

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. 1434-2025

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring living wage standards for contracted ferry service operations

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Presently, New York City mandates that company employees be paid a living wage if that company receives at least \$1,000,000 in financial assistance from a city economic development entity or the city government of New York. However, there is currently no law specifically mandating that the New York City Economic Development Corporation stipulate, in its contracts, that contractors and subcontractors administering or providing ferry service must pay a living wage to their workers. Those contractors and subcontractors are operating a transportation system that New Yorkers rely upon daily, including individuals in transit deserts, such as in Throggs Neck or, in my district, Soundview. Their ferry workers contribute significantly to the city's economy and quality of life by supporting tourism, connecting underserved communities, and serving as a vital transit option, yet they are not guaranteed a living wage. It is unjust that they are paid less than other public transportation workers while facing the same high cost of living. To uphold the spirit of New York City's labor-friendly laws and address the affordability crisis, housing crisis, and high inflation relative to pre-pandemic years, this bill mandates that the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) require the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to include in all NYC Ferry contracts a provision ensuring that ferry operators pay their employees no less than the living wage, which is established in the administrative code and is adjusted annually.