

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4026

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the real property actions and proceedings law, in relation to penalties for failure to comply with maintenance and reporting of vacant and abandoned properties, and reporting and release of information

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 8 of section 1308 of the real  
2 property actions and proceedings law, as added by section 1 of part Q of  
3 chapter 73 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Violations of this section may be heard before a hearing officer  
5 or a court of competent jurisdiction. If it shall appear to the satis-  
6 faction of the hearing officer or the court, based on the preponderance  
7 of the evidence, that the mortgagee or agent of a mortgagee has violated  
8 this section, a civil penalty may be issued by the hearing officer or  
9 the court in the amount of up to [~~five hundred~~ one thousand] dollars per  
10 day per property for each day the violation persisted.

11 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 1310 of the real property actions and  
12 proceedings law, as added by section 4 of part Q of chapter 73 of the  
13 laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

14 1. The department of financial services shall maintain a statewide  
15 vacant and abandoned property registry in the form of an electronic  
16 database. The department of financial services may, in accordance with  
17 the applicable provisions of the state finance law, retain a private  
18 contractor to administer such database for the purposes of satisfying  
19 this requirement. The information provided to the department of finan-  
20 cial services pursuant to this section shall be deemed and treated  
21 confidential, provided however, the superintendent of financial  
22 services, in her or his sole discretion, may release the information if  
23 it is in the best interest of the public. Any such released information

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

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1 shall continue to be treated confidentially by the parties. The depart-  
2 ment of financial services shall, upon written request, provide public  
3 officials of any state district, county, city, town or village with  
4 access to information specific to such public official's district, coun-  
5 ty, city, town or village maintained on such database to further the  
6 purposes of this section, section thirteen hundred seven of this article  
7 or article nineteen-A of this chapter, or any other related law, code,  
8 rule, regulation or ordinance, and such state district, county, city,  
9 town or village that receives such information from the department of  
10 financial services may share such information with another state  
11 district, county, city, town, village or municipal landbank for the  
12 purpose of coordinating and cooperating to further the purposes of this  
13 section, section thirteen hundred seven of this article or article nine-  
14 teen-A of this chapter or any other related law, code, rule, regulation  
15 or ordinance.

16 § 3. Subdivision 2 of section 1310 of the real property actions and  
17 proceedings law, as added by section 4 of part Q of chapter 73 of the  
18 laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

19 2. A lender, assignee or mortgage loan servicer shall submit or cause  
20 to be submitted to the department of financial services information  
21 required by the superintendent of financial services about any vacant  
22 and abandoned residential real property, as that term is defined in  
23 subdivision two of section thirteen hundred nine of this article, or as  
24 the superintendent of financial services may otherwise define that term,  
25 within twenty-one business days of when the lender, assignee or mortgage  
26 loan servicer learns, or should have learned, that such property is  
27 vacant and abandoned. Such information shall, at a minimum, include: (a)  
28 the current name, title, mailing address, address for service of proc-  
29 ess, and contact information, including direct phone number and email  
30 address for [~~the~~] each lender, assignee [~~or~~] and mortgage loan servicer  
31 responsible for maintaining the vacant property, and for each lender,  
32 assignee and mortgage loan servicer that is authorized or required to  
33 provide funds for the maintenance of such property; (b) whether a fore-  
34 closure action has been filed for the property in question, and, if so,  
35 the date on which the foreclosure action was commenced; and (c) the last  
36 known address and contact information for [~~the mortgagor(s)~~] any mortga-  
37 gor of record.

38 § 4. Section 1310 of the real property actions and proceedings law is  
39 amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

40 6. (a) This section may be enforced in the same manner as provided in  
41 paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subdivision eight of section thirteen  
42 hundred eight of this article.

43 (b) A violation of this section may be heard before a hearing officer  
44 or a court of competent jurisdiction. If it shall appear to the satis-  
45 faction of the hearing officer or the court, based on the preponderance  
46 of the evidence, that the lender, assignee or mortgage loan servicer has  
47 violated this section by failing to submit or to cause to be submitted  
48 to the department of financial services any information required by the  
49 superintendent of financial services about any vacant and abandoned  
50 property pursuant to this section, or failing to make an amended  
51 submission when any such information has materially changed since the  
52 latest submission, as required by subdivision three of this section, a  
53 civil penalty may be issued by the hearing officer or the court in the  
54 amount of up to five thousand dollars per property for each such fail-  
55 ure.

§ 5. Section 1310 of the real property actions and proceedings law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. The superintendent of financial services shall publish on or before February fifteenth each year an annual report presenting data regarding properties that appeared on the registry during the most recent year ending December thirty-first. Such data shall, at a minimum, include, for each county, city, and town, the total number of properties and the total number of dwelling units in such properties: (a) included in the registry at the beginning of the year, (b) added to the registry during the year, (c) removed from the registry during the year, and (d) included in the registry at the end of the year. For properties included in the registry at the end of the year, the data shall indicate, for each county, city, or town, how many properties and dwelling units in such properties have been included in the registry for (i) six consecutive months or less, (ii) one year or less, (iii) two years or less, (iv) three years or less, or (v) longer than three years.

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