

987

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. KLEIN -- 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 multiple dwelling law, in relation to prohibiting the owner, agent or operator of a multiple dwelling from hiring as a building superintendent, managing agent, or resident manager any person who is registered as a level two or level three sex offender in New York state, and to amend the real property law, in relation to providing that sexual harassment of a tenant by any owner, agent or operator of a multiple dwelling or any employee or contractor of such owner, agent or operator constitutes a violation of the warranty of habitability

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

1 Section 1. The multiple dwelling law is amended by adding a new
2 section 309-b to read as follows:
3 S 309-B. PROHIBITED HIRING. 1. AN OWNER, AGENT OR OPERATOR OF A
4 MULTIPLE DWELLING SHALL NOT HIRE AS A BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT, MANAGING
5 AGENT OR RESIDENT MANAGER ANY PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED AS A LEVEL TWO OR
6 LEVEL THREE SEX OFFENDER IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE SIX-C OF THE
7 CORRECTION LAW.
8 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, NO TENANT
9 SHALL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE ACCESS TO HIS OR HER APARTMENT TO ANY PERSON
10 WHO IS A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.
11 S 2. The real property law is amended by adding a new section 235-h to
12 read as follows:
13 S 235-H. SEXUAL HARASSMENT. 1. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL AND SHALL CONSTI-
14 TUTE A VIOLATION OF THE WARRANTY OF HABITABILITY FOR ANY OWNER, AGENT OR
15 OPERATOR OF A MULTIPLE DWELLING OR FOR ANY EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR OF

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

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1 SUCH OWNER, AGENT OR OPERATOR TO SUBJECT ANY TENANT OF THE BUILDING TO
2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

3 2. AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

4 (A) "TENANT" MEANS A PERSON OR BUSINESS OCCUPYING OR RESIDING AT THE
5 PREMISES PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN LEASE OR OTHER RENTAL AGREEMENT; AND

6 (B) "SEXUAL HARASSMENT" MEANS UNWELCOME SEXUAL ADVANCES, UNWELCOME
7 REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL FAVORS, AND OTHER UNWELCOME VERBAL OR PHYSICAL
8 CONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE.

9 3. A TENANT MAY APPLY TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR AN ORDER ENJOINING ACTS
10 OR PRACTICES WHICH CONSTITUTE SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER SUBDIVISION ONE OF
11 THIS SECTION; AND UPON SUFFICIENT SHOWING, THE SUPREME COURT MAY ISSUE A
12 TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER OR OTHER ORDER, ALL
13 OF WHICH MAY, AS THE COURT DETERMINES IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS SOUND
14 DISCRETION, BE GRANTED WITHOUT BOND. IN THE EVENT THE COURT ISSUES A
15 PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION IT SHALL MAKE PROVISION FOR AN EXPEDITIOUS TRIAL
16 OF THE UNDERLYING ACTION.

17 4. THE POWERS AND REMEDIES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN ADDI-
18 TION TO ALL OTHER POWERS AND REMEDIES IN RELATION TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT
19 INCLUDING THE AWARD OF DAMAGES. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION SHALL
20 BE CONSTRUED TO AMEND, REPEAL, MODIFY OR AFFECT ANY EXISTING LOCAL LAW
21 OR ORDINANCE, OR PROVISION OF THE CHARTER OR ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE
22 CITY OF NEW YORK, OR TO LIMIT OR RESTRICT THE POWER OF THE CITY OF NEW
23 YORK TO AMEND OR MODIFY ANY EXISTING LOCAL LAW, ORDINANCE OR PROVISION
24 OF THE CHARTER OR ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OR TO RESTRICT OR LIMIT ANY POWER
25 OTHERWISE CONFERRED BY LAW WITH RESPECT TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

26 5. ANY AGREEMENT BY A TENANT IN A WRITTEN LEASE OR OTHER RENTAL AGREE-
27 MENT WAIVING OR MODIFYING HIS OR HER RIGHTS AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION
28 SHALL BE VOID AS CONTRARY TO PUBLIC POLICY.

29 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.