STATE OF NEW YORK

10486

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to providing housing opportunities, empowerment and supports

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "HOMES stability and community access act".

§ 2. Article 2-A of the social services law is amended by adding a new title 3 to read as follows:

TITLE III

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND MAINTENANCE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORTS

Section 47-a. Definitions.
47-b. HOMES program.
47-c. Housing portals.

§ 47-a. Definitions. As used in this title, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "HOMES program" shall mean the Housing Opportunity and Maintenance through Empowerment and Supports program established by section forty-seven-b of this title.

2. "Homeless" shall mean an undomiciled household which is unable to secure permanent and habitable housing without special assistance, as determined by the commissioner, including but not limited to households temporarily residing in emergency shelters, transitional facilities, hotels/motels, or substandard conditions.

3. "Not-for-profit corporation" and "charitable organization" shall mean entities established pursuant to the not-for-profit corporation law or otherwise established pursuant to law.

4. "Household" shall mean a single individual or family, including couples without dependent children who, or which, are eligible to receive public assistance.

§ 47-b. HOMES program. The commissioner shall, within the amounts appropriated therefor:

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

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1. select through a competitive request-for-proposal process, local social services districts and not-for-profit corporations serving homeless and at-risk households to provide expanded eligibility of existing programs to persons experiencing housing instability;

2. authorize an increased number of community-based organizations to assist tenants with applications;

3. establish state portals for landlords and tenants;

4. ensure temporary evictions while applications are under review; and

5. provide an integration of supportive services that promote long-term housing stability.

§ 47-c. Housing portals. Within ninety days of the effective date of this section, the commissioner shall establish:

1. A landlord portal system allowing landlords to:

(a) Review voucher payment status;

(b) Submit required documentation; and

(c) Resolve payment issues directly with the state.

2. A tenant portal system allowing tenants and authorized community-based organizations to:

(a) Track application status;

(b) Upload documents;

(c) Monitor rent payments; and

(d) Receive updates regarding their case.

3. A centralized portal allowing landlords, tenants and certified not-for-profit organizations to submit any questions, complaints, requests for review and appeals.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.