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IN SENATE

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Introduced by Sens. GIANARIS, BAILEY, BRESLIN, BRISPORT, CLEARE, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON, LIU, MYRIE, PARKER, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SANDERS, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

AN ACT eliminating rent increases based on major capital improvements; to amend chapter 274 of the laws of 1946, constituting the emergency housing rent control law, the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to eliminating rent increases to pay for major capital improvements

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration of emergency. The
2 legislature hereby finds and declares that the serious public emergency
3 which led to the enactment of the existing laws regulating residential
4 rents and evictions continues to exist. The legislature further finds
5 that a majority of households currently occupying housing accommodations
6 subject to rent laws are rent-burdened; that permanent increases in
7 rents are no longer necessary to incentivize rental property owners to
8 make, or to compensate landlords for, necessary major capital improve-
9 ments; that publicly funded tax incentives and other subsidies are
10 available to rental property owners to support major capital improve-
11 ments; that value from major capital improvements accrues to rental
12 property owners through increased property values and sale prices; that,
13 due to market conditions in localities subject to rent laws, rental
14 property owners are already able to realize a reasonable return on their
15 investments in major capital improvements through increased property
16 values and sale prices alone; and that provisions for hardship increases
17 under existing rent laws already ensure that rental property owners are
18 able to operate rent regulated housing without incurring undue losses.

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

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1 The legislature further declares and finds that a substantial number of
2 the rent increases previously granted for major capital improvements
3 were tainted by inflated costs, particularly in the last seven years;
4 that the provision of rent increases for major capital improvements in
5 existing rent laws has resulted in exactions of unjust, unreasonable and
6 oppressive rents, as well as profiteering, speculation and other disrup-
7 tive practices tending to produce tenant dislocation and threats to the
8 public health, safety and general welfare; that such results were
9 contrary to the intent and purpose of the existing rent laws; that it is
10 therefore necessary to amend the rent laws to remove any provision of a
11 rent increase based upon major capital improvements; and that it is
12 additionally necessary to repeal rent increases based upon major capital
13 improvements that became effective within the previous seven years.

14 § 2. (a) The division of housing and community renewal, the "divi-
15 sion", shall administer the elimination of rent increases based upon
16 major capital improvements pursuant to this act. The division shall no
17 longer grant rent increases on the basis of major capital improvements
18 at buildings subject to rent regulation or rent stabilization pursuant
19 to the emergency rent control law, the emergency tenant protection act
20 and/or the administrative code of the city of New York. All pending
21 applications for rent increases based upon major capital improvements
22 shall be denied, and the division shall issue orders disposing of pend-
23 ing applications as necessary.

24 (b) Any rent increase based upon major capital improvements previously
25 ordered by the division, pursuant to the emergency rent control law, the
26 emergency tenant protection act and/or the administrative code of the
27 city of New York, with an effective date within the seven years prior to
28 the effective date of this act shall be repealed effective immediately
29 unless the division finds a basis for limiting the repeal pursuant to
30 subdivision (d) of this section. For all affected housing accommo-
31 dations, the division shall determine what the present legal rent would
32 be for each such accommodation if the division had not ordered any rent
33 increases based upon major capital improvements during the repeal peri-
34 od, and this amount shall be the proposed new legal rent.

35 (c) Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the division of
36 housing and community renewal shall determine the proposed new legal
37 rents for all affected housing accommodations pursuant to subdivision
38 (b) of this section and shall also provide written notification to all
39 current owners and tenants of affected accommodations as to the amount
40 of the proposed new legal rents, the basis for the department's determi-
41 nation, and the time for each affected party to submit additional infor-
42 mation that the division shall consider before issuing a final order
43 determining the new legal rents, which shall not be less than 45 days.
44 Unless an owner of an affected building has submitted a timely applica-
45 tion to the division for a limitation pursuant to subdivision (d) of
46 this section, the division shall issue a final order determining the new
47 legal rents for affected housing accommodations within 365 days of the
48 effective date of this act.

