STATE OF NEW YORK

1353

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 11, 2021

Introduced by Sens. KAVANAGH, BIAGGI, JACKSON, KAPLAN, KRUEGER, MAY, SEPULVEDA, STAVISKY -- 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 public housing law, in relation to establishing an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing

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

Section 1. The public housing law is amended by adding a new article 14 to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIV

OBLIGATION TO AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING

Section 600. Obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.

§ 600. Obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "covered housing agency" shall mean any state department, agency or office administering housing and community development laws or housing and community development programs including but not limited to New York state homes and community renewal, the division of housing and community renewal, the New York state housing finance agency, the affordable housing corporation, the housing trust fund corporation, the municipal bond bank agency, the state of New York mortgage agency, any subsidiary of the foregoing agencies, any public housing agency, and any localities receiving funds from any state department, agency or office to administer programs or activities related to housing and community development.

2. The commissioner and all covered housing agencies shall administer all such programs and activities related to housing and community development in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing and shall cooperate with the commissioner to further such purpose.

3. The commissioner and all covered housing agencies shall take meaningful actions to:

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

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(a) identify and overcome patterns of residential segregation and housing discrimination;

(b) eradicate racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty;

(c) reduce disparities in access to opportunity;

(d) eliminate disproportionate housing needs;

(e) provide the public reasonable and regular opportunities to comment on fair housing issues and participate in the development and advancement of affirmative fair housing policy; and

(f) encourage and maintain compliance with section two hundred ninety-six of the executive law.

4. The commissioner and all covered housing agencies shall take no action that is materially inconsistent with the obligation of this section.

5. The commissioner shall on or before October thirtieth of each year produce a draft report that shall be made available to the public. The report shall include any significant initiatives, policies, or programs undertaken in furtherance of fair housing and any recommendations for improving the state of fair housing in New York. The draft report shall be open to a minimum of thirty days of public comment. The commissioner shall, on or before December first of each year, submit the final version of said report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate. The commissioner shall submit along with the final report, all comments received pursuant to the public comment period.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.