STATE OF NEW YORK

8506--A

IN SENATE

February 6, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to individual sewage disposal system disclosures; and to amend the real property law, in relation to providing information on septic system operation and maintenance on the property condition disclosure statement

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 2, 3 and 5 of section 396-s of the general business law, as added by chapter 521 of the laws of 1980, are amended to read as follows:

2. On and after July first, nineteen hundred eighty-one every vendor shall, either in person or by certified mail, deliver to a vendee at the time of the transfer of title of the [~~newly constructed~~] home serviced by an individual sewage disposal system a copy of the health [~~bulletin~~] **pamphlet**. If the political subdivision within which the home is located has published a waste treatment handbook or pamphlet on individual sewage disposal systems, the vendor shall supply a copy of such informational material to the vendee in the same manner as the health pamphlet.

3. The commissioner of the department of health is hereby directed to modify the contents of the health pamphlet in such a manner that such [~~bulletin~~] **pamphlet** shall contain information relating to the proper method of operating and maintaining individual sewage disposal systems. Such information shall be in clear and concise language readily comprehensible by vendees and shall identify potential problems that vendees may encounter with individual sewage disposal systems. The modification to the health [~~bulletin~~] **pamphlet** required by this subdivision shall be made on or before the effective date of this section and shall be included within any health pamphlet to be distributed by the department on and after July first, nineteen hundred eighty-one.

5. Any vendor violating this section shall be [~~subject to a fine of one~~] **assessed a civil penalty not to exceed two** hundred **fifty** dollars.

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

LBD14097-03-4

§ 2. Subdivision 2 of section 462 of the real property law, as amended by chapter 484 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

NAME OF SELLER OR SELLERS:

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

THE PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE ACT REQUIRES THE SELLER OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY TO CAUSE THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OR A COPY THEREOF TO BE DELIVERED TO A BUYER OR BUYER'S AGENT PRIOR TO THE SIGNING BY THE BUYER OF A BINDING CONTRACT OF SALE.

PURPOSE OF STATEMENT: THIS IS A STATEMENT OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROPERTY KNOWN TO THE SELLER. THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS NOT A WARRANTY OF ANY KIND BY THE SELLER OR BY ANY AGENT REPRESENTING THE SELLER IN THIS TRANSACTION. IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY INSPECTIONS OR TESTS AND THE BUYER IS ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN HIS OR HER OWN INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL INSPECTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TESTS AND ALSO IS ENCOURAGED TO CHECK PUBLIC RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE PROPERTY.

A KNOWINGLY FALSE OR INCOMPLETE STATEMENT BY THE SELLER ON THIS FORM MAY SUBJECT THE SELLER TO CLAIMS BY THE BUYER PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE TRANSFER OF TITLE.

"RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY" MEANS REAL PROPERTY IMPROVED BY A ONE TO FOUR FAMILY DWELLING USED OR OCCUPIED, OR INTENDED TO BE USED OR OCCUPIED, WHOLLY OR PARTLY, AS THE HOME OR RESIDENCE OF ONE OR MORE PERSONS, BUT SHALL NOT REFER TO (A) UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY UPON WHICH SUCH DWELLINGS ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED OR (B) CONDOMINIUM UNITS OR COOPERATIVE APARTMENTS OR (C) PROPERTY ON A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION THAT IS NOT OWNED IN FEE SIMPLE BY THE SELLER.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SELLER:

(a) ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS BASED UPON YOUR ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE.

(b) ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES WITH YOUR SIGNATURE IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS REQUIRED.

(c) COMPLETE THIS FORM YOURSELF.

(d) IF SOME ITEMS DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR PROPERTY, CHECK "NA" (NON-APPLICABLE). IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER CHECK "UNKN" (UNKNOWN).