49 (d) (1) Within 90 days of receiving written notice of proposed new
50 legal rents from the division pursuant to subdivision (c) of this
51 section, a building owner may apply to the commissioner of housing and
52 community renewal for an order limiting the amount of the repeal of rent
53 increases under this act based upon a finding by the commissioner of
54 housing and community renewal that the proposed new legal rents are not
55 sufficient to enable the owner to maintain an annual gross rent income
56 for such building which exceeds the annual operating expenses of such

1 building by a sum equal to at least five percent of such gross rent. In
2 buildings for which the commissioner of housing and community renewal
3 finds that the proposed new legal rents are not sufficient to enable the
4 owner to maintain an annual gross rent income for such building which
5 exceeds the annual operating expenses of such building by a sum equal to
6 at least five percent of such gross rent, the repeal amount of rent
7 increases based upon major capital improvements shall be limited to an
8 amount such that the annual operating expenses of the building do not
9 exceed ninety-five percent of the new proposed annual gross rent income
10 for such building.

11 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, operating expenses shall
12 consist of the actual, reasonable, costs of fuel, labor, utilities,
13 taxes, other than income or corporate franchise taxes, fees, permits,
14 necessary contracted services and noncapital repairs, insurance, parts
15 and supplies, management fees and other administrative costs and mort-
16 gage interest. For the purposes of this subdivision, mortgage interest
17 shall be deemed to mean interest on a bona fide mortgage including an
18 allocable portion of charges related thereto. Criteria to be considered
19 in determining a bona fide mortgage other than an institutional mortgage
20 shall include: condition of the property, location of the property, the
21 existing mortgage market at the time the mortgage is placed, the term of
22 the mortgage, the amortization rate, the principal amount of the mort-
23 gage, security and other terms and conditions of the mortgage. For the
24 purposes of this subdivision, gross annual rent income for a building
25 shall include a rental value set by the commissioner of housing and
26 community renewal for any unit occupied by the owner or a person related
27 to the owner or unoccupied at the owner's choice for more than one month
28 at the last regulated rent plus the minimum number of guidelines
29 increases or, if no such regulated rent existed or is known, the commis-
30 sioner shall impute a rent consistent with other proposed new legal
31 rents in the building.

32 (e) The division shall require that owners refund any increase in a
33 tenant's security deposit amount collected in excess of a new legal rent
34 established under this act within thirty days of the department's issu-
35 ance of an order determining new legal rents. Such excess security
36 deposit amount may be refunded in the form of a rent credit applied
37 toward the affected tenant's next monthly rent payment, and affected
38 tenants are entitled to self-deduct the refund amount from future rent
39 payments.

40 (f) The new legal rent shall be the legal rent beginning on the date
41 rent is required to be paid next succeeding the issuance of a final
42 order determining new legal rents under this act.

43 (g) Any lease agreement executed after the issuance of a final order
44 determining new legal rents under this act shall be deemed to incorpo-
45 rate the rent amounts and effective dates set forth in such order.

46 (h) Any tenant residing in an affected housing accommodation may
47 assert their entitlement to the repeal of prior rent under subdivision
48 (b) of this section, as a defense or counterclaim in any legal proceed-
49 ing predicated upon a landlord's claim of default in the payment of rent
50 pursuant to an agreement. Any court with jurisdiction over a landlord's
51 claim as to a tenant's default in the payment of rent shall also adjudi-
52 cate and have primary jurisdiction over the tenant's assertion of a
53 defense or counterclaim under this provision if the department has not
54 yet issued an order determining the new legal rent. A court order made
55 under this subdivision shall not in any way be deemed to impair a build-

1 ing owner's right or time to apply for a limitation under subdivision
2 (d) of this section.

3 (i) All final orders issued by the department pursuant to subdivisions
4 (b), (c), and (d) of this section shall be subject to appeal pursuant to
5 existing procedures for administrative review before the division.

