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Salt Lake Tribune – Utahns promote law protecting renters



AL HARTMANN | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Shawn Teigen, with the Community Action partnership of Utah, backed by lawmakers and housing advocates, held a news conference Wednesday at the Capitol concerning the passage of the "Helping Families Save Their Home Act."

## Utahns promote law protecting renters

**Housing » 90-day warning required before eviction.**

By **CATHY MCKITRICK**

*The Salt Lake Tribune*

Fresh federal legislation, signed into law May 20 by President Barack Obama, gives renters in foreclosed properties the right of at least 90 days notice before having to move.

In a Capitol press conference Wednesday, housing advocates and state lawmakers

vowed to spread the word about this new protection and also intend to tailor it to Utah's needs in the next legislative session.

The new law, called "Helping Families Save Their Homes Act," got unanimous support from Utah's Congressional delegation.

"As you may know, Utah is now sixth in the nation for the number of foreclosures," said Rep. Gage Froerer, R-Huntsville, adding he expects to see more of the same in the next six to 12 months.

"This is not a problem that

is going to go away very soon," said Froerer, who has been a real estate agent for 35 years.

Shawn Teigen, housing policy analyst with Utah's Community Action Partnership, outlined the protections the new law provides.

"This bill basically allows the lease from a renter and the previous landowner to continue" — or the minimum 90 days, whichever is greater, Teigen said.

For a property that will be occupied by the new owner, renters only get the 90-day notice.

And for Section 8 renters who are government-subsidized, the new property owner must honor the contract in place with the local housing authority, Teigen said.

Tenants who know their home is in foreclosure need to continue to pay rent, Teigen said. "If they don't, they will be evicted."

Along with Froerer, Reps. Brian King, D-Salt Lake City, and Wayne Harper, R-West Jordan, spoke about the new law.

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