STATE OF NEW YORK

3850

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the public housing law, in relation to enacting the "housing is a human right act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "housing is a human right act".

§ 2. Section 14 of the public housing law is amended by adding a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

8. (a) The commissioner shall appoint an individual, otherwise known as the New York state affordable housing czar, who shall create a centralized office within the division of housing to advocate for and oversee all of the state's housing initiatives, work with key stakeholders, tenants, landlords, and developers to create an integrated state housing plan to generate affordable and subsidized housing, ensure that existing housing is utilized to prevent homelessness, and ensure state residents have access to the state's growing number of affordable apartments and homes. Responsibilities of the New York state affordable housing czar shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) making state residents aware of the range of affordable housing opportunities;

(ii) creating, maintaining, and publicizing a central website where state residents can apply for affordable housing units, or be directed to where to apply for such units;

(iii) serving as an ombudsperson for individuals seeking public or subsidized housing;

(iv) monitoring developer's compliance with state housing mandates;

(v) ensuring compliance with all state affordable housing mandates and covenants;

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

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(vi) overseeing the development and implementation of a five-year affordable housing compliance and management plan; and

(vii) ensuring state residents and community involvement in affordable housing policy development.

(b) The New York state affordable housing czar shall create a volunteer task force, which shall consist of ten members, each of whom shall serve a term of three years. Such members shall include the commissioner, or such commissioner's designee, and the New York state affordable housing czar. The remaining eight members shall be appointed as follows: two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. No later than one year after its formation, such volunteer task force shall issue to the legislature a report containing its recommendations regarding affordable housing in New York state.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.