



Housing Update (6/18/09)

Foreclosure Relief

Catholic Social Teaching insists that shelter is one of the basic rights of the human person. The lack of safe, affordable housing requires a renewed commitment to increase the supply of quality housing and to preserve, maintain, and improve existing housing through public/private partnerships, especially with religious groups and community organizations. The Catholic Church continues to oppose unjust housing discrimination and to support measures to meet the credit needs of low income and minority communities.

Foreclosures are a serious problem for owners and renters. In 2008, the state of Ohio ranked seventh in the nation in home foreclosures.

There are several bills pending in Ohio addressing foreclosures:

[HB 3:](#)

Requires more accountability from mortgage servicers,
Declares a six month moratorium on foreclosures of owner occupied properties provided at least half the mortgage payment is made,
Requires a \$750 foreclosure filing fee,
Requires the Department of Commerce to provide more oversight, record keeping and reporting.

The House passed this bill on May 20, 2009 by a vote of 54-43. It is pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

[HB 9](#) and [SB 13:](#)

These companion bills offer renter protections and notice regarding the foreclosure of the property from which they rent.

Requires a 21 day written notice of pending foreclosure,
Allows for month-to-month rental and the possibility of continued rental under new owners.

HB 9 passed the House on May 6, 2009 by a vote of 53-42. It is pending in the Senate Finance Committee. SB 13 is pending in the Senate Civil Justice Committee. An amendment was added on June 17, 2009 addressing compatibility with temporary federal law.

Catholic Conference of Ohio Position

The Catholic Conference of Ohio supports the intent of foreclosure relief legislation, and encourages bi-partisan compromises that fairly help individuals, families and financial institutions impacted by foreclosures.