SELLER'S STATEMENT: THE SELLER MAKES THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE BUYER BASED UPON THE SELLER'S ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT. THE SELLER AUTHORIZES HIS OR HER AGENT, IF ANY, TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO A PROSPECTIVE BUYER OF THE RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY. THE FOLLOWING ARE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE SELLER AND ARE NOT THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SELLER'S AGENT.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED THE PROPERTY?
2. HOW LONG HAVE YOU OCCUPIED THE PROPERTY?
3. WHAT IS THE AGE OF THE STRUCTURE OR STRUCTURES? NOTE TO BUYER--IF THE STRUCTURE WAS BUILT BEFORE 1978 YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO INVESTIGATE FOR THE PRESENCE OF LEAD BASED PAINT.
4. DOES ANYBODY OTHER THAN YOURSELF HAVE A LEASE, EASEMENT OR ANY OTHER RIGHT TO USE OR OCCUPY ANY PART OF YOUR PROPERTY OTHER THAN THOSE STATED IN DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC RECORD, SUCH AS RIGHTS TO USE A ROAD OR PATH OR CUT TREES OR CROPS. YES NO UNKN NA
5. DOES ANYBODY ELSE CLAIM TO OWN ANY PART OF YOUR PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
6. HAS ANYONE DENIED YOU ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY OR MADE A FORMAL LEGAL CLAIM CHALLENGING YOUR TITLE TO THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)

7. ARE THERE ANY FEATURES OF THE PROPERTY SHARED IN COMMON WITH ADJOINING LAND OWNERS OR A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, SUCH AS WALLS, FENCES OR DRIVEWAYS? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES DESCRIBE BELOW)
8. ARE THERE ANY ELECTRIC OR GAS UTILITY SURCHARGES FOR LINE EXTENSIONS, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS OR HOMEOWNER OR OTHER ASSOCIATION FEES THAT APPLY TO THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
9. ARE THERE CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY RELATED TO THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF NO, EXPLAIN BELOW)

ENVIRONMENTAL

NOTE TO SELLER - IN THIS SECTION, YOU WILL BE ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC SUBSTANCES THAT YOU KNOW TO HAVE BEEN SPILLED, LEAKED OR OTHERWISE BEEN RELEASED ON THE PROPERTY OR FROM THE PROPERTY ONTO ANY OTHER PROPERTY. PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL, HOME HEATING FUEL, AND LUBRICANTS. HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC SUBSTANCES ARE PRODUCTS OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT COULD POSE SHORT- OR LONG-TERM DANGER TO PERSONAL HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT IF THEY ARE NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED OF, APPLIED OR STORED. THESE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES AND INSECTICIDES, PAINT INCLUDING PAINT THINNER, VARNISH REMOVER AND WOOD PRESERVATIVES, TREATED WOOD, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS SUCH AS ASPHALT AND ROOFING MATERIALS, ANTIFREEZE AND OTHER AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, BATTERIES, CLEANING SOLVENTS INCLUDING SEPTIC TANK CLEANERS, HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, POOL CHEMICALS, PRODUCTS CONTAINING MERCURY AND LEAD AND INDOOR MOLD.

NOTE TO BUYER - IF CONTAMINATION OF THIS PROPERTY FROM PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND/OR HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC SUBSTANCES IS A CONCERN TO YOU, YOU ARE URGED TO CONSIDER SOIL AND GROUNDWATER TESTING OF THIS PROPERTY.

10. IS ANY OR ALL OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED IN A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
11. IS ANY OR ALL OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY IN THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA ("SFHA"; "100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN") ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA'S) CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS FOR YOUR AREA? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
12. IS ANY OR ALL OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY IN A MODERATE RISK FLOOD HAZARD AREA ("500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN") ACCORDING TO FEMA'S CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS FOR YOUR AREA? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
13. IS THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO ANY REQUIREMENT UNDER FEDERAL LAW TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN FLOOD INSURANCE ON THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)

HOMES IN THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA, ALSO KNOWN AS HIGH RISK FLOOD ZONES, ON FEMA'S FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS WITH MORTGAGES FROM FEDERALLY REGULATED OR INSURED LENDERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN FLOOD INSURANCE. EVEN WHEN NOT REQUIRED, FEMA ENCOURAGES HOMEOWNERS IN HIGH RISK, MODERATE RISK, AND LOW RISK FLOOD ZONES TO PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE THAT COVERS THE STRUCTURE(S) AND THE PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE STRUCTURE(S). ALSO NOTE THAT HOMES IN COASTAL AREAS MAY BE SUBJECT TO INCREASED RISK OF FLOODING OVER TIME DUE TO PROJECTED SEA LEVEL RISE AND INCREASED EXTREME STORMS CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH MAY NOT BE REFLECTED IN CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS.

14. HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED ASSISTANCE, OR ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY PREVIOUS OWNERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA), OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL DISASTER FLOOD ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW) FOR PROPERTIES THAT HAVE RECEIVED FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN FLOOD INSURANCE PASSES DOWN TO ALL FUTURE OWNERS. FAILURE TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN FLOOD INSURANCE CAN RESULT IN AN INDIVIDUAL BEING INELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE.
15. IS THERE FLOOD INSURANCE ON THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, ATTACH A COPY OF THE POLICY)
A STANDARD HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE POLICY TYPICALLY DOES NOT COVER FLOOD DAMAGE. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE YOUR POLICY TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ARE COVERED.
16. IS THERE A FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, ATTACH A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE)
AN ELEVATION CERTIFICATE IS A FEMA FORM, COMPLETED BY A LICENSED SURVEYOR OR ENGINEER. THE FORM PROVIDES CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLOOD RISK OF THE PROPERTY AND IS USED BY FLOOD INSURANCE PROVIDERS UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) TO HELP DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE FLOOD INSURANCE RATING FOR THE PROPERTY. A BUYER MAY BE ABLE TO USE THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE FROM A PREVIOUS OWNER FOR THEIR FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY.
17. HAVE YOU EVER FILED A CLAIM FOR FLOOD DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY WITH ANY INSURANCE PROVIDER, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
18. IS ANY OR ALL OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED IN A DESIGNATED WETLAND? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
19. IS THE PROPERTY LOCATED IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
20. WAS THE PROPERTY EVER THE SITE OF A LANDFILL? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
21. ARE THERE OR HAVE THERE EVER BEEN FUEL STORAGE TANKS ABOVE OR BELOW THE GROUND ON THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA IF YES, ARE THEY CURRENTLY IN USE? YES NO UNKN NA LOCATION(S) ARE THEY LEAKING OR HAVE THEY EVER LEAKED? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
22. IS THERE ASBESTOS IN THE STRUCTURE? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, STATE LOCATION OR LOCATIONS BELOW)
23. IS LEAD PLUMBING PRESENT? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, STATE LOCATION OR LOCATIONS BELOW)
24. HAS A RADON TEST BEEN DONE? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, ATTACH A COPY OF THE REPORT)
25. HAS MOTOR FUEL, MOTOR OIL, HOME HEATING FUEL, LUBRICATING OIL OR ANY OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCT, METHANE GAS, OR ANY HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC SUBSTANCE SPILLED, LEAKED OR OTHERWISE BEEN RELEASED ON THE PROPERTY OR FROM THE PROPERTY ONTO ANY OTHER PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, DESCRIBE BELOW)
26. HAS THE PROPERTY BEEN TESTED FOR THE PRESENCE OF MOTOR FUEL, MOTOR OIL, HOME HEATING FUEL, LUBRICATING OIL, OR ANY OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCT, METHANE GAS, OR ANY HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC SUBSTANCE? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, ATTACH REPORT(S))
27. HAS THE PROPERTY BEEN TESTED FOR INDOOR MOLD? YES NO UNKN (IF YES, ATTACH A COPY OF THE REPORT)

STRUCTURAL

28. IS THERE ANY ROT OR WATER DAMAGE TO THE STRUCTURE OR STRUCTURES? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
29. IS THERE ANY FIRE OR SMOKE DAMAGE TO THE STRUCTURE OR STRUCTURES? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
30. IS THERE ANY TERMITE, INSECT, RODENT OR PEST INFESTATION OR DAMAGE? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
31. HAS THE PROPERTY BEEN TESTED FOR TERMITE, INSECT, RODENT OR PEST INFESTATION OR DAMAGE? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, PLEASE ATTACH REPORT(S))
32. WHAT IS THE TYPE OF ROOF/ROOF COVERING (SLATE, ASPHALT, OTHER.)? ANY KNOWN MATERIAL DEFECTS? HOW OLD IS THE ROOF? IS THERE A TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY ON THE ROOF IN EFFECT NOW? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
33. ARE THERE ANY KNOWN MATERIAL DEFECTS IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS: FOOTINGS, BEAMS, GIRDERS, LINTELS, COLUMNS OR PARTITIONS? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS & SERVICES

