



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 704

By the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Gutiérrez, Louis and Hudson

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring police officers to treat breathing difficulties as medical emergencies

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of Title 14 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 14-193 to read as follows:

§ 14-193 Breathing difficulties. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Breathing difficulty. The term “breathing difficulty” means any situation in which an individual in police custody displays an inability to breathe, either as recognized by officer observations or through the individual’s own declaration.

Interactive training. The term “interactive training” means participatory teaching that includes trainer-trainee interaction, the use of audio-visuals, computer or online training program or other participatory forms of training as determined by the commissioner. Interactive training is not required to be live or facilitated by an in-person instructor.

Medical emergency. The term “medical emergency” means a life-threatening condition requiring immediate medical attention.

b. Breathing difficulties. The department shall respond to breathing difficulties as medical emergencies.

c. Training. 1. New recruits. All new department recruits shall complete interactive training on identifying and responding to breathing difficulties as part of their academy training.

2. Ongoing training. All uniformed members of the department whose responsibilities include routinely interacting with arrested individuals shall complete interactive training on identifying and responding to breathing difficulties every two years.

§2. This local law takes effect 180 days after it becomes law.

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1/25/24

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7/11/22