6 § 3. Paragraph 2 of subdivision 3-a, subparagraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of
7 the second undesignated paragraph of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of
8 section 4 of chapter 274 of the laws of 1946, constituting the emergency
9 housing rent control law, paragraph 2 of subdivision 3-a of section 4
10 and subparagraph 8 of the second undesignated paragraph of paragraph (a)
11 of subdivision 4 of section 4 as amended by section 8 of part K of chap-
12 ter 36 of the laws of 2019, subparagraphs 9 and 10 of the second undes-
13 igned paragraph of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 4 as
14 amended by section 25 of part B of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011,
15 subparagraph 7 of the second undesignated paragraph of paragraph (a) of
16 subdivision 4 of section 4 as separately amended by section 25 of part Q
17 of chapter 39 of the laws of 2019 and section 14 of part K of chapter 36
18 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

19 (2) the amount of increases in maximum rent authorized by order
20 because of increases in dwelling space, services, furniture, furnishings
21 or equipment [~~and the amount of the temporary increase authorized by~~
22 ~~order because of a major capital improvement~~].

23 (7) [~~there has been since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, a major~~
24 ~~capital improvement essential for the preservation, energy efficiency,~~
25 ~~functionality, or infrastructure of the entire building, improvement of~~
26 ~~the structure including heating, windows, plumbing and roofing, but~~
27 ~~shall not be for operational costs or unnecessary cosmetic improvements,~~
28 ~~which for any order of the commissioner issued after the effective date~~
29 ~~of the chapter of the laws of two thousand nineteen that amended this~~
30 ~~paragraph the cost of such improvement shall be amortized over a twelve-~~
31 ~~year period for buildings with thirty five or fewer units or a twelve~~
32 ~~and one half year period for buildings with more than thirty five units,~~
33 ~~and shall be removed from the legal regulated rent thirty years from the~~
34 ~~date the increase became effective inclusive of any increases granted by~~
35 ~~the applicable rent guidelines board. Temporary major capital improve-~~
36 ~~ment increases shall be collectible prospectively on the first day of~~
37 ~~the first month beginning sixty days from the date of mailing notice of~~
38 ~~approval to the tenant. Such notice shall disclose the total monthly~~
39 ~~increase in rent and the first month in which the tenant would be~~
40 ~~required to pay the temporary increase. An approval for a temporary~~
41 ~~major capital improvement increase shall not include retroactive~~
42 ~~payments. The collection of any increase shall not exceed two percent in~~
43 ~~any year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over~~
44 ~~the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability~~
45 ~~of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar~~
46 ~~increments and added to the rent as established or set in future years.~~
47 ~~Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any remaining balance of the tempo-~~
48 ~~rary major capital improvement increase to the legal regulated rent.~~
49 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, for any renewal lease~~
50 ~~commencing on or after June 14, 2019, the collection of any rent~~
51 ~~increases due to any major capital improvements approved on or after~~
52 ~~June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not exceed two percent in~~
53 ~~any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date the major capital~~
54 ~~improvement was approved; provided, however, where an application for a~~
55 ~~temporary major capital improvement increase has been filed, a tenant~~
56 ~~shall have sixty days from the date of mailing of a notice of a proceed-~~

1 ~~ing in which to answer or reply. The state division of housing and~~
2 ~~community renewal shall provide any responding tenant with the reasons~~
3 ~~for the division's approval or denial of such application; or (8)]~~ there
4 has been since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, in structures
5 containing more than four housing accommodations, other improvements
6 made with the express informed consent of the tenants in occupancy of at
7 least seventy-five per centum of the housing accommodations, provided,
8 however, that no adjustment granted hereunder shall exceed two per
9 centum unless the tenants have agreed to a higher percentage of
10 increase, as herein provided; ~~(9)~~ or (8) there has been, since March
11 first, nineteen hundred fifty, a subletting without written consent from
12 the landlord or an increase in the number of adult occupants who are not
13 members of the immediate family of the tenant, and the landlord has not
14 been compensated therefor by adjustment of the maximum rent by lease or
15 order of the commission or pursuant to the federal act; or ~~(10)~~ (9)
16 the presence of unique or peculiar circumstances materially affecting
17 the maximum rent has resulted in a maximum rent which is substantially
18 lower than the rents generally prevailing in the same area for substan-
19 tially similar housing accommodations.