34. WHAT IS THE WATER SOURCE (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY - WELL, PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL, OTHER)? IF MUNICIPAL, IS IT METERED? YES NO UNKN NA
35. HAS THE WATER QUALITY AND/OR FLOW RATE BEEN TESTED? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, DESCRIBE BELOW)
36. WHAT IS THE TYPE OF SEWAGE SYSTEM (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY - PUBLIC SEWER, PRIVATE SEWER, SEPTIC OR CESSPOOL)? IF SEPTIC OR CESSPOOL, AGE? _____ DATE LAST PUMPED? _____ FREQUENCY OF PUMPING? _____ ANY KNOWN MATERIAL DEFECTS? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)

More information on "septic system operation and maintenance" can be found on the NYS Department of Health website in the informational health pamphlet made available by the Department of Health pursuant to section 396-s of NYS general business law.

37. WHO IS YOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER? _____ WHAT IS THE AMPERAGE? _____ DOES IT HAVE CIRCUIT BREAKERS OR FUSES? _____ PRIVATE OR PUBLIC POLES? _____ ANY KNOWN MATERIAL DEFECTS? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)
38. ARE THERE ANY FLOODING, DRAINAGE OR GRADING PROBLEMS THAT RESULTED IN STANDING WATER ON ANY PORTION OF THE PROPERTY? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, STATE LOCATIONS AND EXPLAIN BELOW)
39. HAS THE STRUCTURE(S) EXPERIENCED ANY WATER PENETRATION OR DAMAGE DUE TO SEEPAGE OR A NATURAL FLOOD EVENT, SUCH AS FROM HEAVY RAINFALL, COASTAL STORM SURGE, TIDAL INUNDATION OR RIVER OVERFLOW? YES NO UNKN NA (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW)

ARE THERE ANY KNOWN MATERIAL DEFECTS IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING (IF YES, EXPLAIN BELOW. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.):

40. PLUMBING SYSTEM? YES NO UNKN NA
41. SECURITY SYSTEM? YES NO UNKN NA
42. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR? YES NO UNKN NA
43. SMOKE DETECTOR? YES NO UNKN NA
44. FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM? YES NO UNKN NA
45. SUMP PUMP? YES NO UNKN NA
46. FOUNDATION/SLAB? YES NO UNKN NA
47. INTERIOR WALLS/CEILINGS? YES NO UNKN NA
48. EXTERIOR WALLS OR SIDING? YES NO UNKN NA
49. FLOORS? YES NO UNKN NA
50. CHIMNEY/FIREPLACE OR STOVE? YES NO UNKN NA
51. PATIO/DECK? YES NO UNKN NA

52. DRIVEWAY? YES NO UNKN NA
53. AIR CONDITIONER? YES NO UNKN NA
54. HEATING SYSTEM? YES NO UNKN NA
55. HOT WATER HEATER? YES NO UNKN NA
56. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICT UNKN

NOTE: BUYER IS ENCOURAGED TO CHECK PUBLIC RECORDS CONCERNING THE PROPERTY (E.G. TAX RECORDS AND WETLAND AND FEMA'S CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS AND ELEVATION CERTIFICATES)

THE SELLER SHOULD USE THIS AREA TO FURTHER EXPLAIN ANY ITEM ABOVE. IF NECESSARY, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AND INDICATE HERE THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PAGES ATTACHED.

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SELLER'S CERTIFICATION: SELLER CERTIFIES THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE SELLER'S ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE AS OF THE DATE SIGNED BY THE SELLER. IF A SELLER OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRES KNOWLEDGE WHICH RENDERS MATERIALLY INACCURATE A PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY, THE SELLER SHALL DELIVER A REVISED PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TO THE BUYER AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, SHALL A SELLER BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A REVISED PROPERTY CONDITION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF TITLE FROM THE SELLER TO THE BUYER OR OCCUPANCY BY THE BUYER, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.

SELLER_____ DATE_____

SELLER_____ DATE_____

BUYER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT: BUYER ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT AND BUYER UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS INFORMATION IS A STATEMENT OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROPERTY KNOWN TO THE SELLER. IT IS NOT A WARRANTY OF ANY KIND BY THE SELLER OR SELLER'S AGENT AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY HOME, PEST, RADON OR OTHER INSPECTIONS OR TESTING OF THE PROPERTY OR INSPECTION OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

BUYER_____ DATE_____

BUYER_____ DATE _____

§ 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.