

STATE OF NEW YORK

7782

IN SENATE

February 19, 2020

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

AN ACT to amend the private housing finance law and the local finance law, in relation to affordable housing in cities having a population of one million or more

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

1 Section 1. The private housing finance law is amended by adding a new
2 article 31 to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXXI

AFFORDABILITY PLUS PROGRAM

Section 1280. Short title.

6 1281. Statement of legislative findings and purpose.

7 1282. Definitions.

8 1283. Loans and grants.

9 1284. Rents.

10 1285. Rules; enforcement.

11 1286. Severability.

12 1287. Reporting.

13 § 1280. Short title. This article shall be known and may be cited as
14 the "affordability plus program".

15 § 1281. Statement of legislative findings and purpose. The legislature
16 hereby finds and declares that there is, in cities having a population
17 of one million or more, a seriously inadequate supply of safe and sani-
18 tary housing accommodations within the financial reach of families and
19 persons of low income. This condition is contrary to the public interest
20 and threatens the health, safety, welfare, comfort and security of the
21 people of such cities. The legislature further finds and declares that
22 the ordinary operations of private enterprise cannot provide an adequate
23 supply of safe and sanitary housing accommodations at rental and sale
24 prices that families and persons of low income can afford. It is the
25 purpose of this act to provide loans and grants to increase the supply

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

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1 of housing accommodations for families and persons of low income, and
2 thereby improve the quality of life for all the people of such cities.

3 § 1282. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following
4 terms shall have the following meanings:

5 1. "Agency" shall mean a department of housing preservation and devel-
6 opment in a city having a population of one million or more.

7 2. "Housing accommodations" shall mean:(a) a private or multiple
8 dwelling, or any other structure containing dwelling units, rooming
9 units or sleeping accommodations, together with the land on which such
10 structure is situated; (b) any real property to be converted to such
11 user; or (c) all or a portion of the dwelling units, rooming units or
12 sleeping accommodations therein.

13 3. "Owner" shall mean a person having record or beneficial ownership
14 of real property or a lessee of real property having an unexpired term
15 of at least thirty years.

16 4. "Regulatory agreement" shall mean a written agreement with or
17 approved by a city having a population of one million or more that
18 requires the provision of housing accommodations for families and
19 persons of low income, is entered into on or after the effective date of
20 this article, specifically provides that it is entered into pursuant to
21 this article, is recorded against one or more parcels of real property,
22 and binds the owner of such real property and its successors and
23 assigns. A regulatory agreement may include such other terms and condi-
24 tions as such city shall determine.

25 5. "Rent stabilization" shall mean, collectively, the rent stabiliza-
26 tion law of nineteen hundred sixty-nine, the rent stabilization code,
27 and the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen hundred seventy-
28 four, all as in effect as of the effective date of this article or as
29 amended thereafter, together with any successor statutes or regulations
30 addressing substantially the same subject matter.

31 § 1283. Loans and grants. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any
32 general, special or local law, a city having a population of one million
33 or more is authorized to make loans or grants to the owner of any real
34 property for the purpose of: (a) construction, rehabilitation, conver-
35 sion, acquisition or refinancing of housing accommodations; (b) provid-
36 ing site improvements, including, but not limited to, water and sewer
37 facilities, sidewalks, landscaping, the curing of problems caused by
38 abnormal site conditions, excavation and construction of footings and
39 foundations and other improvements associated with the provision of
40 infrastructure for housing accommodations; or (c) providing for other
41 costs of developing housing accommodations.

42 2. Any loan made in accordance with this section shall be evidenced by
43 a note and may be secured by: (a) a mortgage upon the interest of the
44 owner in the real property assisted; (b) in the case of a condominium, a
45 mortgage upon each of the housing accommodations assisted by such loan
46 or; (c) in the case of a cooperative housing corporation, a lien upon
47 the economic interest in such corporation of each tenant-shareholder
48 assisted by such loan, or a mortgage upon the real property assisted, or
49 both such lien and such mortgage. Any such mortgage may be consolidated
50 with a municipally-aided mortgage that encumbers the real property at
51 the time of the making of the loan pursuant to this section. For
52 purposes of this article, the term "mortgage" shall include any pledge
53 or assignment of shares, or assignment of a proprietary lease, in a
54 cooperative housing corporation where such pledge or assignment is
55 intended as security for the performance of an obligation and imposes a
56 lien on or affects title to such shares or such proprietary lease.

1 3. The repayment of any loan made in accordance with this section
2 shall be made in such manner as may be provided in the note and any
3 mortgage in connection with such loan. Such note and mortgage may
4 contain such terms and conditions as the city may deem necessary or
5 desirable to effectuate the purposes and provisions of this article.
6 Such terms and conditions may include, but shall not be limited to,
7 provisions concerning: (a) the repayment of the loan; (b) the interest,
8 if any, thereon; (c) the charges, if any, in connection therewith; and
9 (d) the prepayment of the principal of the loan. Such note and mortgage
10 may provide that all or a portion of the principal of the loan shall
11 automatically be reduced to zero over a period of continuous compliance
12 by the owner with a regulatory agreement and upon the satisfaction of
13 any additional conditions specified therein. Notwithstanding such
14 provision as contained in the note and mortgage, all or a portion of the
15 principal of the loan shall be reduced to zero only if, prior to or
16 simultaneously with delivery of such note and mortgage, the agency made
17 a written determination that such reduction would be necessary to ensure
18 the continued affordability or economic viability of the housing accom-
19 modations assisted by such loan. Such written determination shall docu-
20 ment the basis upon which the loan was determined to be eligible for
21 evaporation.

