

STATE OF NEW YORK

10526

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Rozic) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the banking law, in relation to the forbearance of residential mortgage payments

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

Section 1. Section 9-x of the banking law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the banking law relating to the forbearance of residential mortgage payments, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8243-C and A. 10351-B, is amended to read as follows:

§ 9-x. Mortgage forbearance. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Covered period" means March 7, 2020 until the date on which none of the provisions that closed or otherwise restricted public or private businesses or places of public accommodation, or required postponement or cancellation of all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason in Executive Orders 202.3, 202.4, 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.8, 202.10, 202.11, 202.13 or 202.14, as extended by Executive Orders 202.28 and 202.31 and as further extended by any future Executive Order, issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to apply in the county of the qualified mortgagor's residence;

(b) "qualified mortgagor" means an individual ~~[who resides in New York]~~ (i) whose [principal dwelling] primary residence is located in New York and is encumbered by a home loan pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision six of section thirteen hundred four of the real property actions and proceedings law or whose ~~[principal dwelling]~~ primary residence is located in New York and is a co-operative unit whose shares are encumbered by any loan otherwise meeting the requirements of a home loan under paragraph (a) of subdivision six of section thirteen hundred four of the real property actions and proceedings law, from or serviced by a regulated institution; and (ii) who demonstrates financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 during the covered period;

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

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(c) "regulated institution" means any New York regulated banking organization as defined in this chapter and any New York regulated mortgage servicer entity subject to supervision by the department; and

(d) "trial period plan" means an agreement whereby the mortgagor is required to make trial payments in full and on-time in order to be considered for a permanent loan modification.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, New York regulated institutions shall:

(a) make applications for forbearance of any payment due on a residential mortgage of a property located in New York widely available to any qualified mortgagor who, during the covered period, is in arrears or on a trial period plan, or who has applied for loss mitigation [~~and demonstrates financial hardship during the covered period~~]; and

(b) grant such forbearance of all monthly payments due with respect to the mortgage secured by the qualified mortgagor's primary residence in New York for a period of up to one hundred eighty days to any such qualified mortgagor [~~who is in arrears or on a trial period plan, or who has applied for loss mitigation and demonstrates financial hardship~~], with the option to extend the forbearance of such monthly payments for up to an additional one hundred eighty days provided that this extension is subject to the mortgagor demonstrating continued financial hardship. If any qualified mortgagor has already received a forbearance pursuant to executive order 202.9 of two thousand twenty, the time of such forbearance shall be considered as part of the requirement of this section to provide a forbearance of up to one hundred eighty days, and any extension thereof pursuant to this section.

(c) Such forbearance may be backdated to March seventh, two thousand twenty, provided that the maximum length of the forbearance may be no longer than one hundred eighty days and any extension thereof pursuant to this section.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any mortgage forbearance granted by a regulated institution pursuant to executive order number 202.9 of two thousand twenty, this section, or [~~any other law, rule or regulation to the~~] 3 NYCRR Part 119 to a qualified mortgagor as a result of financial hardship [~~during the covered period~~] shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) the mortgagor shall have the option to extend the term of the loan for the length of the period of forbearance. The regulated institution shall [~~waive interest on the principal for the term of the forbearance and waive any late fees accumulated as a result of the forbearance~~] not charge additional interest or any late fees or penalties on the forbore payment; or

(b) the mortgagor shall have the option to have the arrears accumulated during the forbearance period payable on a monthly basis for the remaining term of the loan without being subject to penalties or late fees incurred as a result of the forbearance; or

(c) the mortgagor shall have the option to negotiate a loan modification or any other option that meets the changed circumstances of the qualified mortgagor; or

(d) if [~~the mortgagor is unable to make mortgage payments due to mortgagors' demonstrated hardship and~~] the mortgagor and regulated institution cannot reasonably agree on a mutually acceptable loan modification, the [~~mortgagor~~] regulated institution shall [~~have the option~~] offer to defer arrears accumulated during the forbearance period as a non-interest bearing balloon [~~payment~~] loan payable at the maturity of the loan [~~consistent with the safety and soundness of such regulated institu-~~]

1 ~~tion~~], or at the time the loan is satisfied through a refinance or sale
2 of the property. Any late fees accumulated as a result of the forbear-
3 ance shall be waived.

4 [~~(d)~~] (e) The exercising of options provided for in paragraph (a), (b)
5 ~~[ex]~~, (c) or (d) of this subdivision by a qualified mortgagor shall not
6 be reported negatively to any credit bureau by any regulated institu-
7 tion.

8 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, adherence with this
9 section shall be a condition precedent to commencing a foreclosure
10 action stemming from missed payments which would have otherwise been
11 subject to this section. A defendant may raise the violation of this
12 section as a defense to a foreclosure action commenced on the defend-
13 ant's property when such action is based on missed payments that would
14 have otherwise been subject to this section.

15 5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, this
16 section shall not apply to, and does not affect any mortgage loans made,
17 insured, purchased or securitized by any agency or instrumentality of
18 the United States, any government sponsored enterprise, or a federal
19 home loan bank, or a corporate governmental agency of the state consti-
20 tuted as a political subdivision and public benefit corporation, or the
21 rights and obligations of any lender, issuer, servicer or trustee of
22 such obligations, including servicers for the Government National Mort-
23 gage Association.

24 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this section, the
25 obligation to grant the forbearance relief required by this section
26 shall be subject to the regulated institution having sufficient capital
27 and liquidity to meet its obligations and to operate in a safe and sound
28 manner. Any regulated institution that determines that it is not able to
29 offer relief pursuant to this section to any qualified mortgagor must
30 notify the department within five business days of making such determi-
31 nation. Any such notice filed with the department shall include informa-
32 tion about the qualified mortgagor, the reason the regulated institution
33 determined that it was unable to offer any relief pursuant to this
34 section, information about the regulated institution's financial condi-
35 tion supporting the regulated institution's determination, and any other
36 information required by the department. At the same time that the regu-
37 lated institution provides notice to the department, it shall advise the
38 qualified mortgagor that the application for relief was denied and
39 provide a statement that the applicant may file a complaint with the New
40 York state department of financial services at 1-800-342-3736 or
41 http://www.dfs.ny.gov if the applicant believes the application was
42 wrongly denied.

43 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
44 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the banking law relat-
45 ing to the forbearance of residential mortgage payments, as proposed in
46 legislative bills numbers S. 8243-C and A. 10351-B, takes effect.