STATE OF NEW YORK

5452

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to prohibiting imprisonment for sleeping or camping in public spaces

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "stop law enforcement of encampment penalties (SLEEP) act".

§ 2. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 29 to read as follows:

§ 29. No imprisonment for sleeping or camping in public spaces. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, regulation or order to the contrary, a person shall not be arrested, imprisoned, charged, fined, removed, or have their personal property removed for sleeping in or upon any publicly-owned property which, at that time, is open and available for use by the public, including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, alleyways, parks, benches, and doorways, provided that such individual is not substantially impeding operations or access to such publicly-owned property and that such individual is not posing an imminent threat to the safety or health of themselves or those around them.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, regulation or order to the contrary, no executive officer or governing board of a municipal corporation shall issue any law, rule, regulation or order which contradicts subdivision one of this section.

§ 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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