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**THE COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

Jeffrey Baker, Legislative Director

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**COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Joseph C. Borelli, Chairman**

June 13, 2019

**Prop. Int. No. 826-A:** By Council Members Brannan, Kallos and Holden

**Title:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the fire department to report on the use of smoke alarms at any fires in which there was a fire related death or life-threatening injury and the existence of fire sprinklers at any fire greater than a first alarm fire.

**Administrative Code:** Amends Section 15-131

1. **INTRODUCTION**

On June 13, 2019, the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Chaired by Joseph C. Borelli, will vote on Int. No. 826-A. The Committee previously held a hearing on this bill on November 20, 2018, and received testimony from the New York City Fire Department (“FDNY”) and other interested parties.

1. **ANALYSIS OF PROP. INT. NO. 826-A**

Currently, the Fire Department is required the report on information related to the technology and operation of smoke detectors or alarms following fires that result in civilian fatalities. This legislation would expand these reporting requirements to provide the public with more information related to the presence and operations of life saving technologies in serious fires. First, the bill would expand existing reporting requirements related to smoke alarms or detectors to now include all fires that cause a civilian fatality or a life threatening injury. Additionally, the bill requires new reporting on the presence and activation of automatic sprinkler systems at the location of each “serious fire incident” where the department deploys greater than three fire engines.

1. **AMENDMENTS TO PROP. INT. NO. 826-A**

As introduced, the legislation required the Fire Department to report on the presence and operation of automatic sprinkler systems following all fires resulting in civilian fatalities. The legislation has since been amended to expand the scope of such reporting to include reporting on the presence and activation of automatic sprinkler systems following all “serious fire incidents” in which the Department responds with more than three fire engines. Additionally, the existing reporting requirements related to the presence of smoke alarms or detectors was amended to include such reporting following all fires causing life-threatening injuries, in addition to civilian fatalities. Finally, the legislation was amended to remove all expiration dates of the statute and the renumbering of duplicate sections within Title 15.

Proposed Int. No. 826-A

By Council Members Brannan, Kallos and Holden

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the fire department to report on the use of smoke alarms at any fires in which there was a fire related death or life-threatening injury and the existence of fire sprinklers at any fire greater than a first alarm fire

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 15-131 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 20 for the year 2017, is amended to read as follows:

§ 15-131 Report on smoke detectors, [and] smoke alarms [in fire-related deaths] and fire sprinklers. a. No later than April 1 of each year, the department shall submit to the mayor and the council, and post on the department’s website, a report indicating [whether] the following:

(1) Whether a smoke detector or alarm was found at the location of any fire in which there was a civilian fire fatality or life-threatening injury during the preceding calendar year. [If] For each fire in which there was a civilian fire fatality or life-threatening injury where a smoke detector or alarm was found, such report shall indicate the technology used by such smoke detector or alarm and whether such smoke detector or alarm was operational, provided that such information can be ascertained. Such report may also include any other information relevant in determining the role of smoke detectors or alarms in any fire in which there was a civilian fire fatality or life-threatening injury.

(2) Whether a fire sprinkler was found at the location of any fire greater than a first alarm fire during the preceding calendar year. For each fire greater than a first alarm fire in which a fire sprinkler was found, such report shall indicate whether such sprinkler was operational and activated during such incident, provided that it is possible for the department to obtain such information. For purposes of this subdivision, “first alarm fire” means a fire to which the fire department deploys three or fewer fire engines.

b. The department shall ascertain from the office of the chief medical examiner the cause of death for any civilian fire fatality, as defined by such office. The report required by subdivision a of this section shall be disaggregated by each type of such cause.

§ 2. Section 2 of local law number 20 for the year 2017 is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. This local law takes effective immediately [and is deemed repealed 5 years after it becomes law].

§ 3. Section 15-134 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 114 for the year 2018, is renumbered as section 15-140.

§ 4. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.