

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3808

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 9, 2023

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3808.

As amended by the committee, this bill allows a court that issues a temporary restraining order (TRO) or permanent restraining order (PRO) under the “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,” P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) to include an order requiring the landlord of a residential dwelling unit to change the locks on the dwelling unit where the victim of domestic violence resides.

Under the amended bill, a victim who has obtained a TRO or PRO would notify the landlord that an order to change the dwelling’s locks has been granted by the court.

The amended bill also authorizes a victim who has obtained a TRO or PRO to change the locks on a residential dwelling if the landlord has not installed new locks within 48 hours of receiving the written request. A victim who changes the locks would be required to notify the landlord that the locks on the unit have been changed and provide a copy of the new keys within 48 hours of changing the locks.

The amended bill requires the victim to pay for the costs associated with changing the locks but allows the tenant to be reimbursed by the defendant.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The Committee amended the bill to:

1) clarify that a court that issues a TRO or PRO may include an order requiring the landlord of a residential dwelling unit to change the locks on the dwelling unit where the victim of domestic violence resides.

2) make technical and clarifying changes.