STATE OF NEW YORK

5202--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities 1 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general city law, in relation to requiring contractors in certain cities to recycle construction and demolition site waste

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The purpose of this act is to significantly reduce the amount of waste produced by construction and demolition activities in cities having populations of one million or more. There are many opportunities to reduce or recycle materials from construction and demolition, including metals, cardboard, drywall, glass, wood and asphalt. This act is consistent with the goals of large cities' solid waste management plans, complementing other recycling and recovery programs currently in effect.

§ 2. The general city law is amended by adding a new section 23-a to read as follows:

§ 23-a. Construction and demolition site waste recycling; certain cities. 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

a. "Contractor" means a general contractor and shall also include any subcontractor engaged in the demolition or wrecking of a structure for which a permit is required.

b. "Construction and demolition debris" shall include, but not be limited to, metals, cardboard, drywall, glass, wood, concrete, brick and asphalt, but shall not include any material that is contaminated by lead, asbestos or any other hazardous material such that recycling thereof would be illegal or unfeasible.

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

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c. "Recycler" means a recycling facility, transfer station or other solid waste management facility permitted pursuant to the environmental conservation law.

d. "Reuse" means (i) the on-site use of reprocessed construction and demolition debris if the use of such debris is authorized by the city department of buildings; and (ii) the off-site redistribution of a material which would otherwise be disposed of, for use in the same or similar form as it was produced.

2. Applicability. a. The provisions of this section shall apply only in cities having a population of one million or more.

b. Contractors shall recycle or reuse construction and demolition debris produced on site as part of construction or demolition activities by meeting the following requirements:

(1) on a project that is issued a permit with an application date within one year of the effective date of this section, the contractor shall cause to be recycled or reused at least twenty-five percent of the construction and demolition debris, as measured by weight, produced on site.

(2) on a project that is issued a permit with an application date a year or more after the effective date of this section, the contractor shall cause to be recycled or reused at least fifty percent of the construction and demolition debris, as measured by weight, produced on site.

c. The following projects shall be subject to the provisions of this section:

(1) Construction of new residential buildings with four or more dwelling units;

(2) Construction of new non-residential buildings, other than projects for which the total area is four thousand square feet or less;

(3) Any rehabilitation of non-residential buildings of more than four thousand square feet that will require a certificate of occupancy to be issued from the city;

(4) Demolition of residential buildings with four or more dwelling units that includes the demolition of at least one outside wall; and

(5) Demolition of non-residential buildings, other than projects for which the total area is four thousand square feet or less.

d. A project shall be exempt from the provisions of this section if only a plumbing permit or only an electrical permit is required for such project.

3. Contractor responsibilities. a. Within thirty days of completion of a project, the contractor shall submit documentation to report compliance with this section and the regulations promulgated pursuant to this section. If the contractor is unable to meet the recycling and reuse requirements of this section, the contractor may apply for a waiver from the city. Such documentation shall be in a form and manner determined by the city department of buildings.

b. If a contractor is unable or refuses to submit the required documentation, a property owner may submit a waiver application supported by an affidavit that the contractor is unavailable or refuses to provide the required documentation.

c. A contractor shall comply with all reasonable requests for information and documentation by the city department of buildings pursuant to an audit to monitor compliance with this section. Documentation required by this section shall be maintained for at least three years.

4. City responsibilities. a. The city shall establish a procedure for contractors to apply for waivers of the requirements of this section.

Such requirements shall include documentation of the amount of material the contractor is actually able to recycle or reuse and the reason or reasons for which the contractor cannot meet the recycling and reuse requirements in this section.

b. The city shall not issue any new building or demolition permit to a contractor who has failed to timely submit the required documentation with respect to any completed project, until such contractor either submits (1) the required documents including, where applicable, proof that any fine due pursuant to subdivision five of this section has been paid in full, or (2) proof of a waiver issued by the city and, the payment of any fine due.

c. The city may withhold a certificate of occupancy for a project until the contractor submits either the required documentation including, where applicable, proof that any fine due pursuant to subdivision five of this section has been paid in full; or proof of a waiver issued by the city and, the payment of any fine due.

d. The city is authorized to conduct audits of contractors to determine and validate compliance with the requirements of this section. The city may request information and documentation relevant to such an audit from any contractor.

e. The city is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Such rules and regulations shall contain provisions for seeking and obtaining a waiver from the provisions of this section.

5. Fines and penalties. a. Contractors who fail to provide the documentation required by this section or who have not received a waiver from the city shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars for each day that they fail to provide the information or apply for a waiver.

b. Contractors who fail to meet the recycling or reuse requirements of this section and have applied for and not received a waiver from the city shall be assessed a fine as follows:

(1) for projects involving ten thousand square feet or more of renovated, newly constructed or demolished space, five hundred dollars for each percentage point of difference between the amount required by this section to be recycled or reused and the amount actually recycled or reused; and

(2) for projects involving less than ten thousand square feet of renovated, newly constructed or demolished space, two hundred fifty dollars for each percentage point of difference between the amount required by this section to be recycled or reused and the amount actually recycled or reused.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.