STATE OF NEW YORK

5372

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 29, 2019

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 notice of sale or transfer of ownership of residential property

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

Section 1. Section 291 of the real property law, as amended by chapter 447 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as follows:

§ 291. Recording of conveyances. A conveyance of real property, within the state, on being duly acknowledged by the person executing the same, or proved as required by this chapter, and such acknowledgment or proof duly certified when required by this chapter, may be recorded in the office of the clerk of the county where such real property is situated, and such county clerk **or city registrar where applicable** shall, upon the request of any party, on tender of the lawful fees therefor, record the same in [~~his~~] said office. Every such conveyance not so recorded is void as against any person who subsequently purchases or acquires by exchange or contracts to purchase or acquire by exchange, the same real property or any portion thereof, or acquires by assignment the rent to accrue therefrom as provided in section two hundred ninety-four-a of [~~the real property law~~] **this article**, in good faith and for a valuable consideration, from the same vendor or assignor, his distributees or devisees, and whose conveyance, contract or assignment is first duly recorded, and is void as against the lien upon the same real property or any portion thereof arising from payments made upon the execution of or pursuant to the terms of a contract with the same vendor, his distributees or devisees, if such contract is made in good faith and is first duly recorded. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase in the principal balance of a mortgage lien by virtue of the addition thereto of unpaid interest in accordance with the terms of the mortgage shall retain the priority of the original mortgage lien as so

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

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increased provided that any such mortgage instrument sets forth its terms of repayment. **The clerk of the county or city registrar where such conveyance of residential real property is recorded and maintained shall mail a written notice of such conveyance to the owner of record. The notice shall have the heading printed in 20 point bold type and read as follows:**

"NOTICE OF SALE OR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF YOUR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

To:_____
Name of owner of record

Our records show that you are listed as the current owner of record for residential property:

Block # _____ **Lot #** _____

Located At: _____
street address

in the county of _____ **New York**
On _____**, documents were filed at this**
date
office to change ownership and transfer title of your property.

To: _____
name of new owner

If you have any questions regarding the validity of the documents, and wish to dispute the recording of the transfer, you should obtain legal counsel. If you believe you are a victim of a crime related to this recording, contact your local law enforcement agency or, if in the City of New York, the office of the sheriff."

The party seeking to record such conveyance shall bear the cost of such written notice. The clerk of the county or city registrar is entitled to charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of mailing the envelope to the owner of record. Failure to mail such notice or the failure of any party to receive the same, shall not affect the validity of the convey-ance of the property.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.