22 4. The city shall require the owner of any real property that is the
23 subject of a loan or grant pursuant to this section to execute and
24 record a regulatory agreement having a term commencing not later than
25 the date of such loan or grant. The regulatory agreement shall provide
26 that the owner shall rent or sell all housing accommodations required to
27 be occupied by families and persons of low income at rental or sales
28 prices that do not exceed, averaging all housing accommodations required
29 to be occupied by families and persons of low income by the regulatory
30 agreement, rental or sales prices that are affordable to households
31 earning one hundred twenty percent of the area median income, adjusted
32 for household size.

33 5. The city shall not make any loan or grant pursuant to this section
34 unless the agency has made a written determination, which shall be stat-
35 ed or referenced in the regulatory agreement, that such loan or grant is
36 necessary to ensure the affordability or economic viability of the hous-
37 ing accommodations in accordance with the terms of the regulatory agree-
38 ment.

39 6. At the discretion of the agency, a mortgage securing a loan made
40 pursuant to this section may be exempt from the tax on mortgages imposed
41 by article eleven of the tax law and the tax on mortgages imposed by
42 chapter twenty-six of title eleven of the administrative code of the
43 city of New York.

44 7. At the discretion of the agency, any transfer of real property made
45 in connection with a loan or grant made pursuant to this section may be
46 exempt from the real estate transfer tax imposed by article thirty-one
47 of the tax law and the real property transfer tax imposed by chapter
48 twenty-one of title eleven of the administrative code of the city of New
49 York.

50 8. The agency may make provision, either in the mortgage or by sepa-
51 rate agreement, for the performance of such loan servicing functions,
52 including functions related to construction lending, as may generally be
53 performed by an institutional lender. The agency may act in such capaci-
54 ty or appoint or consent to the appointment of a financial institution
55 to act in such capacity on behalf of the agency. The agency is author-

1 ized to pay a reasonable and customary fee to such financial institution
2 for the performance of such services.

3 § 1284. Rents. Notwithstanding the provisions of rent stabilization or
4 the local emergency housing rent control act, or any regulation or local
5 law enacted pursuant thereto:

6 1. The regulatory agreement shall provide that all housing accommo-
7 dations required to be occupied by families and persons of low income
8 shall be subject to rent stabilization as of the effective date of the
9 regulatory agreement; provided, however, that the agency may exempt from
10 the requirements of this section any housing accommodations that are:
11 (a) located in a structure containing fewer than six dwelling units or
12 rooming units; (b) to be occupied on a transitional basis by persons who
13 are formerly homeless or have special needs; (c) subject to any law
14 providing for the regulation of rents by a governmental agency or
15 instrumentality; or (d) to be occupied as homeownership, rather than
16 rental, housing accommodations.

17 2. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision one of this section, if
18 any housing accommodations required to be occupied by families and
19 persons of low income are not subject to rent stabilization as of the
20 effective date of the regulatory agreement, the agency shall establish
21 the initial rents for such housing accommodations as of such date.

22 3. Upon completion of the construction or rehabilitation of a housing
23 accommodation which is assisted by a loan or grant made by a city pursu-
24 ant to section twelve hundred eighty-three of this article, the agency
25 may establish a new initial rent for each dwelling unit subject to rent
26 stabilization within the housing accommodation pursuant to subdivision
27 one of this section or otherwise. Prior to the making of a rehabili-
28 tation loan or grant pursuant to this article, the agency shall cause
29 each tenant in occupancy of a dwelling unit for which the agency intends
30 to establish a new initial rent to be notified of and have an opportu-
31 nity to comment on the contemplated rehabilitation. Such notification
32 shall advise such tenants of the approximate expected initial rent. Such
33 notification and opportunity to comment shall be provided before the
34 rehabilitation and again after the rehabilitation is completed and prior
35 to the establishment of the new initial rents. A representative of the
36 agency shall meet or offer to meet with all tenants in occupancy of
37 dwelling units affected by the provisions of this subdivision at least
38 once before the rehabilitation.

39 § 1285. Rules; enforcement. 1. The agency may promulgate rules to
40 carry out the provisions of this article, and may require a filing fee
41 in an amount equal to one thousand dollars per dwelling unit, or such
42 lesser amount as may be provided by such rules, in connection with any
43 application for a loan or grant pursuant to this article.

44 2. The agency shall have the power to: (a) subpoena, require the
45 attendance of and examine and take testimony under oath of such persons
46 as it may deem necessary in order to monitor and enforce compliance with
47 the regulatory agreement; and (b) subpoena and require the production of
48 books, accounts, papers, documents and other evidence related to such
49 monitoring and enforcement.

50 § 1286. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or
51 part of this article shall be adjudged by any court of competent juris-
52 isdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invali-
53 date the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to
54 the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly
55 involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been
56 rendered.

1 § 1287. Reporting. On or before September thirtieth of each year,
2 beginning in two thousand twenty, the agency shall submit a report to
3 the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on
4 the housing production activity of the affordability plus program for
5 the previous city fiscal year.

6 § 2. Subdivision a of section 11.00 of the local finance law is
7 amended by adding a new paragraph 41-f to read as follows:

8 41-f. Affordability plus program. The making of loans or grants,
9 pursuant to article thirty-one of the private housing finance law, thir-
10 ty years; improvements associated with the construction, rehabilitation,
11 conversion, acquisition or refinancing of housing accommodations, pursu-
12 ant to article thirty-one of the private housing finance law, thirty
13 years.

14 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.