STATE OF NEW YORK

7019

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 16, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the public buildings law, in relation to induction loop listening systems

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

Section 1. Section 53 of the public buildings law, as amended by chapter 23 of the laws of 1989, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 221 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

§ 53. [~~Assistive~~] **Induction loop** listening systems. 1. **(a)** All new public buildings, construction of which commences after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one, [~~containing~~] **which are or contain within** an [~~auditorium, theater, meeting hall, hearing room, amphitheater, or room used in any similar capacity which are so designated by the appropriate building and fire code~~] **area of public assembly or service,** shall have equipped and installed an [~~assistive~~] **induction loop** listening system for use by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing who require the use of such a system to improve their reception of sound.

(b) The owner of any public building which is or contains within an area of public assembly or service and has an induction loop listening system installed and equipped shall post in a clear and conspicuous manner permanently mounted signage to indicate to visitors that such induction loop listening system is available.

(c) On a biennial basis, the owner of any public building which is or contains within an area of public assembly or service and has an induction loop listening system installed and equipped shall complete a self-certification form and submit such form to the state fire prevention and building code council, attesting that such induction loop listening system continues to be functional.

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

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2. Standards for such systems shall be developed by the state fire prevention and building code council upon receiving recommendations from the advisory board on [~~assistive~~] **induction loop** listening systems in places of public assembly.

3. For purposes of this section, the [~~term~~] **following terms shall have the following meanings:**

(a) "[~~assistive~~] **Induction loop** listening system" shall mean [~~situational personal acoustic communication equipment designed to improve the transmission and auditory reception of sound~~] **a hardwired assistive listening system through which a loop of wire around an area of a building produces a signal, or a hardwired countertop version that produces a signal, received directly by hearing aids and cochlear implants equipped with telecoil features used by persons with hearing loss**.

(b) "Area of public assembly or service" shall mean a building or structure, or space within a building or structure, that is regularly open for public gatherings, including an auditorium, theater, meeting room or hall, courtroom, community center, amphitheater, library, pharmacy counter, information desk at a medical facility, a waiting area for a medical office, bank teller area, car rental business, restaurant, bar, or other food or beverage counter service location, coat check area, grocery store check-out area, ticket payment location, or any other room used in any similar capacity which are so designated by the appropriate building and fire code.

§ 2. The state fire prevention and building code council shall update and amend any applicable building and fire codes to carry out the provisions of section 53 of the public buildings law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect seven months after it shall have become a law.