

STATE OF NEW YORK

7141

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 10, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. DE LA ROSA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Housing

AN ACT to amend the public housing law, in relation to the keeping of certain household pets by persons sixty years of age or older in buildings operated by the New York city housing authority

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public housing law is amended by adding a new section
2 223-c to read as follows:

3 § 223-c. Discrimination against persons who have certain household
4 pets in New York city housing authority buildings. 1. No person who is
5 sixty years of age or older shall be denied occupancy in a dwelling in
6 any housing project operated by the New York city housing authority or
7 be subjected to eviction from any such dwelling on the sole ground that
8 such person has a common household pet which will or does reside with
9 such person therein.

10 2. The New York city housing authority shall promulgate regulations
11 for the keeping of common household pets by persons sixty years of age
12 or older who reside in a dwelling in housing operated by such authority.
13 Such regulations may include consideration, after consultation with the
14 tenants of such housing project, of other reasonable factors to govern
15 the keeping of common household pets such as density of tenants, pet
16 size, breed, potential financial obligations of tenants, and standards
17 of pet care. Such regulations may include, but not be limited to,
18 requiring all pet owners to comply with:

19 (a) inoculations and licensing mandated by state and local laws, if
20 applicable;

21 (b) sanitary standards governing the disposal of pet waste;

22 (c) pet restraint in common areas;

23 (d) alternate caretakers in the case of sickness or incapacity of the
24 pet owner;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (e) any financial responsibilities for the reasonable costs directly
2 attributable to any damage caused by the pet, including the cost of
3 repairs and replacements thereto; and

4 (f) the appeals process for the attempted removal of a pet pursuant to
5 subdivision three of this section.

6 3. Any pet whose conduct or condition is duly determined to constitute
7 a nuisance or a threat to the health or safety of the other occupants of
8 the same project, or of other persons in the community where such
9 project is located, may be removed by the New York city housing authori-
10 ty, public health officer having jurisdiction or other appropriate
11 authority of the community where such project is located; provided,
12 however, that prior to the removal of any pet, the New York city housing
13 authority, public health officer having jurisdiction or other appropri-
14 ate authority of the community, whichever the case may be, must provide
15 the pet owner with a written statement that sets forth the basis for the
16 removal. The pet owner shall be able to appeal such written findings.
17 For purposes of this section a nuisance means the substantial interfer-
18 ence with the health, safety and comfort of the other tenants of the
19 housing project, or of other persons in the community where such housing
20 project is located.

21 4. Any agreement by a lessee or tenant waiving or modifying the rights
22 contained in this section for the keeping of common household pets by
23 persons sixty years of age or older shall be void as contrary to public
24 policy.

25 5. For the purposes of this section, the term "common household pet"
26 shall include, but not be limited to, a dog, cat, bird or fish.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of June in the year next
28 succeeding the year in which it shall have become a law; provided,
29 however, that effective immediately, any regulations necessary for the
30 implementation of this act are authorized and directed to be promulgated
31 at least 30 days prior to such effective date.