STATE OF NEW YORK

4217

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 3, 2025

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, SEPULVEDA -- 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 administrative code of the city of New York, the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four and the emergency housing rent control law, in relation to requiring the state division of housing and community renewal to verify there are no housing code violations prior to authorizing a rent increase for major capital improvements

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

Section 1. Paragraph 1 of subdivision g of section 26-405 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new subparagraph (p) to read as follows:

(p) Adjustments made pursuant to subparagraph (g) of this paragraph shall be collectible upon the landlord's filing of a report with the city rent agency, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (e) of paragraph two of subdivision a of this section and verification by the city rent agency, in collaboration with local authorities responsible for inspecting buildings, that the applicant does not have more than thirty class A housing code violations or a class B or C housing code violation on the property. Outstanding housing code violations that are found shall be cleared, corrected or abated by the landlord and verified by the city rent agency prior to authorization of a rent increase under subparagraph (g) of this paragraph.

§ 2. Paragraph 6 of subdivision c of section 26-511 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as separately amended by section 12 of part K of chapter 36 and section 28 of part Q of chapter 39 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(6) provides criteria whereby the commissioner may act upon applications by owners for increases in excess of the level of fair rent

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

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increase established under this law provided, however, that such criteria shall provide (a) as to hardship applications, for a finding that the level of fair rent increase is not sufficient to enable the owner to maintain approximately the same average annual net income (which shall be computed without regard to debt service, financing costs or management fees) for the three year period ending on or within six months of the date of an application pursuant to such criteria as compared with annual net income, which prevailed on the average over the period nineteen hundred sixty-eight through nineteen hundred seventy, or for the first three years of operation if the building was completed since nineteen hundred sixty-eight or for the first three fiscal years after a transfer of title to a new owner provided the new owner can establish to the satisfaction of the commissioner that [~~he or she~~] <u>**such new owner**</u> acquired title to the building as a result of a bona fide sale of the entire building and that the new owner is unable to obtain requisite records for the fiscal years nineteen hundred sixty-eight through nineteen hundred seventy despite diligent efforts to obtain same from predecessors in title and further provided that the new owner can provide financial data covering a minimum of six years under [~~his or her~~] <u>**their**</u> continuous and uninterrupted operation of the building to meet the three year to three year comparative test periods herein provided; and (b) as to completed building-wide major capital improvements, for a finding that such improvements are deemed depreciable under the Internal Revenue Code and that the cost is to be amortized over a twelve-year period for a building with thirty-five or fewer housing accommodations, or a twelve and one-half-year period for a building with more than thirty-five housing accommodations, for any determination issued by the division of housing and community renewal after the effective date of the the chapter of the laws of two thousand nineteen that amended this paragraph and shall be removed from the legal regulated rent thirty years from the date the increase became effective inclusive of any increases granted by the applicable rent guidelines board. Temporary major capital improvement increases shall be collectible prospectively on the first day of the first month beginning sixty days from the date of mailing notice of approval to the tenant. Such notice shall disclose the total monthly increase in rent and the first month in which the tenant would be required to pay the temporary increase. An approval for a temporary major capital improvement increase shall not include retroactive payments. The collection of any increase shall not exceed two percent in any year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar increments and added to the rent as established or set in future years. Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any remaining balance of the temporary major capital improvement increase to the legal regulated rent. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, for any renewal lease commencing on or after June 14, 2019, the collection of any rent increases due to any major capital improvements approved on or after June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not exceed two percent in any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date the major capital improvement was approved or based upon cash purchase price exclusive of interest or service charges. <u>**The division of housing and community renewal shall require the submission of a report by landlords applying for a rent increase for major capital improvements pursuant to this paragraph and subject to verification by the division of housing and community renewal, in collaboration with local authorities responsible**</u>

for inspecting buildings, certifying that there are not more than thirty class A housing code violations nor a class B or C housing code violation on the property, prior to receiving approval for such rent increase. Where an application for a temporary major capital improvement increase has been filed, a tenant shall have sixty days from the date of mailing of a notice of a proceeding in which to answer or reply. The state division of housing and community renewal shall provide any responding tenant with the reasons for the division's approval or denial of such application. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, no hardship increase granted pursuant to this paragraph shall, when added to the annual gross rents, as determined by the commissioner, exceed the sum of, (i) the annual operating expenses, (ii) an allowance for management services as determined by the commissioner, (iii) actual annual mortgage debt service (interest and amortization) on its indebtedness to a lending institution, an insurance company, a retirement fund or welfare fund which is operated under the supervision of the banking or insurance laws of the state of New York or the United States, and (iv) eight and one-half percent of that portion of the fair market value of the property which exceeds the unpaid principal amount of the mortgage indebtedness referred to in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph. Fair market value for the purposes of this paragraph shall be six times the annual gross rent. The collection of any increase in the stabilized rent for any apartment pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed six percent in any year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar increments and added to the stabilized rent as established or set in future years;

