awarded assistance enters into a legally binding agreement with their landlord and must abide by program requirements. Landlords cannot at this time apply for the HOPE program on behalf of a tenant, but may refer distressed tenants to the program, or complete a form requesting that the HOPE program follow-up with a tenant to start the application process.

The HOPE program's initial funding was provided by Community Development Block grants through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and Coronavirus Relief Funds. The program was recently updated in May 2021 with a new program delivery model funded by the Emergency Rental Assistance Program administered by the US Department of Treasury. These funds were appropriated by the General Assembly in SL 2021-3, Section 1.4.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 110 would allow a landlord to submit an application seeking rent or utility assistance through the HOPE program on behalf of a tenant applicant, provided the application meets all the federal requirements of the program. Current requirements include proof of household income, landlord information, most recent utility bill, lease summary form, proof of payment showing deposit to the landlord for rent amount, attestation signature, and other information. An application containing the required information would be allowed to be submitted by the landlord on behalf of a tenant and the NCORR would be directed to accept the application.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would become effective when it becomes law.

This bill analysis was prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff for the use of legislators in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.