STATE OF NEW YORK

10915

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. BUTTENSCHON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to authorizing the designation of active recovery zones within municipalities

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 24-a to read as follows:

§ 24-a. Active recovery zones; local emergencies. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Active recovery zone" shall mean an area within a municipality designated as such pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

(b) "Municipality" shall mean a county, city, town or village.

(c) "Affected persons" shall mean any person who has or currently is experiencing any event designated by the chief executive of the responding law enforcement agency pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

2. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or ordinance to the contrary, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, rioting, catastrophe, act of terrorism, or similar public emergency within the territorial limits of any municipality, or in the event of reasonable apprehension of immediate danger thereof, the chief executive of the responding law enforcement agency may designate any area within such municipality as an active recovery zone within which residents of such active recovery zone and other affected persons shall be afforded protections from harassment from media, the general public, and any other individuals as designated by such chief executive that pose a demonstrable risk of intrusion, community disruption, or re-traumatization to the residents of such active recovery zone or other affected persons. Such proclamation shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed thirty days or until rescinded by such chief executive, whichever occurs first. Such chief executive may issue additional proclamations to extend the status of such active recovery zone for additional periods not to exceed thirty days. Following such proclamation and during the continuance of such active recovery zone, such chief executive may

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

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promulgate local emergency orders to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation under control. Such orders may, within the area designated as the active recovery zone, provide for, but shall not be limited to:

(a) the designation of specific zones within which the occupancy and use of buildings and the ingress and egress of vehicles and persons may be prohibited or regulated;

(b) the prohibition and control of the presence of persons on public streets and places; and

(c) increases community policing and other efforts to enforce the protection of such active recovery zone.

3. Access to an active recovery zone shall be limited to residents thereof, first responders, and personnel authorized by the chief executive of the responding law enforcement agency.

4. Following the designation of an active recovery zone within a municipality, the chief executive of the responding law enforcement agency shall cause such active recovery zone to be clearly partitioned, with public postings made along the perimeter clearly stating the following language:

"ACTIVE RECOVERY ZONE - ACCESS RESTRICTED.
RESPECT PRIVACY."

5. Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of subdivision three of this section by unlawfully entering an active recovery zone shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.