

STATE OF NEW YORK

6806--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 17, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. SKOUFIS, COOK, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the real property actions and proceedings law, in relation to prohibiting the use of plywood to secure real property

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 1308 of the real property actions and proceedings law, as added by section 1 of part Q of chapter 73 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

4. (a) If the posted notice is not responded to or persists for seven consecutive calendar days without contact with the borrower, property owner or occupant indicating that the property is not vacant or abandoned, or if an emergent property condition that could reasonably damage, destroy or harm the property arises, the servicer shall:

~~(a)~~ i. in cases where the property contains two or more points of ingress or egress, replace no more than one door lock to provide subsequent access to the property;

~~(b)~~ ii. secure, replace or board up broken doors and windows;

~~(c)~~ iii. secure any part of the property that may be deemed an attractive nuisance including, but not limited to, a water feature that could create a drowning risk, refrigerator or freezer units, outbuildings, wells or septic tanks;

~~(d)~~ iv. take reasonable measures to ensure that pipes, ducts, conductors, fans and blowers do not discharge harmful gases, steam, vapor, hot air, grease, smoke, odors or other gaseous or particulate waste directly upon abutting or adjacent public or private property or that of another tenant;

~~(e)~~ v. where appropriate, winterize the applicable plumbing and heating systems;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets ~~-~~ is old law to be omitted.

LBD08376-02-7

1 [~~(f)~~] vi. provide basic utilities including, but not limited to,
2 water, electricity, natural gas, propane and sewer service, as appropri-
3 ate and when allowed by the local utility provider, that are needed for
4 the operation of a sump pump or dehumidifier, or when there are jointly
5 owned or shared utilities with adjoining properties or units, except for
6 turning off water service to prevent flooding or water leaks in the
7 property, or when other utility service could reasonably create a hazard
8 to the property or an unauthorized occupant or person entering the prop-
9 erty;

10 [~~(g)~~] vii. remove and remediate any significant health and safety
11 issues, including outstanding code violations;

12 [~~(h)~~] viii. take reasonable measures to prevent the growth of harmful
13 mold;

14 [~~(i)~~] ix. respond to government inquiries regarding property condi-
15 tion, subject to restrictions regarding financial privacy; and

16 [~~(j)~~] x. ensure that the notice required to be posted in subdivision
17 three of this section remains posted on an easily accessible part of the
18 property that would be reasonably visible to the borrower, property
19 owner or occupant so long as the duty to maintain applies.

20 (b) No person, municipality or governmental entity shall use plywood
21 to secure any real property that is deemed vacant and abandoned based on
22 the criteria set forth in subdivision two of this section.

23 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 8 of section 1308 of the real prop-
24 erty actions and proceedings law, as added by section 1 of part Q of
25 chapter 73 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

26 (a) [~~Violations~~] Except for violations of paragraph (b) of subdivision
27 four of this section, violations of this section may be heard before a
28 hearing officer or a court of competent jurisdiction. If it shall appear
29 to the satisfaction of the hearing officer or the court, based on the
30 preponderance of the evidence, that the mortgagee or agent of a mortga-
31 gee has violated this section, a civil penalty may be issued by the
32 hearing officer or the court in the amount of up to five hundred dollars
33 per day per property for each day the violation persisted.

34 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
35 have become a law.