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I N S E N A T E

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Introduced by Sens. STEWART-COUSINS, ADAMS, ESPADA, ONORATO, OPPENHEIMER, PARKER, PERALTA, STAVISKY, THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing and maintaining an emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding two new sections  
2 378-a and 378-b to read as follows:

3 S 378-A. STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS. 1. THE  
4 STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE COUNCIL SHALL UPDATE CHAPTER  
5 FOUR OF THE NEW YORK STATE FIRE CODE, TITLED "EMERGENCY PLANNING AND  
6 PREPAREDNESS", TO ENSURE EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS, FIRE SAFETY AND  
7 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS, EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES,  
8 HAZARD COMMUNICATION, AND USE AND OCCUPANCY-RELATED STANDARDS ADDRESS  
9 THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. THE PROCESS OF UPDATING  
10 CHAPTER FOUR OF THE NEW YORK STATE FIRE CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO THE NEEDS  
11 OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL BE DONE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW  
12 YORK STATE COMMISSION ON QUALITY OF CARE AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH  
13 DISABILITIES.

14 2. THE STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE COUNCIL SHALL PROMUL-  
15 GATE REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN  
16 EACH EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN:

- 17 (A) PROCEDURES FOR EVACUATING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;  
18 (B) A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE NOTIFIED THE  
19 OWNER THAT THEY ARE DISABLED AND WOULD REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT  
20 OF AN EMERGENCY. THE LIST SHALL INCLUDE THE FLOOR AND ROOM NUMBER THAT  
21 THE INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY OCCUPIES WITHIN THE BUILDING. SUCH LIST  
22 SHALL ONLY BE MAINTAINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION, AND  
23 SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE;  
24 (C) A NOTIFICATION MECHANISM TO THE OCCUPANTS THAT A LIST OF PERSONS  
25 WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY EXISTS

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

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1 AND IS MAINTAINED BY THE OWNER AND THE METHOD BY WHICH OCCUPANTS CAN  
2 PLACE THEIR NAME ON SUCH LIST;

3 (D) THE LOCATION AND TYPE OF EVACUATION ASSISTANCE DEVICES OR ASSIS-  
4 TIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE BUILDING; AND

5 (E) AREAS OF RESCUE. THESE AREAS SHALL BE IDENTIFIED BY SIGNS THAT  
6 STATE "AREA OF RESCUE ASSISTANCE" AND DISPLAY THE INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL  
7 OF ACCESSIBILITY. LETTERING MUST BE PERMANENT AND COMPLY WITH FEDERAL  
8 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT GUIDELINES.

9 S 378-B. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN. 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION  
10 OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EVERY OWNER OF A  
11 HIGH-RISE BUILDING, AS DEFINED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED THREE OF THE  
12 BUILDING CODE OF NEW YORK STATE, TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY  
13 EVACUATION PLAN AS PROVIDED FOR IN REGULATIONS ISSUED PURSUANT TO  
14 SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT-A OF THIS ARTICLE.

15 2. SUCH OWNER SHALL MAKE THE PLAN AVAILABLE IN A LARGE-PRINT DOCUMENT  
16 (18-POINT FONT SIZE OR LARGER) AND BRAILLE (GRADE II) UPON REQUEST TO:

17 (A) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY PERSONNEL; AND

18 (B) EMPLOYEES, TENANTS, OR GUESTS LOCATED IN THE HIGH-RISE BUILDING.

19 3. A COPY OF SUCH PLAN SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES IN A PLACE  
20 EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND/OR FIRE SAFETY PERSONNEL,  
21 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE, THE SECURITY DESK,  
22 IN THE VICINITY OF THE FIREFIGHTER'S ELEVATOR RECALL KEY, THE LIFE SAFE-  
23 TY PANEL, OR THE FIRE PUMP ROOM. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OF THE LOCATIONS  
24 LISTED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, A COPY OF SUCH PLAN SHALL BE POSTED IN THE  
25 FRONT ENTRY OF THE BUILDING.

26 4. ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, EVERY HIGH-RISE BUILDING OWNER SHALL UPDATE  
27 SUCH EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN AND PROVIDE OCCUPANTS WITH A NOTICE  
28 DETAILING THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN.

29 5. A COPY OF SUCH PLAN SHALL BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
30 WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, AND AN UPDATED  
31 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN SHALL BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
32 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

33 6. OWNERS LOCATED IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH A POPULATION OF OVER ONE  
34 MILLION ARE EXEMPT FROM DEVELOPING SUCH PLAN IF SUCH MUNICIPALITIES HAVE  
35 ORDINANCES, RULES, CODES OR REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH EMERGENCY EVACU-  
36 ATION PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGH-RISE  
37 BUILDINGS.

38 7. KNOWING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY PROVISION WITHIN THIS SECTION  
39 SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A CIVIL PENALTY OF UP TO FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

40 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
41 have become a law; provided, however, that high-rise building owners  
42 shall have one year from the effective date of this act to establish an  
43 emergency evacuation plan.