

STATE OF NEW YORK

7219

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to prohibiting the
requirement that a court proceeding has been initiated against an
individual in order for such individual to qualify for a rent arrears
grant or ongoing rental assistance

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

1 Section 1. Section 131-w of the social services law, as added by chap-
2 ter 41 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 131-w. Limitations in the payment of rent arrears. Districts shall
4 not provide assistance to pay rent arrears, property taxes or mortgage
5 arrears for persons not eligible for home relief, aid to dependent chil-
6 dren, emergency assistance to needy families with children or emergency
7 assistance for aged, blind and disabled persons, except to persons who
8 are without income or resources immediately available to meet the emer-
9 gency need, whose gross household income does not exceed one hundred
10 twenty-five percent of the federal income official poverty line and who
11 sign a repayment agreement agreeing to repay the assistance in a period
12 not to exceed twelve months. It shall not be a requirement that an
13 individual provide proof of a court proceeding that has been initiated
14 against him or her in order to qualify as eligible for a rent arrears
15 grant or ongoing rental assistance. The districts shall enforce the
16 repayment agreements by any legal method available to a creditor, in
17 addition to any rights it has pursuant to this chapter. The department
18 shall promulgate regulations to implement this section which shall,
19 among other things, establish standards for the contents of repayment
20 agreements and establish standards to ensure that assistance is provided
21 only in emergency circumstances.

22 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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