STATE OF NEW YORK

10121

IN SENATE

April 30, 2026

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

AN ACT to amend the private housing finance law, in relation to establishing a former foster youth priority program

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. 1. The legislature finds that individuals who age out of foster care face significantly higher risks of housing instability, homelessness, and related adverse outcomes. Nationally, about one in four former foster youth become homeless within four years of leaving foster care.

2. In New York city, as of December 31, 2024, 6,503 youth lived in twenty-four-hour foster care.

3. The legislature acknowledges that stable, affordable housing is a critical foundation for successful transitions to adulthood, reducing reliance on emergency systems and improving educational, economic, and health outcomes.

4. Accordingly, it is the intent of the legislature to direct the relevant housing agencies to adopt a Former Foster Youth Priority program for lottery selection in assisted housing programs, so that former foster youth have expanded access to quality affordable housing.

§ 2. The private housing finance law is amended by adding a new article 33 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 33
FORMER FOSTER YOUTH PRIORITY PROGRAM

Section 1300. Definitions.
1301. Former foster youth priority program.
1302. Administration; rules; plans.
1303. Fair housing compliance; reporting.

§ 1300. Definitions. As used in this article:

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

LBD14045-01-5

1. "Former foster youth" means an individual aged eighteen through twenty-seven who, on or after their sixteenth birthday, was or had been in the custody of the New York state office of children and family services or a local social services district, including those individuals who exited care via adoption, guardianship, reunification, or aging out of care.

2. "State-assisted housing" means a dwelling unit that is financed, subsidized, or regulated under a state housing program, including but not limited to programs established under this chapter, and for which a lottery or waiting list is used to allocate occupancy.

3. "Housing lottery" means a regulated selection process administered by the New York city department of housing preservation and development or the New York city housing development corporation for the purpose of allocating affordable housing units to eligible applicants through a randomized selection system.

4. "Former foster youth priority program" means a housing lottery program that reserves five percent of units in applicable housing lotteries for eligible former foster youth.

§ 1301. Former foster youth priority program. 1. In conducting any housing lottery, the New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation shall implement a former foster youth priority program that reserves a proportion of units in applicable housing lotteries for eligible former foster youth, in an amount not less than five percent, subject to compliance with federal, state, and local fair housing laws.

2. In implementing a former foster youth priority program, the New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation shall coordinate with the office of children and family services and relevant local social services districts to verify that an individual is a former foster youth, pursuant to subdivision one of section thirteen hundred of this article, and shall allow for the use of alternative forms of verification where records are unavailable or difficult to obtain.

§ 1302. Administration; rules; plans. 1. The New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation are authorized to adopt, amend or repeal any rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the former foster youth priority program.

2. The New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation are also authorized to develop any marketing handbooks and procedural guidelines necessary to implement and promote the program. The New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation shall also include marketing and applicant selection plans that account for, and conspicuously advertise, the availability of units to former foster youth.

§ 1303. Fair housing compliance; reporting. 1. In conducting any housing lottery, the New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation shall implement a former foster youth priority program in a manner consistent with the federal Fair Housing Act, the New York state human rights law, and any other applicable anti-discrimination laws.

2. In executing a former foster youth priority program, the New York city department of housing preservation and development and the New York city housing development corporation shall conduct an analysis of the program, in order to evaluate and analyze the program's impact on former

foster youth. Such analysis shall capture demographic information including age, race, employment status, and educational attainment of those who enter and exit housing through the former foster youth priority program and shall also incorporate exit surveys identifying post-tenancy housing outcomes for participating individuals. The results of such analysis shall be published in a publicly accessible format, and shall include statistics regarding: (a) the number of applications for housing under the former foster youth priority program; (b) the number of awards made under the former foster youth priority program; (c) non-identifying demographic breakdowns of former foster youth priority program participants; and (d) any recommended modifications to the program to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

§ 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid and after exhaustion of all further judicial review, the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.