

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, DINOWITZ, GALEF, ABINANTI, CLARK, CRESPO, ENGLEBRIGHT, JAFFEE, ROBERTS, TITUS, WEPRIN, PERRY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARRETT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring owners of multiple dwelling properties to develop, implement and distribute smoking policies

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. Secondhand smoke is produced from  
2 the lighted end of tobacco products and from smoke exhaled from a smok-  
3 er. Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen and exposure to it is linked  
4 to increased risk of cancer, respiratory complications and heart  
5 disease. Any level of exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful to chil-  
6 dren and adults; it is estimated that 3,400 nonsmoking adults die of  
7 lung cancer and up to one million asthmatic children have worsened asth-  
8 ma and asthma-related problems each year in the United States as a  
9 result of inhaling secondhand smoke. Private owners and public housing  
10 authorities may restrict smoking in or on their properties. In buildings  
11 with multifamily units, smoke can spread between units through air  
12 ducts, cracks and elevator shafts and involuntarily expose nonsmoking  
13 tenants. Secondhand smoke often cannot be controlled using ventilation  
14 systems, air cleaning, or separating non-smokers from smokers. The  
15 intent of this legislation is to require owners of multiple dwelling  
16 properties to develop, incorporate into leases and condominium bylaws,  
17 and to distribute smoking policies to current and prospective tenants.  
18 The bill acts to help nonsmokers protect themselves and their families  
19 from secondhand smoke by providing information they can weigh in select-  
20 ing a new residence in a multiple dwelling building and to reduce the  
21 number of conflicts between nonsmokers and smokers.

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

LBD00093-01-5

1 S 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 1399-y  
2 to read as follows:

3 S 1399-Y. MULTIPLE DWELLING SMOKING POLICY. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS  
4 SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

5 (A) "MULTIPLE DWELLING" MEANS: (I) A MULTIPLE DWELLING THAT IS OCCU-  
6 PIED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE PURPOSES OF THREE OR MORE FAMILIES LIVING  
7 INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER.

8 (II) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PERMANENT RESIDENCE PURPOSES"  
9 SHALL CONSIST OF OCCUPANCY OF A DWELLING UNIT BY THE SAME NATURAL PERSON  
10 OR FAMILY FOR THIRTY CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR MORE.

11 (B) "DWELLING UNIT" MEANS ANY ROOM OR GROUP OF ROOMS LOCATED WITHIN A  
12 DWELLING AND FORMING A SINGLE HABITABLE UNIT WITH FACILITIES WHICH ARE  
13 USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED FOR LIVING OR SLEEPING BY HUMAN OCCUPANTS.

14 (C) "OWNER" MEANS: (I) IN THE CASE OF A BUILDING WITH RENTAL DWELLING  
15 UNITS, OTHER THAN A CONDOMINIUM OR A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT CORPORATION,  
16 THE OWNER OF RECORD; OR (II) IN THE CASE OF A CONDOMINIUM, THE BOARD OF  
17 MANAGERS; OR (III) IN THE CASE OF A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT CORPORATION,  
18 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

19 (D) "UNIT OWNER" MEANS: (I) IN THE CASE OF A CONDOMINIUM, ANY PERSON,  
20 INCLUDING A SPONSOR, WHO, ALONE, JOINTLY OR SEVERALLY WITH ANOTHER OR  
21 OTHERS HAS LEGAL TITLE TO ANY DWELLING UNIT IN THE BUILDING, WITH OR  
22 WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING ACTUAL POSSESSION THEREOF; OR (II) IN THE CASE OF A  
23 COOPERATIVE APARTMENT CORPORATION, ANY PERSON, INCLUDING A SPONSOR, WHO,  
24 ALONE, JOINTLY OR SEVERALLY WITH ANOTHER OR OTHERS HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT  
25 TO OCCUPY ANY DWELLING UNIT THROUGH OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN A COOPERATIVE  
26 APARTMENT CORPORATION, WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING ACTUAL POSSESSION  
27 THEREOF.

28 (E) WHEN REFERRING TO A DWELLING UNIT IN A MULTIPLE DWELLING, "TENANT"  
29 MEANS A TENANT, TENANT-STOCKHOLDER OF A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT CORPO-  
30 RATION, CONDOMINIUM UNIT OWNER, SUBTENANT, LESSEE, SUBLESSEE OR OTHER  
31 PERSON ENTITLED TO THE POSSESSION OR TO THE USE OR OCCUPANCY OF A DWELL-  
32 ING UNIT.