§ 3. Subdivision d of section 6 of section 4 of chapter 576 of the laws of 1974, constituting the emergency tenant protection act of nineteen seventy-four, is amended by adding a new paragraph 6 to read as follows:

(6) adjustments made pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subdivision shall be collectable upon the landlord's filing of a report with the state division of housing and community renewal and subject to verification by the state division of housing and community renewal, in collaboration with local authorities responsible for inspecting buildings, that the applicant does not have more than thirty class A housing code violations or a class B or C housing code violation on the property. Outstanding housing code violations that are found shall be cleared, corrected or abated by the landlord and verified by the state division of housing and community renewal prior to authorization of a rent increase under paragraph (3) of this subdivision.

§ 4. The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 4 of chapter 274 of the laws of 1946, constituting the emergency housing rent control law, as amended by section 25 of part B of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, subparagraph 5 as amended by section 7 of part FF of chapter 56 of the laws of 2024, subparagraph 7 as separately amended by section 25 of part Q of chapter 39 and section 14 of part K of chapter 36 and subparagraph 8 as amended by section 8 of part K of chapter 36 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

No application for adjustment of maximum rent based upon a sales price valuation shall be filed by the landlord under this subparagraph prior to six months from the date of such sale of the property. In addition, no adjustment ordered by the commission based upon such sales price valuation shall be effective prior to one year from the date of such sale. Where, however, the assessed valuation of the land exceeds four times the assessed valuation of the buildings thereon, the commission may determine a valuation of the property equal to five times the equalized assessed valuation of the buildings, for the purposes of this subparagraph. The commission may make a determination that the valuation of the property is an amount different from such equalized assessed valuation where there is a request for a reduction in such assessed valuation currently pending; or where there has been a reduction in the assessed valuation for the year next preceding the effective date of the current assessed valuation in effect at the time of the filing of the application. Net annual return shall be the amount by which the earned income exceeds the operating expenses of the property, excluding mortgage interest and amortization, and excluding allowances for obsolescence and reserves, but including an allowance for depreciation of two per centum of the value of the buildings exclusive of the land, or the amount shown for depreciation of the buildings in the latest required federal income tax return, whichever is lower; provided, however, that (1) no allowance for depreciation of the buildings shall be included where the buildings have been fully depreciated for federal income tax purposes or on the books of the owner; or (2) the landlord who owns no more than four rental units within the state has not been fully compensated by increases in rental income sufficient to offset unavoidable increases in property taxes, fuel, utilities, insurance and repairs and maintenance, excluding mortgage interest and amortization, and excluding allowances for depreciation, obsolescence and reserves, which have occurred since the federal date determining the maximum rent or the date the property was acquired by the present owner, whichever is later; or (3) the landlord operates a hotel or rooming house or owns a cooperative apartment and has not been fully compensated by increases in rental income from the controlled housing accommodations sufficient to offset unavoidable increases in property taxes and other costs as are allocable to such controlled housing accommodations, including costs of operation of such hotel or rooming house, but excluding mortgage interest and amortization, and excluding allowances for depreciation, obsolescence and reserves, which have occurred since the federal date determining the maximum rent or the date the landlord commenced the operation of the property, whichever is later; or (4) the landlord and tenant voluntarily enter into a valid written lease in good faith with respect to any housing accommodation, which lease provides for an increase in the maximum rent not in excess of fifteen per centum and for a term of not less than two years, except that where such lease provides for an increase in excess of fifteen per centum, the increase shall be automatically reduced to fifteen per centum; or (5) the landlord and tenant by mutual voluntary written informed agreement agree to a substantial increase or decrease in dwelling space, furniture, furnishings or equipment provided in the housing accommodations; provided that an owner shall be entitled to a rent increase where there has been a substantial modification or increase of dwelling space, or installation of new equipment or improvements or new furniture or furnishings provided in or to a tenant's housing accommodation. The increase in the maximum rent for the affected housing accommodation shall be one-one hundred sixty-eighth, in the case of a building with thirty-five or fewer housing accommodations, or one-one hundred eightieth, in the case of a building with more than thirty-five housing accommodations where such increase takes effect on or after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two thousand nineteen that amended this subparagraph, of the total actual cost incurred by the landlord up to thirty thousand dollars in providing such reasonable and verifiable modification or increase in dwelling space, furniture, furnishings, or equipment, including the cost of installation but excluding finance charges and any costs that exceed reasonable costs established by rules and regulations promulgated by the division of housing and community renewal. Such rules and regulations shall include: (i) requirements for work to be done by licensed contractors and a prohibition on common ownership between the landlord and the contractor or vendor; and (ii) a requirement