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

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 15, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. BENJAMIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CLARK, GREENE, MILLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Housing

AN ACT to amend the public housing law, in relation to the definition of "family member"

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 14 of the public housing law, as added by chapter 116 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

(c) that for the purposes of such regulations: (i) "family member" shall be defined as a husband, wife, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, brother, sister, UNCLE, AUNT, NEPHEW, NIECE, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, mother-in-law or father-in-law of the tenant; or any other person residing with the tenant in the housing accommodation as a primary residence who can prove emotional and financial commitment, and interdependence between such person and the tenant. Although no single factor shall be solely determinative, evidence which is to be considered in determining whether such emotional and financial commitment and interdependence existed, may include, without limitation, such factors as listed below. In no event would evidence of a sexual relationship between such persons be required or considered.

(A) longevity of the relationship;

(B) sharing of or relying upon each other for payment of household or family expenses, or other common necessities of life;

(C) intermingling of finances as evidenced by, among other things, joint ownership of bank accounts, personal and real property, credit cards, loan obligations, sharing a household budget for purposes of receiving government benefits, or such other factors as may be determined by regulation;

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

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(D) engaging in family-type activities by jointly attending family functions, holidays and celebrations, social and recreational activities, or such other factors as may be determined by regulation;

(E) formalizing of legal obligations, intentions, and responsibilities to each other by such means as executing wills naming each other as executor or beneficiary, conferring upon each other a power of attorney or authority to make health care decisions each for the other, entering into a personal relationship contract, making a domestic partnership declaration, or serving as a representative payee for purposes of public benefits, or such other factors as may be determined by regulation;

(F) holding themselves out as family members to other family members, friends, members of the community or religious institutions, or society in general, through their words or actions;

(G) regularly performing family functions, such as caring for each other or each other's extended family members, or relying upon each other for daily family services;

(H) engaging in any other pattern of behavior, agreement, or other action which evidences the intention of creating a long-term, emotionally-committed relationship.

(ii) a "senior citizen" is defined as a person who is sixty-two years of age or older;

(iii) a "disabled person" is defined as a person who has an impairment which results from anatomical, physiological or psychological conditions, other than addiction to alcohol, gambling, or any controlled substance, which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques, and which are expected to be permanent and which substantially limit one or more of such person's major life activities.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.