

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5219

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 16, 2017

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- 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 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 § 220-a. Residential ground leases. 1. Definitions. For the purposes  
4 of this section only, a "residential ground lease" shall be defined as a  
5 rental agreement 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 that include one or more  
14 residential dwellings upon such real property.

15 2. Refinancing. (a) If any residential ground lease does not contain  
16 express provisions prohibiting a lessee from encumbering its interest in  
17 a residential ground lease, a lessee may encumber up to and including  
18 its entire interest in such residential ground lease. If such residen-  
19 tial ground lease contains provisions restricting the lessee's ability  
20 to encumber its interest, the lessee must obtain the lessor's written  
21 permission prior to such encumbrance.

22 (b) If the lessee is required to obtain the lessor's permission to  
23 encumber the lessee's interest, the lessor may only refuse to grant such  
24 permission for reasonable cause and must provide the lessee with a writ-  
25 ten statement that sets forth the basis for the refusal within fifteen  
26 days of a written request for permission from the lessee.

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

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1     (c) Any residential ground lease provision that limits the amount a  
2     lessee could encumber its interest, up to and including its entire  
3     interest in such residential ground lease, shall also adjust such amount  
4     annually on the first day of October of each year by the change in the  
5     regional consumer price index for all urban consumers, New York-Northern  
6     New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, as established the preceding  
7     August.

8     If a lessee has encumbered its interest in a residential ground lease,  
9     no adjustment pursuant to this paragraph that reduces the amount such  
10    lessee could receive shall be considered a breach of the residential  
11    ground lease. Any agreement by a lessee waiving or modifying the  
12    provisions as set forth in this paragraph shall be void as contrary to  
13    public policy.

14    § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.