33 2. AN OWNER OF A MULTIPLE DWELLING PROPERTY IS HEREBY REQUIRED TO:

34 (A) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WRITTEN SMOKING POLICY THAT DETAILS WHERE  
35 AND WHEN SMOKING IS PERMITTED OR PROHIBITED, ADDRESSING ALL INDOOR  
36 LOCATIONS OF THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION, INCLUDING COMMON AREAS AND DWELL-  
37 ING UNITS, AND ALL OUTDOOR AREAS, INCLUDING COMMON COURTYARDS, ROOFTOPS  
38 AND BALCONIES, PATIOS AND OTHER OUTDOOR AREAS CONNECTED TO DWELLING  
39 UNITS, AND THAT APPLIES TO ALL TENANTS AND ANY OTHER PERSON ON THE PREM-  
40 ISES;

41 (B) DISTRIBUTE THE SMOKING POLICY TO ALL CURRENT TENANTS OF THE MULTI-  
42 PLE DWELLING WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION OR  
43 OF DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW OR AMENDED SMOKING POLICY;

44 (C) POST A COPY OF THE SMOKING POLICY IN THE FOLLOWING COMMON AREAS OF  
45 THE MULTIPLE DWELLING, IF APPLICABLE: ALL ENTRANCES, WALLS ADJACENT TO  
46 ELEVATORS AND MAILBOXES, LAUNDRY ROOMS AND ANY OTHER COMMON ROOMS;

47 (D) IN THE CASE OF A RENTAL BUILDING, INCORPORATE THE SMOKING POLICY  
48 INTO THE LEASE FOR ANY DWELLING UNIT, AND IN THE CASE OF A CONDOMINIUM,  
49 INCORPORATE THE SMOKING POLICY INTO THE CONDOMINIUM BYLAWS;

50 (E) IN THE CASE OF A BUILDING WITH RENTAL DWELLING UNITS, OTHER THAN A  
51 CONDOMINIUM OR A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT CORPORATION, PROVIDE A COPY OF  
52 THE SMOKING POLICY TO ALL CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE TENANTS BEFORE THEY  
53 ENTER INTO ORAL LEASES OR AGREEMENTS TO RENT;

54 (F) ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, PROVIDE A COPY OF THE SMOKING POLICY TO ALL  
55 TENANTS;

1 (G) PROVIDE A COPY OF THE SMOKING POLICY UPON REQUEST TO ANY PERSON;  
2 AND

3 (H) MAKE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COPIES OF  
4 THE FOLLOWING: (I) THE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (F) OF  
5 THIS SUBDIVISION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR; AND (II) EACH NOTIFICATION OF AN  
6 AMENDMENT MADE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS  
7 SUBDIVISION.

8 3. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL AUTHORIZE AN OWNER TO ADOPT A POLICY  
9 THAT THE OWNER IS NOT OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO ADOPT. THE SMOKING POLICY  
10 AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO SHALL BE BINDING ON A TENANT RENTING OR LEAS-  
11 ING A DWELLING UNIT ONLY TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED IN SUCH TENANT'S EXIST-  
12 ING LEASE OR SUBLEASE AGREEMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE SMOKING POLICY AND  
13 ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO SHALL NOT BE BINDING ON ANY TENANT IN OCCUPANCY  
14 OF A RENT CONTROLLED OR RENT STABILIZED DWELLING UNIT PRIOR TO THE  
15 ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL SMOKING POLICY AS REQUIRED IN THIS SECTION.

16 4. (A) AN OWNER WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
17 SUBJECT TO THE IMPOSITION BY THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AS DEFINED BY  
18 SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION THIRTEEN HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-T OF THIS ARTI-  
19 CLE OF A CIVIL PENALTY. BEFORE IMPOSING SUCH A CIVIL PENALTY, THE  
20 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL NOTIFY THE OWNER IN WRITING OF THE REASONS FOR  
21 SUCH IMPOSITION OF A CIVIL PENALTY AND AFFORD THE OWNER AN OPPORTUNITY  
22 TO BE HEARD IN PERSON OR BY COUNSEL. PRIOR TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE  
23 FIRST CIVIL PENALTY FOR AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
24 SECTION, THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL ISSUE A WARNING TO THE OWNER,  
25 PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE OWNER ABOUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION  
26 AND PROVIDE THE OWNER THIRTY DAYS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
27 SECTION. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITHIN SUCH THIRTY DAY TIME PERIOD WILL  
28 RESULT IN IMPOSITION OF A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED  
29 DOLLARS.

30 (B) ANY PERSON WHO DESIRES TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT UNDER THIS ARTICLE  
31 MAY DO SO WITH THE APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

32 5. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO RESTRICT  
33 LOCAL JURISDICTIONS FROM ENACTING MORE STRINGENT LAWS, RULES OR REGU-  
34 LATIONS REGARDING THE SUBJECT MATTER REFERENCED HEREIN.

35 S 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
36 law.