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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

February 7, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. BROOK-KRASNY, MILLMAN, V. LOPEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Real Property Taxation

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to providing language access services to individuals relating to the tax abatement program for rent-controlled and rent-regulated property occupied by senior citizens or persons with disabilities

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

Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 467-b of the real property tax law is amended by adding a new paragraph i to read as follows:

I. THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO ENSURE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO INFORMATION BY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES SPEAKING OR UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH. SUCH ENTITY SHALL:

(1) TRANSLATE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED TO OR COMPLETED BY THE PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES OR PARTICIPANTS, INTO THE SIX MOST COMMON NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN THE MUNICIPALITY THAT OFFERS THIS PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION;

(2) OFFER, UPON REQUEST, INTERPRETATION SERVICES BETWEEN THE ENTITY ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM AND AN INDIVIDUAL IN HIS OR HER PRIMARY LANGUAGE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES OR BENEFITS; AND

(3) OFFER, UPON REQUEST OR DEMONSTRATED NEED, SERVICES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUIRES ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE DUE TO PARTIAL OR TOTAL DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS, SPEECH IMPEDIMENT, OR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 3 of section 467-b of the real property tax law made by section one of this act shall not affect the expiration and reversion of such section and shall be deemed to expire therewith.

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

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