STATE OF NEW YORK

7291--A

IN SENATE

January 16, 2020

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, SKOUFIS, BIAGGI, KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to minimum standards for code enforcement personnel

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

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 376-a of the executive law, as amended by chapter 468 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

2. In addition to the functions, powers and duties otherwise provided by this article, the secretary of state [~~may~~] **shall** promulgate rules and regulations with respect to:

(a) The approval, or revocation thereof, of code enforcement training programs for code enforcement personnel;

(b) Minimum courses of study, attendance requirements, and equipment and facilities to be required for approved code enforcement training programs for code enforcement personnel;

(c) Minimum training and examination requirements to qualify for code enforcement officer certification, provided that such training and examination requirements shall not result in code enforcement personnel that have otherwise completed the minimum basic training requirements in order to be eligible for continued employment or permanent appointment as of the effective date of [~~the~~] chapter **four hundred sixty-eight** of the laws of two thousand seventeen [~~that amended this paragraph~~] from being ineligible without further training or examination for certification pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision;

(d) Issuance of a code enforcement officer certification when an applicant satisfies the requirement set forth in paragraph (c) of this subdivision;

(e) Revocation or suspension of the certification of any code enforcement personnel found after a hearing to have materially failed to uphold

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

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duties of a code enforcement officer, including but not limited to, making material errors or omissions on an inspection report. The hearing required prior to such revocation or suspension shall provide the code enforcement officer the opportunity to be heard and shall be conducted pursuant to article three of the state administrative procedure act;

(f) Minimum qualifications for instructors for approved code enforcement training programs for code enforcement personnel;

(g) The requirements of minimum basic training which code enforcement personnel shall complete in order to be eligible for continued employment or permanent appointment, and the time within which such basic training must be completed following such appointment**, provided however, that absent a written extension from the secretary of state for good cause shown, the minimum basic training requirements shall be completed within ninety days from the date of appointment for building safety instructors and within six months from the date of appointment for code enforcement officials**;

(h) The requirements for in-service training programs designed to assist code enforcement personnel in maintaining skills and being informed of technological advances **which shall include (i) an annual minimum of ten hours for building safety instructors and twenty-six hours for code enforcement officials, and (ii) one hour of advanced in-service training on a matter determined annually by the secretary of state relating to changes in law, advancements in construction techniques, or detection and remediation of common violations of the uniform code and/or energy code including but not limited to mold, lead paint abatement and infestations of rodents and other pests**;

(i) Categories or classifications of advanced in-service training programs and minimum courses of study and attendance requirements with respect to such categories or classifications;

(j) **The prohibition of continued employment of an individual as code enforcement personnel whose certification has been suspended or revoked, unless such individual has received an extension to achieve an active certification by the secretary of state upon a showing of good cause. Where such suspension or revocation is the result of failure to complete in-service training pursuant to paragraph (h) of this subdivision, any adverse employment action shall be based on negligent failure to complete the required hours. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any applicant or current or former employee under any other law or regulation or under any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract; and**

(k) Exemptions from particular provisions of this article in the case of any county, city, town, or village if in the opinion of the secretary of state the standards of code enforcement training established and maintained by such county, city, town, or village are equal to or higher than those established pursuant to this article; or revocation in whole or in part of such exemption, if in his or her opinion the standards of code enforcement training established and maintained by such county, city, town, or village are lower than those established pursuant to this article[~~;~~]**.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.