

STATE OF NEW YORK

1634

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2023

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- 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 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

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

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

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

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

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