

**Representative Janice M. Fisher** proposes the following substitute bill:

**MOBILE HOME PARK RESIDENCY ACT AMENDMENTS**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Janice M. Fisher**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies and enacts provisions of the Mobile Home Park Residency Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies a provision relating to a mobile home park owner's change of a due date for rent, fees, and service charges;
- ▶ increases the allowable size of a "for sale" sign;
- ▶ provides that a reduction or restriction of amenities is not valid unless the mobile home park owner complies with statutory notice and meeting requirements;
- ▶ limits a mobile home park owner's rent increase or decrease to twice a year;
- ▶ modifies the procedure for increasing rent on mobile home park residents;
- ▶ prohibits a mobile home park owner and resident from using force, coercion, or deception to procure the other's signature on a lease agreement; and
- ▶ establishes a process for residents and a mobile home park owner to petition each other for a meeting to resolve disputes of general concern.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**



26 None

27 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

28 AMENDS:

29 **57-16-3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2002, Chapter 255

30 **57-16-4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 94

31 ENACTS:

32 **57-16-4.3**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **57-16-3** is amended to read:

36 **57-16-3. Definitions.**

37 As used in this chapter:

38 (1) "Amenities" means the following physical, recreational or social facilities located at  
39 a mobile home park:

- 40 (a) a club house;
- 41 (b) a park;
- 42 (c) a playground;
- 43 (d) a swimming pool;
- 44 (e) a hot tub;
- 45 (f) a tennis court; or
- 46 (g) a basketball court.

47 (2) "Change of use" means a change of the use of a mobile home park, or any part of it,  
48 for a purpose other than the rental of mobile home spaces.

49 (3) "Fees" means other charges incidental to a resident's tenancy including, but not  
50 limited to, late fees, charges for pets, charges for storage of recreational vehicles, charges for  
51 the use of park facilities, and security deposits.

52 (4) "Mobile home" means a transportable structure in one or more sections with the  
53 plumbing, heating, and electrical systems contained within the unit, which when erected on a  
54 site, may be used with or without a permanent foundation as a family dwelling.

55 (5) "Mobile home park" means any tract of land on which two or more mobile home  
56 spaces are leased, or offered for lease or rent, to accommodate mobile homes for residential

57 purposes.

58 (6) "Mobile home park owner":

59 (a) means the owner of a mobile home park or the owner's agent; and

60 (b) for purposes of notification and other communication required under this chapter,

61 includes a managing agent, leasing agent, or resident manager, unless the written lease

62 agreement provides otherwise.

63 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Mobile home space" means a specific area of land within a mobile home park  
64 designed to accommodate one mobile home.

65 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Rent" means charges paid for the privilege of occupying a mobile home  
66 space, and may include service charges and fees.

67 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) "Resident" means an individual who leases or rents space in a mobile home  
68 park.

69 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) "Service charges" means separate charges paid for the use of electrical and  
70 gas service improvements which exist at a mobile home space, or for trash removal, sewage  
71 and water, or any combination of the above.

72 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) "Settlement discussion expiration" means:

73 (a) the resident has failed to give a written notice of dispute within the period specified  
74 in Subsection 57-16-4.1(2); or

75 (b) the resident and management of the mobile home park have met together under  
76 Subsection 57-16-4.1(3) but were unsuccessful in resolving the dispute in their meeting.

77 Section 2. Section **57-16-4** is amended to read:

78 **57-16-4. Termination of lease or rental agreement -- Required contents of lease --**  
79 **Increases in rents or fees -- Sale of homes -- Notice regarding planned reduction or**  
80 **restriction of amenities.**

81 (1) A mobile home park ~~[or its agents]~~ owner may not terminate a lease or rental  
82 agreement upon any ground other than as specified in this chapter.

83 (2) (a) Each agreement for the lease of mobile home space shall be written and signed  
84 by the ~~[parties]~~ mobile home park owner and resident.

85 (b) A mobile home park owner and a resident may not use force, coercion, or deception  
86 to procure the signature of the other on a lease of mobile home space.

87 (3) Each lease shall contain at least the following information:

88 (a) the name and address of the mobile home park owner and any ~~[persons]~~ person  
89 authorized to act for the mobile home park owner, upon whom notice and service of process  
90 may be served;

91 (b) the type of the leasehold, whether it be term or periodic, and, in leases entered into  
92 on or after May 6, 2002, a conspicuous disclosure describing the protection a resident has  
93 under Subsection (1) against unilateral termination of the lease by the mobile home park except  
94 for the causes described in Section 57-16-5;

95 (c) (i) a full disclosure of ~~[aH]~~ rent, service charges, and other fees presently being  
96 charged on a periodic basis; and

97 (ii) a full disclosure of utility infrastructure owned by the mobile home park owner ~~[or~~  
98 ~~its agent]~~ that is maintained through service charges and fees charged by the mobile home park  
99 owner ~~[or its agent]~~;

100 (d) the date ~~[or dates]~~ on which the payment of rent, fees, and service charges are due;  
101 and

102 (e) ~~[all rules that pertain]~~ each rule that pertains to the mobile home park that, if  
103 broken, ~~[may constitute]~~ constitutes grounds for eviction, including, in leases entered into on or  
104 after May 6, 2002, a conspicuous disclosure regarding:

105 (i) the ~~[causes]~~ cause for which the mobile home park owner may terminate the lease  
106 as described in Section 57-16-5; and

107 (ii) the resident's rights to:

108 (A) terminate the lease at any time without cause, upon giving the notice specified in  
109 the resident's lease; and

110 (B) advertise and sell the resident's mobile home.