20 § 4. Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of subdivision d of section 6 of section 4
21 of chapter 576 of the laws of 1974, constituting the emergency tenant
22 protection act of nineteen seventy-four, paragraph 3 of subdivision d as
23 amended by section 26 of part Q of chapter 39 of the laws of 2019, para-
24 graph 4 of subdivision d as amended by chapter 403 of the laws of 1983,
25 paragraph 5 of subdivision d as amended by chapter 102 of the laws of
26 1984, are amended to read as follows:

27 (3) ~~[there has been since January first, nineteen hundred seventy four~~
28 ~~a major capital improvement essential for the preservation, energy effi-~~
29 ~~ciency, functionality, or infrastructure of the entire building,~~
30 ~~improvement of the structure including heating, windows, plumbing and~~
31 ~~roofing, but shall not be for operation costs or unnecessary cosmetic~~
32 ~~improvements. An adjustment under this paragraph shall be in an amount~~
33 ~~sufficient to amortize the cost of the improvements pursuant to this~~
34 ~~paragraph over a twelve-year period for a building with thirty-five or~~
35 ~~fewer housing accommodations, or a twelve and one-half period for a~~
36 ~~building with more than thirty five housing accommodations and shall be~~
37 ~~removed from the legal regulated rent thirty years from the date the~~
38 ~~increase became effective inclusive of any increases granted by the~~
39 ~~applicable rent guidelines board, for any determination issued by the~~
40 ~~division of housing and community renewal after the effective date of~~
41 ~~the chapter of the laws of two thousand nineteen that amended this para-~~
42 ~~graph. Temporary major capital improvement increases shall be collecta-~~
43 ~~ble prospectively on the first day of the first month beginning sixty~~
44 ~~days from the date of mailing notice of approval to the tenant. Such~~
45 ~~notice shall disclose the total monthly increase in rent and the first~~
46 ~~month in which the tenant would be required to pay the temporary~~
47 ~~increase. An approval for a temporary major capital improvement increase~~
48 ~~shall not include retroactive payments. The collection of any increase~~
49 ~~shall not exceed two percent in any year from the effective date of the~~
50 ~~order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of~~
51 ~~gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to~~
52 ~~be spread forward in similar increments and added to the rent as estab-~~
53 ~~lished or set in future years. Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any~~
54 ~~remaining balance of the temporary major capital improvement increase to~~
55 ~~the legal regulated rent. Notwithstanding any other provision of the~~
56 ~~law, the collection of any rent increases for any renewal lease commene-~~

~~ing on or after June 14, 2019, due to any major capital improvements approved on or after June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not exceed two percent in any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date the major capital improvement was approved, or~~

(4) an owner by application to the state division of housing and community renewal for increases in the rents in excess of the rent adjustment authorized by the rent guidelines board under this act establishes a hardship, and the state division finds that the rate of rent adjustment is not sufficient to enable the owner to maintain approximately the same ratio between operating expenses, including taxes and labor costs but excluding debt service, financing costs, and management fees, and gross rents which prevailed on the average over the immediate preceding five year period, or for the entire life of the building if less than five years, or

~~(5)~~ (4) as an alternative to the hardship application provided under paragraph ~~four~~ three of this subdivision, owners of buildings acquired by the same owner or a related entity owned by the same principals three years prior to the date of application may apply to the division for increases in excess of the level of applicable guideline increases established under this law based on a finding by the commissioner that such guideline increases are not sufficient to enable the owner to maintain an annual gross rent income for such building which exceeds the annual operating expenses of such building by a sum equal to at least five percent of such gross rent. For the purposes of this paragraph, operating expenses shall consist of the actual, reasonable, costs of fuel, labor, utilities, taxes, other than income or corporate franchise taxes, fees, permits, necessary contracted services and non-capital repairs, insurance, parts and supplies, management fees and other administrative costs and mortgage interest. For the purposes of this paragraph, mortgage interest shall be deemed to mean interest on a bona fide mortgage including an allocable portion of charges related thereto. Criteria to be considered in determining a bona fide mortgage other than an institutional mortgage shall include; condition of the property, location of the property, the existing mortgage market at the time the mortgage is placed, the term of the mortgage, the amortization rate, the principal amount of the mortgage, security and other terms and conditions of the mortgage. The commissioner shall set a rental value for any unit occupied by the owner or a person related to the owner or unoccupied at the owner's choice for more than one month at the last regulated rent plus the minimum number of guidelines increases or, if no such regulated rent existed or is known, the commissioner shall impute a rent consistent with other rents in the building. The amount of hardship increase shall be such as may be required to maintain the annual gross rent income as provided by this paragraph. The division shall not grant a hardship application under this paragraph or paragraph ~~four~~ three of this subdivision for a period of three years subsequent to granting a hardship application under the provisions of this paragraph. The collection of any increase in the rent for any housing accommodation pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed six percent in any year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar increments and added to the rent as established or set in future years. No application shall be approved unless the owner's equity in such building exceeds five percent of: (i) the arms length purchase price of the property; (ii) the cost of any capital improvements for which the owner has not

