



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FINANCE DIVISION**

LATONIA MCKINNEY, DIRECTOR

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROPOSED INTRO. NO. 555-A

COMMITTEE: Finance

TITLE: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the senior citizen rent increase exemption program and the disability rent increase exemption program.

SPONSOR(S): Council Members Ferreras, Cohen, Arroyo, Dickens, King, Koo, Koslowitz, Williams, Vacca, Rodriguez, and Mendez.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION: This legislation would amend the City's administrative code to require the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) to designate an employee to serve as a Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) ombudsperson and a different person to serve as a Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) program ombudsperson.

The duties of each ombudsperson would include investigating and responding to complaints regarding SCRIE and DRIE, making recommendations to the Commissioner on the administration of each program, and establishing procedures for training department staff regarding tenant eligibility for the exemption programs. In addition, this legislation would require DOF to establish a dedicated email address to receive SCRIE and DRIE inquiries, or links to directly contact each program through the DOF website. DOF would also be required to post a statement that inquiries about SCRIE and DRIE can be made through 311 or through DOF's website. This information must also be included on all SCRIE and DRIE applications and certain notices, along with the ombudsperson's name, title, and contact information.

In addition, the legislation would require DOF to submit an annual report to the Council detailing the number of SCRIE and DRIE inquiries received by DOF and 311, the number and nature of complaints received by each ombudsperson, as well as any recommendations on the administration of each program to the Commissioner. Additionally, every three years, DOF would submit to the Council a report on the estimated population of tenants eligible to receive SCRIE and DRIE benefits; this information will include enrollment status by borough and neighborhood, and outline outreach efforts targeted at these populations.

Lastly, the legislation would require DOF to include the relevant SCRIE or DRIE eligibility criteria on certain applications and notices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This local law would take effect immediately.

FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH FULL FISCAL IMPACT ANTICIPATED: Fiscal 2016

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

	Effective FY15	FY Succeeding Effective FY16	Full Fiscal Impact FY16
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0*	\$0*	\$0*
Net	\$0	\$0	\$0

IMPACT ON REVENUES: It is estimated that there will be no impact on revenues resulting from the enactment of this legislation.

IMPACT ON EXPENDITURES: It is anticipated that this legislation would have no impact on expenditures.

*Although the legislation does not mandate that DOF hire new staff to meet the provisions of this bill, the agency has informed the Council that it is considering adding an additional staff member to serve as the DRIE ombudsperson. The total annual cost of this one additional staff member is estimated to be \$69,533, including fringe benefits. This estimate assumes that DOF will hire a community associate to perform a combination of clerical and administrative support, and outreach to tenants and landlords.

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO COVER ESTIMATED COSTS: N/A

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: New York City Council Finance Division
Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs
New York City Department of Finance

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY: Sarah Gastelum, Legislative Financial Analyst

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: This legislation was introduced to the full council on November 25, 2014 as Intro. No. 555 and referred to the Committee on Finance. A hearing was held on December 15, 2014 by the Committee and the bill was laid over. The legislation was subsequently amended. The Committee on Finance will vote on the amended legislation, Proposed Intro. No. 555-A, on April 16, 2015. Upon successful vote by the Committee, Proposed Intro. No. 555-A will be submitted to the full Council for a vote on April 16, 2015.

DATE PREPARED: April 15, 2015