S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

1462

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. WRIGHT, COLTON, JAFFEE, GREENE, ESPAILLAT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, DIAZ, HOOPER, ROBINSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to increasing the availability of emergency rent assistance

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 131-w of the social services law, as added by chapter 41 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

S 131-w. Limitations in the payment of rent arrears. Districts shall not provide assistance to pay rent arrears, property taxes, or mortgage arrears for persons not eligible for [home relief, aid to dependent children] SAFETY NET, TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, emergency assistance to needy families with children, or emergency assistance for aged, blind, and disabled persons, except to persons who are without income or resources immediately available to meet the emergency need, whose [gross] NET household income does not exceed [one hundred twenty-five] TWO HUNDRED percent of the federal income official poverty line [and who]. FOR THOSE PERSONS WITH NET INCOMES EXCEEDING TWO HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL INCOME OFFICIAL POVERTY LINE, SUCH ASSISTANCE SHALL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNLESS THEY sign a repayment agreement agreeing to repay the assistance in a period not to exceed [twelve] EIGHTEEN months. The districts shall enforce the repayment agreements by any legal method available to a creditor, in addition to any rights it has pursuant to this chapter. The department shall promulgate regulations to implement this section, which shall, among other things, establish standards for the contents of repayment agreements and establish standards to ensure that assistance is provided only in emergency circumstances; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHALL NOT BE A REQUIREMENT TO SHOW PROOF OF ABILITY TO MEET THE TERMS OF THE REPAYMENT AGREEMENT.

S 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2010.

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

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