

3391

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2015

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

AN ACT to amend the real property law, in relation to ground leases

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

1     Section 1. The real property law is amended by adding a new section  
2     220-a to read as follows:

3     S 220-A. GROUND LEASES. 1. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
4     SECTION ONLY, A "GROUND LEASE" SHALL BE DEFINED AS A RENTAL AGREEMENT  
5     THAT:

6     (A) HAS A TERM OF AT LEAST TEN YEARS;

7     (B) IS FOR THE USE OF REAL PROPERTY, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE ANY  
8     IMPROVEMENTS OR STRUCTURES, BUT SHALL NOT APPLY TO REAL PROPERTY OWNED  
9     AS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF ANY INDIAN NATION, TRIBE, OR BAND AS SUCH  
10    LANDS ARE DESCRIBED UNDER AND PROTECTED BY INDIAN LAW AND/OR TITLE 25 OF  
11    THE UNITED STATES CODE; AND

12    (C) ALLOWS A TENANT TO CONSTRUCT OR SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE, RENOVATE,  
13    OR REHABILITATE STRUCTURES OR IMPROVEMENTS UPON SUCH REAL PROPERTY.

14    2. REFINANCING. (A) IF ANY GROUND LEASE DOES NOT CONTAIN EXPRESS  
15    PROVISIONS PROHIBITING A LESSEE FROM ENCUMBERING ITS INTEREST IN A  
16    GROUND LEASE, A LESSEE MAY ENCUMBER UP TO AND INCLUDING ITS ENTIRE  
17    INTEREST IN SUCH GROUND LEASE. IF SUCH GROUND LEASE CONTAINS PROVISIONS  
18    RESTRICTING THE LESSEE'S ABILITY TO ENCUMBER ITS INTEREST, THE LESSEE  
19    MUST OBTAIN THE LESSOR'S WRITTEN PERMISSION PRIOR TO SUCH ENCUMBRANCE.

20    (B) IF THE LESSEE IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE LESSOR'S PERMISSION TO  
21    ENCUMBER THE LESSEE'S INTEREST, THE LESSOR MAY ONLY REFUSE TO GRANT SUCH  
22    PERMISSION FOR REASONABLE CAUSE AND MUST PROVIDE THE LESSEE WITH A WRIT-  
23    TEN STATEMENT THAT SETS FORTH THE BASIS FOR THE REFUSAL WITHIN FIFTEEN  
24    DAYS OF A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FROM THE LESSEE.

25    (C) ANY GROUND LEASE PROVISION THAT LIMITS THE AMOUNT A LESSEE COULD  
26    ENCUMBER ITS INTEREST, UP TO AND INCLUDING ITS ENTIRE INTEREST IN SUCH

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

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1 GROUND LEASE, SHALL ALSO ADJUST SUCH AMOUNT ANNUALLY ON THE FIRST DAY OF  
2 OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR BY THE CHANGE IN THE REGIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
3 FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY-LONG ISLAND,  
4 NY-NJ-CT-PA, AS ESTABLISHED THE PRECEDING AUGUST.  
5 IF A LESSEE HAS ENCUMBERED ITS INTEREST IN A GROUND LEASE, NO ADJUST-  
6 MENT PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH THAT REDUCES THE AMOUNT SUCH LESSEE  
7 COULD RECEIVE SHALL BE CONSIDERED A BREACH OF THE GROUND LEASE. ANY  
8 AGREEMENT BY A LESSEE WAIVING OR MODIFYING THE PROVISIONS AS SET FORTH  
9 IN THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE VOID AS CONTRARY TO PUBLIC POLICY.  
10 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.