STATE OF NEW YORK

5066

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 6, 2017

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

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to creating a shared housing program for senior citizens

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

Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 224 to read as follows:

§ 224. Shared housing for senior citizens. 1. The office shall establish a program, in consultation with the division of housing and community renewal, through which, persons who are sixty years of age or older may register with the office or designated agencies on aging indicating their desire to share their living space or are seeking living quarters with another eligible person.

2. The office or designated agencies on aging shall maintain a registry of senior citizens seeking to share their living quarters with another senior citizen.

(a) Information shall be collected on a form designed by the office, which shall include the name, address, up to three personal references and a statement indicating whether the individual has been convicted in the past five years of a crime involving theft, assault, the threat or use of force, possession or sale of a controlled substance, or possession of a weapon or firearm. The individual shall specify on the statement the crime or crimes, if any, for which there have been convictions. The statement shall include an acknowledgement that the information is true to the best knowledge of the senior citizen and that providing information known to be false is cause for immediate removal from the registry.

(b) Information contained in the shared housing registry shall be confidential and used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

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

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3. The office shall develop and promulgate regulations, in consultation with the division of housing and community renewal, necessary for the implementation of this section.

4. The office may impose a fee that shall not exceed one dollar for entry of a senior citizen's name onto the registry and such fee shall be collected for the purpose of implementing and maintaining the shared housing registry.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.