

1403

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York and the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four, in relation to warehousing of housing accommodations and penalties therefor

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds and
2 declares that each person in the state shall have a right to be housed
3 and that such right to housing is a basic human right.

4 The legislature further finds and declares that the practice of "ware-
5 housing", that is of intentionally withholding housing accommodations
6 from the housing market, including the withholding of apartments for
7 purposes of future co-operative apartment conversion, has contributed
8 significantly to the shortage of housing in this state, especially in
9 the city of New York.

10 The legislature further finds and declares that the practice of ware-
11 housing has violated the right to housing of many of the citizens and
12 residents of this state.

13 It is thus the intent of the legislature to eliminate the practice of
14 warehousing by providing strong penalties to deter such practice.

15 S 2. Section 26-412 of the administrative code of the city of New York
16 is amended by adding a new subdivision g to read as follows:

17 G. *IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO HARASS A TENANT TO OBTAIN VACANCY OF HIS OR*
18 *HER HOUSING ACCOMMODATION OR TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY WITHHELD A HOUSING*
19 *ACCOMMODATION FROM THE MARKET, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING SUCH ACCOMMODATION*
20 *FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUTURE CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENT CONVERSION. FOR THE*
21 *PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, HARASSMENT CONSISTS OF ENGAGING IN A*
22 *COURSE OF CONDUCT OR REPEATEDLY COMMITTING ACTS WHICH ALARM OR SERIOUSLY*

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

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1 ANNOY A TENANT OR OTHER PERSON RESIDING IN THE TENANT'S HOUSING ACCOMMO-
2 DATION AND WHICH SERVE NO LEGITIMATE PURPOSE.

3 S 3. Paragraph 2 of subdivision c of section 26-516 of the administra-
4 tive code of the city of New York, as amended by chapter 116 of the laws
5 of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

6 (2) to have harassed a tenant to obtain vacancy of his or her housing
7 accommodation FROM THE MARKET, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING SUCH ACCOMMODATION
8 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUTURE CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENT CONVERSION, the commis-
9 sioner may impose by administrative order after hearing, a civil penalty
10 for any such violation. Such penalty shall be in the amount of not less
11 than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars for each
12 such offense or for a violation consisting of conduct directed at the
13 tenants of more than one housing accommodation.

14 S 4. Paragraph 2 of subdivision c of section 26-516 of the administra-
15 tive code of the city of New York is amended to read as follows:

16 (2) to have harassed a tenant to obtain vacancy of his or her housing
17 accommodation OR TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY WITHHELD A HOUSING ACCOMMODATION
18 FROM THE MARKET, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING SUCH ACCOMMODATION FOR THE
19 PURPOSE OF FUTURE CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENT CONVERSION, the commissioner
20 may impose by administrative order after hearing, a civil penalty for
21 any such violation. Such penalty shall be in the amount of up to one
22 thousand dollars for a first such offense and up to twenty-five hundred
23 dollars for each subsequent offense or for a violation consisting of
24 conduct directed at the tenants of more than one housing accommodation.

25 S 5. Clause (ii) of paragraph 3 of subdivision a of section 12 of
26 section 4 of chapter 576 of the laws of 1974, constituting the emergency
27 tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four, as amended by chapter
28 116 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

29 (ii) to have harassed a tenant to obtain vacancy of his housing accom-
30 modation OR TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY WITHHELD A HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FROM
31 THE MARKET, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING SUCH ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
32 FUTURE CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENT CONVERSION, the commissioner may impose by
33 administrative order after hearing, a civil penalty for any such
34 violation. Such penalty shall be in the amount of not less than one
35 thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars for each offense or
36 for a violation consisting of conduct directed at the tenants of more
37 than one housing accommodation.

38 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately provided that the amend-
39 ment to section 26-412 of the city rent and rehabilitation law made by
40 section two of this act shall remain in full force and effect only so
41 long as the public emergency requiring the regulation and control of
42 residential rents and evictions continues, as provided in subdivision 3
43 of section 1 of the local emergency housing rent control act; and
44 provided further that the amendment to section 26-516 of the rent
45 stabilization law of nineteen hundred sixty-nine made by sections three
46 and four of this act shall expire on the same date as such law expires,
47 and provided further that the amendment to paragraph 2 of subdivision c
48 of section 26-516 of the administrative code of the city of New York
49 made by section three of this act shall not affect the expiration of
50 such paragraph and shall expire therewith when upon such date section
51 four of this act shall take effect; and provided further that the amend-
52 ment to section 12 of the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen
53 seventy-four made by section five of this act shall expire on the same
54 date as such act expires and shall not affect the expiration of such act
55 as provided in section 17 of chapter 576 of the laws of 1974, as
56 amended.