STATE OF NEW YORK

2555--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2019

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to providing certain elderly individuals with an exemption from increases in water rates

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

Section 1. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 24-340 to read as follows:

§ 24-340 Senior citizen water rate freeze. a. For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Qualified homeowner" means a person who: (a) is at least sixty-five years of age; (b) owns real property; and (c) has had a total household income of less than fifty thousand dollars for two consecutive income tax years beginning in two thousand seventeen, as verified by the New York city department of finance;

(2) "Real property" means a one, two, three, or four family home owned by a qualified homeowner that serves as the primary residence of such homeowner;

(3) "Water rate increase" means an increase in water rates that takes effect subsequent to a qualified homeowner's eligibility under this section.

b. Real property owned by a qualified homeowner shall be exempt from any charges due to a water rate increase.

c. The exemption provided by this section may be suspended for no more than one calendar year by the commissioner of the department of environmental protection of the city of New York (1) in the event of a drought, or (2) in the event of a disaster or catastrophe other than drought,

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

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which causes or may cause an actual and immediate shortage of available and usable water.

d. Eligibility for the exemption provided by this section shall not preclude a qualified homeowner's eligibility for any other exemption or credit to which they are entitled.

§ 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.