

Communiqué

January 27, 2026

The Requirements, Recommendations and Guidelines in this Communiqué are applicable to the social housing providers administered by the City of Hamilton.

Social Housing Providers	Applicable
All Providers Under Housing Services Act, 2011	Yes
Not for Profit Providers Under Housing Services Act, 2011	No
Co-Operative Providers Under Housing Services Act, 2011	No
Providers in receipt of Rent Supplements	Yes
Access to Housing	No
Requirement	Yes
Recommendation	No
Guidelines	Yes

SUBJECT: Safe Apartment Buildings By-law Registration – Effective: January 1, 2026

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this Communiqué is to remind all Housing Providers of the need to register all “Apartment Buildings” (both market rent and social housing) annually under the Safe Apartment Buildings By-law.

By definition, under the **CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW NO. 24-054 Safe Apartments By-Law**, “Apartment Building” means a purpose-built building, or related group of

buildings, with two (2) or more storeys and six (6) or more rental units which share at least one (1) common area and includes the lands and premises on which the building is located on. The by-law does **not** apply to:

- Condominiums
- Long-term care homes
- Licensed residential care facility
- Licensed retirement home
- Lodging home
- Housing co-operative

REGISTRATION:

All Apartment Buildings, both market rent and social housing, must be registered in full, with Licensing & Bylaw Services. Rental Compliance Officers will complete building evaluations once a building is registered. On the Safe Apartment Buildings registration application, the units of an apartment building have been broken out by market rent and rent subsidy. Housing Providers are to complete numbers accurately.

To register a building, visit <http://my.hamilton.ca/>. You will need to create an account in the portal to access the registration form.

Additional registration information is available at <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/housing-shelter/tenant-landlord-resources/safe-apartment-buildings-program#information-for-property-owners>

BILLING:

Apartment building registration is valid for one year, must be completed annually and is invoiced as follows:

- An apartment building that receives an RGI Subsidy, provided through the Housing Services Act (HSA) or End of Mortgage (EOM), will not be billed by Licensing & Bylaw

Services as all units are exempt because their Service Manager provides funding for the entire buildings' operations.

- An apartment building that has units which are clearly identified in their Rent Supplement Agreement will not be billed by Licensing & Bylaw Services for those units. However, the market units in a Rent Supplement apartment building will be billed by Licensing & Bylaw Services for those units.

For Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to the Safe Apartments Bylaw see link below:

<https://engage.hamilton.ca/safeapartments/widgets/206572/faqs#question42290>

For additional questions, please contact your Housing Officer:

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