



# GOLDEN GIRLS ACT

**Summary:** The Golden Girls Act protects individuals' freedom to choose their household companions by preventing local governments from restricting how many unrelated people may live together. The Act recognizes that modern living arrangements are changing—more adults are living with roommates due to affordability challenges, delayed marriage, and the desire for community. In response to some cities' discriminatory bans on co living among unrelated individuals, the Act reaffirms that government cannot regulate personal relationships under the guise of land use authority. Governments may impose occupancy limits only when they are demonstrably necessary and narrowly tailored to legitimate health and safety standards.

## The Golden Girls Act

### Section 1: Occupancy Limits and the Increased Availability of Housing

The General Assembly finds and declares that occupancy limits and the increased availability of housing are matters of mixed statewide and local concern.

### Section 2: Health and Safety Limits on Occupancy

- (a) A local government shall not limit the number of people who may live together in a single dwelling based on familial or relationship status.
- (b) Local governments retain the authority to implement residential occupancy limits only when demonstrably necessary and narrowly tailored to meet health and safety standards, such as international building code standards, fire code regulations, or department of public health and environment wastewater and water quality standards; or
- (c) This section does not apply to a restrictive covenant entered into between private parties, unless the implementation or adoption of the restrictive covenant was required by a governmental entity.

**Want to learn more about this model policy in your state?**

Contact Pacific Legal Foundation.  
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