1 collected a surcharge; (iii) any repayment of principal of any mortgage
2 or loan used to finance the purchase of the property or any capital
3 improvements for which the owner has not collected a surcharge; and (iv)
4 any increase in the equalized assessed value of the property which
5 occurred subsequent to the first valuation of the property after
6 purchase by the owner. For the purposes of this paragraph, owner's equi-
7 ty shall mean the sum of (i) the purchase price of the property less the
8 principal of any mortgage or loan used to finance the purchase of the
9 property, (ii) the cost of any capital improvement for which the owner
10 has not collected a surcharge less the principal of any mortgage or loan
11 used to finance said improvement, (iii) any repayment of the principal
12 of any mortgage or loan used to finance the purchase of the property or
13 any capital improvement for which the owner has not collected a
14 surcharge, and (iv) any increase in the equalized assessed value of the
15 property which occurred subsequent to the first valuation of the proper-
16 ty after purchase by the owner.

17 § 5. Subparagraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (m) and (o) of paragraph 1
18 of subdivision g of section 26-405 of the administrative code of the
19 city of New York, subparagraph (g) as amended by section 27 of part Q of
20 chapter 39 of the laws of 2019, subparagraph (k) as amended by chapter
21 749 of the laws of 1990, are amended to read as follows:

22 (g) ~~[There has been since July first, nineteen hundred seventy, a~~
23 ~~major capital improvement essential for the preservation energy effi-~~
24 ~~ciency, functionality, or infrastructure of the entire building,~~
25 ~~improvement of the structure including heating, windows, plumbing and~~
26 ~~roofing but shall not be for operational costs or unnecessary cosmetic~~
27 ~~improvements. The temporary increase based upon a major capital improve-~~
28 ~~ment under this subparagraph for any order of the commissioner issued~~
29 ~~after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two thousand~~
30 ~~nineteen that amended this subparagraph shall be in an amount sufficient~~
31 ~~to amortize the cost of the improvements pursuant to this subparagraph~~
32 ~~(g) over a twelve year period for buildings with thirty five or fewer~~
33 ~~units or a twelve and one half year period for buildings with more than~~
34 ~~thirty-five units, and shall be removed from the legal regulated rent~~
35 ~~thirty years from the date the increase became effective inclusive of~~
36 ~~any increases granted by the applicable rent guidelines board. Temporary~~
37 ~~major capital improvement increases shall be collectible prospectively~~
38 ~~on the first day of the first month beginning sixty days from the date~~
39 ~~of mailing notice of approval to the tenant. Such notice shall disclose~~
40 ~~the total monthly increase in rent and the first month in which the~~
41 ~~tenant would be required to pay the temporary increase. An approval for~~
42 ~~a temporary major capital improvement increase shall not include retro-~~
43 ~~active payments. The collection of any increase shall not exceed two~~
44 ~~percent in any year from the effective date of the order granting the~~
45 ~~increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with~~
46 ~~collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward~~
47 ~~in similar increments and added to the rent as established or set in~~
48 ~~future years. Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any remaining balance~~
49 ~~of the temporary major capital improvement increase to the legal regu-~~
50 ~~lated rent. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, for any~~
51 ~~renewal lease commencing on or after June 14, 2019, the collection of~~
52 ~~any rent increases due to any major capital improvements approved on or~~
53 ~~after June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not exceed two~~
54 ~~percent in any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date the major~~
55 ~~capital improvement was approved, or~~

