

NB: Unofficial translation

Act on Developing Housing Conditions November 29, 1985/919

In accordance with the decision issued by the Parliament the following is enacted:

Section 1

Basic objective

The basic objective for developing housing conditions is to secure to every person permanently residing in Finland the possibility of reasonable housing, so that:

- 1) each household has a dwelling with a number of rooms and floor area corresponding to the size of the household and the personal needs of its members;
- 2) the structures and amenities of the dwellings are appropriate, healthy and functional and the buildings are adapted to their environment; and
- 3) the cost of housing is reasonable in relation to the size and available income of, and other necessary expenditure on consumption by, the household.

Special attention shall be paid to making obtaining a dwelling easier and improving the level of housing of persons living in insufficient housing conditions, on a low income, young people and families with children and to ensuring the reasonableness of the cost of housing, as well as diminishing the inequalities in the level of housing between different areas and population groups.

Section 2

Housing stock and use thereof

To ensure a reasonable level of housing, the following measures shall be taken:

- 1) to create sufficient housing stock corresponding to the need and demand for different types of housing by constructing new dwellings, improving the quality and amenity standard of existing dwellings and diminishing the decrease in housing stock; and
- 2) to assist the appropriate use of the housing stock.

Section 3 (December 15, 1989/1145)

State support measures

To improve housing conditions, loans and interest subsidy can be granted from the funds of the Housing Fund of Finland and loans, interest subsidy and grants, state guarantees and tax rebates can be granted and housing support and bonuses for home savers paid from other state funds, and other measures can be taken in accordance with special provisions or regulations.

[Section 4](#)

Research and experiment

To improve housing conditions, research, experiment and development grants can be appropriated from state funds for producing social, economic, technical, judicial and administrative research and reports relating to the production, repair, experimental construction and housing policy and for translating and publishing their results and their foreign-language material.

A necessary appropriation is allocated annually for research, experiment and development grants in the state budget. The Ministry of the Environment shall confirm the plan for use of the research, experiment and development grant.

[Section 5](#)

Duties of the local authority

The local authority shall create the general preconditions for improving the housing conditions in its area.

The local authority shall see to it that the measures for developing the housing conditions are specifically directed to improving the housing conditions of the homeless and persons living in insufficient housing conditions. The local authority shall improve the housing conditions in its area in such a way that fair housing conditions can be arranged for a resident of the municipality who has become homeless and cannot obtain a dwelling independently without unreasonable difficulty.

Section 6 ([December 17, 1993/1191](#))

Housing programme of the local authority

The Municipal Board approves and checks, as part of local planning, the housing programme to serve as a basis for its housing policy measures when necessary.

Section 7 ([December 22, 2009/1579](#))

Section 7 has been repealed by Act [December 22, 2009/1579](#).

Section 8 ([December 17, 1993/1191](#)) _____

Programme for developing housing conditions

On the submission of the Ministry of the Environment, the Council of State confirms the programme for developing housing conditions to serve as a basis for its housing policy measures when necessary.

Section 9

Entry into Force

This Act comes into force on January 1, 1986.

Measures needed to enforce this Act may be taken before it comes into effect.

The national programme for the development of housing conditions shall be drawn up for the first time for the period 1987 to 1991.

HE 50/85, Tlvk.miet. 2/85, svk.miet. 112/85

Entry into force and application of amending Acts:

December 15, 1989/1145:

This Act comes into force on January 1, 1990.

Measures needed to enforce this Act may be taken before it comes into effect.

HE 183/89, toisen lvk.miet. 13/89, svk.miet. 209/89

December 17, 1993/1191:

This Act comes into force on January 1, 1994.

Measures needed to enforce this Act may be taken before it comes into effect.

[HE 177/93](#), YmVM 13/93

December 22, 2009/1579:

This Act comes into force on January 1, 2010.

Measures needed to enforce this Act may be taken before it comes into effect.

[HE 161/2009](#), HaVM 18/2009, EV 205/2009
