

1563

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 13, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the real property law, in relation to fees landlords may charge tenants

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. APPLICATION FEES. 1. WHEREVER USED IN THIS SECTION:  
4     A. "APPLICATION FEE" MEANS ANY APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE OR CREDIT  
5     CHECK CHARGE OR SIMILAR CHARGE THAT A POTENTIAL TENANT MUST PAY OR IS IN  
6     ANY WAY REQUESTED TO PAY TO A LANDLORD IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR  
7     RENTAL OR LEASE OF ANY REAL PROPERTY OR PORTION THEREOF USED FOR RESI-  
8     DENTIAL PURPOSES.  
9     B. "POTENTIAL TENANT" MEANS ANY PERSON WITH AN INTENTION TO LEASE OR  
10    RENT ANY REAL PROPERTY OR PORTION THEREOF FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES,  
11    EXCLUDING POTENTIAL TENANT SHAREHOLDERS OF COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPO-  
12    RATIONS.  
13    C. "LANDLORD" MEANS ANY OWNER, MANAGING AGENT OR PRIME LESSOR OF REAL  
14    PROPERTY OR ANY REAL ESTATE BROKER, PROVIDED, THAT THIS SECTION SHALL  
15    NOT LIMIT THE FEE THAT CAN BE LAWFULLY CHARGED BY SUCH BROKER IF THE  
16    POTENTIAL TENANT ENTERS INTO A LEASE OR OCCUPIES REAL PROPERTY FOR RESI-  
17    DENTIAL PURPOSES AS A RESULT OF THE BROKER'S SERVICES.  
18    2. A LANDLORD MAY CHARGE A POTENTIAL TENANT AN APPLICATION FEE EQUAL  
19    TO THE ACTUAL COST OF A CREDIT CHECK OR OTHER RELATED SERVICES PAID FOR  
20    BY A LANDLORD TO A THIRD PARTY, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TOTAL OF  
21    SUCH FEE OR FEES SHALL NOT EXCEED THIRTY DOLLARS.  
22    3. WHERE A LANDLORD CHARGES APPLICATION FEES IN VIOLATION OF THIS  
23    SECTION, A POTENTIAL TENANT MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE CONSUMER  
24    PROTECTION BOARD. UPON A FINDING BY THE BOARD THAT A LANDLORD HAS  
25    VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL IMPOSE A FINE

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

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1 OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A FIRST OR SECOND VIOLATION AND A FINE OF TWO  
2 HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS FOR A THIRD OR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION.  
3 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
4 have become a law.