~~(h) There have been since March first, nineteen hundred fifty-nine, in structures containing more than four housing accommodations, other improvements made with the express consent of the tenants in occupancy of at least seventy-five per centum of the housing accommodations, provided, however, that whenever the city rent agency has determined that the improvements proposed were part of a plan designed for overall improvement of the structure or increases in services, it may authorize increases in maximum rents for all housing accommodations affected upon the express consent of the tenants in occupancy of at least fifty-one per centum of the housing accommodations, and provided further that no adjustment granted hereunder shall exceed fifteen per centum unless the tenants have agreed to a higher percentage of increase, as herein provided; or~~

~~(i)~~ (i) There has been, since March first, nineteen hundred fifty-nine, a subletting without written consent from the landlord or an increase in the number of adult occupants who are not members of the immediate family of the tenant, and the landlord has not been compensated therefor by adjustment of the maximum rent by lease or order of the city rent agency or pursuant to the state rent act or the federal act; or

~~(j)~~ (h) The presence of unique or peculiar circumstances materially affecting the maximum rent has resulted in a maximum rent which is substantially lower than the rents generally prevailing in the same area for substantially similar housing accommodations.

~~(k) The landlord has incurred, since January first, nineteen hundred seventy, in connection with and in addition to a concurrent major capital improvement pursuant to subparagraph (g) of this paragraph, other expenditures to improve, restore or preserve the quality of the structure. An adjustment under this subparagraph shall be granted only if such improvements represent an expenditure equal to at least ten per centum of the total operating and maintenance expenses for the preceding year. An adjustment under this subparagraph shall be in addition to any adjustment granted for the concurrent major capital improvement and shall be in an amount sufficient to amortize the cost of the improvements pursuant to this subparagraph over a seven-year period.]~~

~~(m)~~ (i) Where the rehabilitation or improvement of sub-standard or deteriorated housing accommodations has been financed under a governmental program providing assistance through loans, loan insurance or tax abatement or has been undertaken under another rehabilitation program not so financed but approved by the commissioner.

~~(o)~~ (j) (1) There has been an increase in heating and heating fuel expenditures in a property resulting from a city-wide rise in heating fuel costs such that the verifiable expenditures for heating or heating fuel in a property for nineteen hundred seventy-four exceeds the verifiable expenditures for such heating or heating fuel during nineteen hundred seventy-three.

(2) To obtain a rental adjustment pursuant to this subparagraph ~~(o)~~, the landlord must certify that he or she is presently maintaining all essential services required to be furnished with respect to the housing accommodations covered by such certification, and that he or she will continue to so maintain such essential services for the period of any such adjustment.

(3) To obtain a rental adjustment pursuant to this subparagraph ~~(o)~~, the landlord must certify on information and belief that he or she will not be earning an amount in excess of the statutory return specified in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph ~~[one of subdivision g of this section]~~ after collection of such rental adjustment, with respect to the

1 building or buildings serviced by a single heating plant; and where the
2 building, or buildings serviced by a single heating plant, contains
3 forty-nine or fewer housing accommodations, the landlord must certify
4 that the amount expended directly for heating or heating fuel in nine-
5 teen hundred seventy-four equalled or exceeded ten per cent of the total
6 rental income which was derived from the property during nineteen
7 hundred seventy-four; and, where the building, or buildings serviced by
8 a single heating plant, contains fifty or more housing accommodations
9 the landlord must certify that the amount expended directly for heating
10 or heating fuel in nineteen hundred seventy-four equalled or exceeded
11 seven and one-half percentum of the total rental income which was
12 derived from the property during nineteen hundred seventy-four.

13 (4) The total rental adjustments for a property to be allocated or
14 deemed allocated pursuant to this subparagraph ~~[(e)]~~ shall not exceed
15 one-half of the gross amount by which the total verifiable expenditures
16 for heating or heating fuel for nineteen hundred seventy-four exceeds
17 the total verifiable expenditures for such heating or heating fuel for
18 nineteen hundred seventy-three.