that the owner resolve within the dwelling space all outstanding hazardous or immediately hazardous violations of the uniform fire prevention and building code (Uniform Code), New York city fire code, or New York city building and housing maintenance codes, if applicable. Provided further that an owner who is entitled to a rent increase pursuant to this clause shall not be entitled to a further rent increase based upon the installation of similar equipment, or new furniture or furnishings within the useful life of such new equipment, or new furniture or furnishings. Provided further that the recoverable costs incurred by the landlord, pursuant to this subparagraph, shall be limited to an aggregate cost of thirty thousand dollars in a fifteen year period beginning with the first individual apartment improvement on or after June fourteenth, two thousand nineteen. The owner shall give written notice to the commission of any such adjustment pursuant to this clause; or (6) there has been, since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, an increase in the rental value of the housing accommodations as a result of a substantial rehabilitation of the building or housing accommodation therein which materially adds to the value of the property or appreciably prolongs its life, excluding ordinary repairs, maintenance and replacements; or (7) there has been since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, a major capital improvement essential for the preservation, energy efficiency, functionality, or infrastructure of the entire building, improvement of the structure including heating, windows, plumbing and roofing, but shall not be for operational costs or unnecessary cosmetic improvements; which for any order of the commissioner issued after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two thousand nineteen that amended this paragraph the cost of such improvement shall be amortized over a twelve-year period for buildings with thirty-five or fewer units or a twelve and one-half year period for buildings with more than thirty-five units, and shall be removed from the legal regulated rent thirty years from the date the increase became effective inclusive of any increases granted by the applicable rent guidelines board. Temporary major capital improvement increases shall be collectible prospectively on the first day of the first month beginning sixty days from the date of mailing notice of approval to the tenant. Such notice shall disclose the total monthly increase in rent and the first month in which the tenant would be required to pay the temporary increase. An approval for a temporary major capital improvement increase shall not include retroactive payments. The collection of any increase shall not exceed two percent in any year from the effective date of the order granting the increase over the rent set forth in the schedule of gross rents, with collectability of any dollar excess above said sum to be spread forward in similar increments and added to the rent as established or set in future years. Upon vacancy, the landlord may add any remaining balance of the temporary major capital improvement increase to the legal regulated rent. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, for any renewal lease commencing on or after June 14, 2019, the collection of any rent increases due to any major capital improvements approved on or after June 16, 2012 and before June 16, 2019 shall not exceed two percent in any year for any tenant in occupancy on the date the major capital improvement was approved; provided, however, where an application for a temporary major capital improvement increase has been filed, a tenant shall have sixty days from the date of mailing of a notice of a proceeding in which to answer or reply. The state division of housing and community renewal shall provide any responding tenant with the reasons for the division's approval or denial of such application; or (8) there has been since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, in structures containing more than four housing accommodations, other improvements made with the express informed consent of the tenants in occupancy of at least seventy-five per centum of the housing accommodations, provided, however, that no adjustment granted hereunder shall exceed two per centum unless the tenants have agreed to a higher percentage of increase, as herein provided; **or** (9) there has been, since March first, nineteen hundred fifty, a subletting without written consent from the landlord or an increase in the number of adult occupants who are not members of the immediate family of the tenant, and the landlord has not been compensated therefor by adjustment of the maximum rent by lease or order of the commission or pursuant to the federal act; or (10) the presence of unique or peculiar circumstances materially affecting the maximum rent has resulted in a maximum rent which is substantially lower than the rents generally prevailing in the same area for substantially similar housing accommodations. **Adjustments made pursuant to subparagraph (7) of this paragraph shall be collectible upon the landlord's filing of a report with the commission and subject to verification by the commission, in collaboration with local authorities responsible for inspecting buildings, that the applicant does not have more than thirty class A housing code violations or a class B or C housing code violation on the property. Outstanding housing code violations that are found shall be cleared, corrected or abated by the landlord and verified by the commission prior to authorization of a rent increase under subparagraph (7) of this paragraph.**

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that:

(a) the amendments to section 26-405 of the city rent and rehabilitation law made by section one of this act shall remain in full force and effect only as long as the public emergency requiring the regulation and control of residential rents and evictions continues, as provided in subdivision 3 of section 1 of the local emergency housing rent control act; and

(b) the amendments to section 26-511 of the rent stabilization law of nineteen hundred sixty-nine made by section two of this act shall expire on the same date as such law expires and shall not affect the expiration of such law as provided under section 26-520 of such law, as from time to time amended.