111 (4) (a) ~~[Increases in rent or fees for periodic tenancies are unenforceable until 60 days~~  
112 ~~after notice of the increase is mailed to the resident.]~~ A mobile home park owner may increase  
113 or decrease rent on a lease or rental agreement twice a year.

114 (b) A proposed increase under Subsection (4)(a) may not take effect until 60 days after  
115 the mobile home park owner mails or delivers notice of the proposed increase to each resident.

116 (c) The notice required under Subsection (4)(b) shall include the:

117 (i) current rent;

118 (ii) proposed rent; and

119            (iii) date the proposed increase is to take effect.

120            ~~[(b)]~~ (5) (a) If a service ~~[charges are]~~ charge is not included in the rent, the mobile  
121 home park owner may:

122            (i) increase the service ~~[charges]~~ charge during the leasehold period after giving notice  
123 to the resident; and

124            (ii) pass through ~~[increases or decreases]~~ an increase or decrease in electricity rates to  
125 the resident.

126            ~~[(e)]~~ (b) Annual income to the park for a service ~~[charges]~~ charge may not exceed the  
127 actual cost to the mobile home park of providing the ~~[services]~~ service on an annual basis.

128            ~~[(d)]~~ (c) In determining the ~~[costs of the services]~~ cost of service, the mobile home  
129 park owner may include maintenance costs related to those utilities that are part of ~~[the]~~ a  
130 service ~~[charges]~~ charge.

131            ~~[(e)]~~ (d) ~~[The mobile home park may not alter]~~ A change of the date on which rent,  
132 fees, and service charges are due ~~[unless]~~ does not take effect until 60 days after the mobile  
133 home park owner provides ~~[a 60-day]~~ written notice to the resident ~~[before]~~ of the change in  
134 the due date ~~[is altered]~~.

135            ~~[(5)]~~ (6) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a rule or condition of a lease that  
136 purports to prevent or unreasonably limit the sale of a mobile home belonging to a resident is  
137 void and unenforceable.

138            (b) The mobile home park owner:

139            (i) may reserve the right to approve the prospective purchaser of a mobile home who  
140 intends to become a resident;

141            (ii) may not unreasonably withhold that approval;

142            (iii) may require proof of ownership as a condition of approval; or

143            (iv) may unconditionally refuse to approve any purchaser of a mobile home who does  
144 not register before purchasing the mobile home.

145            ~~[(6)]~~ (7) If ~~[all of the conditions]~~ each condition of Section 41-1a-116 ~~[are]~~ is met, a  
146 mobile home park owner may request the names and addresses of the lienholder or owner of  
147 any mobile home located in the mobile home park from the Motor Vehicle Division.

148            ~~[(7)]~~ (8) (a) A mobile home park owner may not restrict a resident's right to advertise  
149 for sale or to sell a mobile home.

150 (b) A mobile home park owner may limit the size of a "for sale" sign affixed to the  
151 mobile home to not more than ~~[144]~~ 288 square inches.

152 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) A mobile home park owner may not compel a resident who wishes to sell a  
153 mobile home to sell it, either directly or indirectly, through an agent designated by the mobile  
154 home park owner.

155 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) A mobile home park owner may require that a mobile home be removed  
156 from the park upon sale if:

157 (a) the mobile home park owner wishes to upgrade the quality of the mobile home  
158 park; and

159 (b) the mobile home either does not meet minimum size specifications or is in a  
160 rundown condition or is in disrepair.

161 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) (a) Within 30 days after a mobile home park owner proposes reducing or  
162 restricting amenities, the mobile home park owner shall:

163 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) schedule and hold at least one meeting for the purpose of discussing the  
164 proposed restriction or reduction of amenities with residents; and

165 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) provide at least 10 days advance written notice of the date, time, location, and  
166 purposes of the meeting to each resident.

167 (b) A reduction or restriction of amenities does not take effect until the mobile home  
168 park owner schedules and holds at least one meeting as required in Subsection (11)(a)(i) and  
169 provides notice of the meeting as required in Subsection (11)(a)(ii).

170 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) If a mobile home park owner uses a single-service meter, the mobile home  
171 park owner shall include a full disclosure on a resident's utility bill of the resident's utility  
172 charges.

173 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) The mobile home park owner shall have a copy of this chapter posted at all  
174 times in a conspicuous place in the mobile home park.

175 Section 3. Section **57-16-4.3** is enacted to read:

176 **57-16-4.3. Meeting of owner and resident committee to resolve dispute of general**  
177 **concern.**

178 (1) As used in this section:

179 (a) "Designee" means a person designated by a mobile home park owner and who has  
180 been given full authority to act on behalf of the mobile home park owner to resolve a dispute.

181 (b) "Resident committee" means a group of residents who have been appointed by a  
182 resident association, as defined in Section 57-16-16, and who have been given full authority to  
183 act on behalf of residents to resolve a dispute.

184 (2) (a) A majority of residents may petition a mobile home park owner for a meeting to  
185 resolve a dispute residents have with an aspect of the operation of the mobile home park of  
186 which they are residents, including rent, a fee, and a rule.

187 (b) A mobile home park owner may petition residents for a meeting to resolve a  
188 dispute the mobile home park owner has with the behavior of residents generally.

189 (3) A petition under Subsection (2) shall:

190 (a) contain an explanation of the dispute and any proposed remedy; and

191 (b) be mailed or delivered to:

192 (i) the mobile home park owner, if the petition is on behalf of residents; or

193 (ii) the president of the resident association, if the petition is on behalf of the mobile  
194 home park owner.

195 (4) (a) Within 10 days after a petition is received, the mobile home park owner or  
196 designee shall meet with a resident committee to discuss and attempt to resolve the dispute.

197 (b) A mobile home park owner or designee and resident committee may hold  
198 subsequent meetings, as needed, until the dispute is resolved.