19 (5) Such total rental adjustments shall be allocated or deemed allo-
20 cated pursuant to this subparagraph ~~[(e)]~~ to all housing accommodations
21 subject to this chapter, to all other housing accommodations, and to all
22 commercial, professional and similar facilities in or associated with
23 the property in a manner to be determined by the agency. In no event
24 shall any adjustment in maximum rent pursuant to this subparagraph ~~[(e)]~~
25 for any housing accommodations subject to this chapter exceed a monthly
26 increase of two dollars per room, as defined by item eight below. In any
27 apartment containing five or more rooms, any increase shall not exceed
28 the total of nine dollars.

29 (6) Any adjustment pursuant to this subparagraph ~~[(e)]~~ shall be effec-
30 tive for all or part of the period July first, nineteen hundred seven-
31 ty-five through June thirtieth, nineteen hundred seventy-six. Any
32 adjustment pursuant to this subparagraph shall automatically expire no
33 later than June thirtieth, nineteen hundred seventy-six.

34 (7) The rental increases provided for herein shall be effective and
35 collectible upon the landlord's filing a report with the agency on forms
36 prescribed by the agency and upon giving such notice to the tenants as
37 the agency shall prescribe, subject to adjustments upon order of the
38 agency.

39 (8) In determining the amount of an adjustment allocation of an
40 adjustment pursuant to this subparagraph ~~[(e)]~~, only living rooms,
41 kitchens over fifty-nine square feet in area, dining rooms and bedrooms
42 shall be considered rooms; bathrooms, foyers, and kitchenettes shall not
43 be considered rooms.

44 § 6. Subdivision a of section 26-407 of the administrative code of the
45 city of New York is amended to read as follows:

46 a. Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter, any labor cost
47 pass-along rent increase requested of, or received from, any tenant on
48 or after July first, nineteen hundred seventy-two~~[, pursuant to the~~
49 ~~provisions of subparagraph (1) of paragraph one of subdivision g of~~
50 ~~section 26-405 of this title,~~] shall not exceed the maximum rent adjust-
51 ment as provided under this chapter after the effective date of this
52 section.

53 § 7. Paragraph 6 of subdivision c of section 26-511 of the administra-
54 tive code of the city of New York as separately amended by section 12 of
55 part K of chapter 36 and section 28 of part Q of chapter 39 of the laws
56 of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

