

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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2115

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 18, 2023

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Introduced by Sen. FELDER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities 1

AN ACT to enact the "save our stores act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "save our stores act".

3 § 2. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the  
4 contrary, in a city with a population of one million or more, any fine  
5 or monetary civil penalty assessed against a not-for-profit organiza-  
6 tion, school, place of worship or small business by a state or local  
7 agency for a violation of state or local law, rule, regulation or execu-  
8 tive order during the COVID-19 covered period shall be deemed void and  
9 waived unless such fines or penalties are assessed for a violation  
10 provided in paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

11 (b) No waiver of fines or penalties shall be given if a state or local  
12 agency determines that the violation may result in a natural resource  
13 damage claim or serious actual harm, is a violation of human or civil  
14 rights law, results in loss of employee wages or benefits, interferes  
15 with any remedy, review, or resolution related to harassment or discrim-  
16 ination claims, was or is a willful violation, involves tax fraud,  
17 violates requirements related to federal funding to the state, relates  
18 to state funding or procurement, or is a penal law violation.

19 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the  
20 following meanings:

21 (a) "COVID-19 covered period" means the duration of the state disaster  
22 emergency declared on March 7, 2020 pursuant to executive order number  
23 two hundred two of two thousand twenty; and

24 (b) "Small business" means any business which is resident in this  
25 state, independently owned and operated, and employs one hundred or less  
26 individuals.

27 § 3. 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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