STATE OF NEW YORK

8711

IN SENATE

March 4, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring storage warehouse operators to maintain lock boxes for storage of official documents in each rental unit

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

Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 607-b to read as follows:

§ 607-b. Storage of official documents. 1. In addition to any other provision of this article, every warehouseman shall maintain within each storage unit, at no extra charge, a separate lock box for the customer renting such storage unit to store official government documents issued by the United States or by another country or territory, including but not limited to birth certificates, marriage certificates, passports, visas and immigration documents, separately from other items in the storage unit. A warehouseman shall not retain or dispose of the contents of such lock box regardless of non-payment of unit rental fees. No warehouseman may include documents stored in the lock box in the auction of the contents of the storage unit in the event of non-payment of unit rental fees.

2. It shall constitute an unlawful detention of goods for a warehouseman to refuse to surrender documents stored in a lock box as provided in subdivision one of this section to the renter of such storage unit.

§ 2. Section 20-477 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 20-477 Duties of warehouse operator. *a.* Every storage warehouse operator shall comply with the provisions of this subchapter and regulations promulgated by the commissioner setting forth requirements for estimates and any other rules and regulations promulgated to implement and enforce this subchapter.

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

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b. (1) Every storage warehouse shall maintain within each storage unit, at no extra charge, a separate lock box for the customer renting such storage unit to store official documents issued by the United States or by another country or territory, including but not limited to birth certificates, marriage certificates, passports, visas and immigration documents, separately from other items in the storage unit. A storage warehouse shall not retain or dispose of the contents of such lock box regardless of non-payment of unit rental fees. No storage warehouse may include documents stored in the lock box in the auction of the contents of the storage unit in the event of non-payment of unit rental fees.

(2) It shall constitute an unlawful detention of goods for a storage warehouse to refuse to surrender documents stored in a lock box as provided in paragraph one of this subdivision to the renter of such storage unit.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.