1 (6) provides criteria whereby the commissioner may act upon applica-
2 tions by owners for increases in excess of the level of fair rent
3 increase established under this law provided, however, that such crite-
4 ria shall provide [~~(a)~~] as to hardship applications, for a finding that
5 the level of fair rent increase is not sufficient to enable the owner to
6 maintain approximately the same average annual net income (which shall
7 be computed without regard to debt service, financing costs or manage-
8 ment fees) for the three year period ending on or within six months of
9 the date of an application pursuant to such criteria as compared with
10 annual net income, which prevailed on the average over the period nine-
11 teen hundred sixty-eight through nineteen hundred seventy, or for the
12 first three years of operation if the building was completed since nine-
13 teen hundred sixty-eight or for the first three fiscal years after a
14 transfer of title to a new owner provided the new owner can establish to
15 the satisfaction of the commissioner that he or she acquired title to
16 the building as a result of a bona fide sale of the entire building and
17 that the new owner is unable to obtain requisite records for the fiscal
18 years nineteen hundred sixty-eight through nineteen hundred seventy
19 despite diligent efforts to obtain same from predecessors in title and
20 further provided that the new owner can provide financial data covering
21 a minimum of six years under his or her continuous and uninterrupted
22 operation of the building to meet the three year to three year compar-
23 ative test periods herein provided[~~, and (b) as to completed building-~~
24 ~~wide major capital improvements, for a finding that such improvements~~
25 ~~are deemed depreciable under the Internal Revenue Code and that the cost~~
26 ~~is to be amortized over a twelve year period for a building with thir-~~
27 ~~ty five or fewer housing accommodations, or a twelve and one half year~~
28 ~~period for a building with more than thirty five housing accommodations,~~
29 ~~for any determination issued by the division of housing and community~~
30 ~~renewal after the effective date of the the chapter of the laws of two~~
31 ~~thousand nineteen that amended this paragraph and shall be removed from~~
32 ~~the legal regulated rent thirty years from the date the increase became~~
33 ~~effective inclusive of any increases granted by the applicable rent~~
34 ~~guidelines board. Temporary major capital improvement increases shall be~~
35 ~~collectible prospectively on the first day of the first month beginning~~
36 ~~sixty days from the date of mailing notice of approval to the tenant.~~
37 ~~Such notice shall disclose the total monthly increase in rent and the~~
38 ~~first month in which the tenant would be required to pay the temporary~~
39 ~~increase. An approval for a temporary major capital improvement increase~~
40 ~~shall not include retroactive payments. The collection of any increase~~
41 ~~shall not exceed two percent in any year from the effective date of the~~
42 ~~order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of~~
43 ~~gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to~~
44 ~~be spread forward in similar increments and added to the rent as estab-~~
45 ~~lished or set in future years. Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any~~
46 ~~remaining balance of the temporary major capital improvement increase to~~
47 ~~the legal regulated rent. Notwithstanding any other provision of the~~
48 ~~law, for any renewal lease commencing on or after June 14, 2019, the~~
49 ~~collection of any rent increases due to any major capital improvements~~
50 ~~approved on or after June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not~~
51 ~~exceed two percent in any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date~~
52 ~~the major capital improvement was approved or based upon cash purchase~~
53 ~~price exclusive of interest or service charges. Where an application for~~
54 ~~a temporary major capital improvement increase has been filed, a tenant~~
55 ~~shall have sixty days from the date of mailing of a notice of a proceed-~~
56 ~~ing in which to answer or reply. The state division of housing and~~

1 ~~community renewal shall provide any responding tenant with the reasons~~
2 ~~for the division's approval or denial of such application.]~~ Notwith-
3 standing anything to the contrary contained herein, no hardship increase
4 granted pursuant to this paragraph shall, when added to the annual gross
5 rents, as determined by the commissioner, exceed the sum of, (i) the
6 annual operating expenses, (ii) an allowance for management services as
7 determined by the commissioner, (iii) actual annual mortgage debt
8 service (interest and amortization) on its indebtedness to a lending
9 institution, an insurance company, a retirement fund or welfare fund
10 which is operated under the supervision of the banking or insurance laws
11 of the state of New York or the United States, and (iv) eight and one-
12 half percent of that portion of the fair market value of the property
13 which exceeds the unpaid principal amount of the mortgage indebtedness
14 referred to in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph. Fair market value
15 for the purposes of this paragraph shall be six times the annual gross
16 rent. The collection of any increase in the stabilized rent for any
17 apartment pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed six percent in any
18 year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over the
19 rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability of
20 any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar incre-
21 ments and added to the stabilized rent as established or set in future
22 years;

23 § 8. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part
24 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to
25 be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the
26 remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause,
27 sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly
28 involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been
29 rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that
30 this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not
31 been included herein. It is further declared to be the intent of the
32 legislature that this act would have been enacted even if subdivisions
33 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of section two of this act
34 had not been included herein.

35 § 9. This act shall take effect immediately; provided:

36 (a) that the amendments to section 26-511 of chapter 4 of title 26 of
37 the administrative code of the city of New York made by section seven of
38 this act shall expire on the same date as such law expires and shall not
39 affect the expiration of such law as provided under section 26-520 of
40 such law; and

41 (b) that the amendments to sections 26-405 and 26-407 of the city rent
42 and rehabilitation law made by sections five and six of this act shall
43 remain in full force and effect only as long as the public emergency
44 requiring the regulation and control of residential rents and evictions
45 continues, as provided in subdivision 3 of section 1 of the local emer-
46 gency housing rent control act.

47 (c) Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of
48 any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on
49 its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before
50 such effective date.