

STATE OF NEW YORK

3678

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. CYMBROWITZ -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Housing

AN ACT to amend the local emergency housing rent control act, in
relation to rent regulation laws

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 1 of chapter 21 of the laws of
2 1962, constituting the local emergency housing rent control act, as
3 amended by chapter 82 of the laws of 2003 and the closing paragraph as
4 amended by chapter 422 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 5. Authority for local rent control legislation. Each city having a
7 population of one million or more, acting through its local legislative
8 body, may adopt and amend local laws or ordinances in respect of the
9 establishment or designation of a city housing rent agency. When it
10 deems such action to be desirable or necessitated by local conditions in
11 order to carry out the purposes of this section, such city, except as
12 hereinafter provided, acting through its local legislative body and not
13 otherwise, may adopt and amend local laws or ordinances in respect of
14 the regulation and control of residential rents, including but not
15 limited to provision for the establishment and adjustment of maximum
16 rents, the classification of housing accommodations, the regulation of
17 evictions, and the enforcement of such local laws or ordinances. The
18 validity of any such local laws or ordinances, and the rules or regu-
19 lations promulgated in accordance therewith, shall not be affected by
20 and need not be consistent with the state emergency housing rent control
21 law or with rules and regulations of the state division of housing and
22 community renewal.

23 Notwithstanding any local law or ordinance, housing accommodations
24 which became vacant on or after July first, nineteen hundred seventy-one
25 or which hereafter become vacant shall be subject to the provisions of

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

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1 the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four, provided,
2 however, that this provision shall not apply or become effective with
3 respect to housing accommodations which, by local law or ordinance, are
4 made directly subject to regulation and control by a city housing rent
5 agency and such agency determines or finds that the housing accommo-
6 dations became vacant because the landlord or any person acting on his
7 behalf, with intent to cause the tenant to vacate, engaged in any course
8 of conduct (including but not limited to, interruption or discontinuance
9 of essential services) which interfered with or disturbed or was
10 intended to interfere with or disturb the comfort, repose, peace or
11 quiet of the tenant in his use or occupancy of the housing accommo-
12 dations. The removal of any housing accommodation from regulation and
13 control of rents pursuant to the vacancy exemption provided for in this
14 paragraph shall not constitute or operate as a ground for the subjection
15 to more stringent regulation and control of any housing accommodation in
16 such property or in any other property owned by the same landlord,
17 notwithstanding any prior agreement to the contrary by the landlord. The
18 vacancy exemption provided for in this paragraph shall not arise with
19 respect to any rented plot or parcel of land otherwise subject to the
20 provisions of this act, by reason of a transfer of title and possession
21 occurring on or after July first, nineteen hundred seventy-one of a
22 dwelling located on such plot or parcel and owned by the tenant where
23 such transfer of title and possession is made to a member of the
24 tenant's immediate family provided that the member of the tenant's imme-
25 diate family occupies the dwelling with the tenant prior to the transfer
26 of title and possession for a continuous period of two years.

27 The term "immediate family" shall include a husband, wife, son, daugh-
28 ter, stepson, stepdaughter, father, mother, father-in-law or mother-in-
29 law.

30 ~~[Notwithstanding the foregoing, no local law or ordinance shall here-~~
31 ~~after provide for the regulation and control of residential rents and~~
32 ~~eviction in respect of any housing accommodations which are (1) present-~~
33 ~~ly exempt from such regulation and control or (2) hereafter decontrolled~~
34 ~~either by operation of law or by a city housing rent agency, by order or~~
35 ~~otherwise. No housing accommodations presently subject to regulation and~~
36 ~~control pursuant to local laws or ordinances adopted or amended under~~
37 ~~authority of this subdivision shall hereafter be by local law or ordi-~~
38 ~~nance or by rule or regulation which has not been theretofore approved~~
39 ~~by the state commissioner of housing and community renewal subjected to~~
40 ~~more stringent or restrictive provisions of regulation and control than~~
41 ~~those presently in effect.~~

42 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the effective~~
43 ~~date of this paragraph, a city having a population of one million or~~
44 ~~more shall not, either through its local legislative body or otherwise,~~
45 ~~adopt or amend local laws or ordinances with respect to the regulation~~
46 ~~and control of residential rents and eviction, including but not limited~~
47 ~~to provision for the establishment and adjustment of rents, the classi-~~
48 ~~fication of housing accommodations, the regulation of evictions, and the~~
49 ~~enforcement of such local laws or ordinances, or otherwise adopt laws or~~
50 ~~ordinances pursuant to the provisions of this act, the emergency tenant~~
51 ~~protection act of nineteen seventy four, the New York city rent and~~
52 ~~rehabilitation law or the New York city rent stabilization law, except~~
53 ~~to the extent that such city for the purpose of reviewing the continued~~
54 ~~need for the existing regulation and control of residential rents or to~~
55 ~~remove a classification of housing accommodation from such regulation~~
56 ~~and control adopts or amends local laws or ordinances pursuant to subdi-~~

~~vision three of section one of this act, section three of the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy four, section 26-415 of the New York city rent and rehabilitation law, and sections 26-502 and 26-520 of the New York city rent stabilization law of nineteen hundred sixty nine.]~~

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no local law or ordinance shall subject to such regulation and control any housing accommodation which is not occupied by the tenant in possession as his or her primary residence; provided, however, that such housing accommodation not occupied by the tenant in possession as his or her primary residence shall continue to be subject to regulation and control as provided for herein unless the city housing rent agency issues an order decontrolling such accommodation, which the agency shall do upon application by the landlord whenever it is established by any facts and circumstances which, in the judgment of the agency, may have a bearing upon the question of residence, that the tenant maintains his or her primary residence at some place other than at such housing accommodation. For the purposes of determining primary residency, a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social services law, who has left the unit because of such violence, and who asserts an intent to return to the housing accommodation shall be deemed to be occupying the unit as his or her primary residence.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 5 of section 1 of chapter 21 of the laws of 1962 made by section one of this act shall remain in full force and effect only so long as the public emergency requiring the regulation and control of residential rents and evictions continues, as provided in subdivision 3 of section 1 of the local emergency housing rent control act.