



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0146-2002, **Version:** *

Res. No. 146

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill A607, which would amend the Real Property Tax Law to exclude from the definition of income all medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid by a senior citizen which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) benefits.

By Council Members Weprin, Comrie, Fidler, Jackson, Jennings, Katz, Koppell, Liu, Nelson, Rivera, and Seabrook; also Council Members Moskowitz and Yassky

Whereas, In 1970, the New York State Legislature and the Council of the City of New York enacted the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, which permits income-eligible seniors who are 62 years of age and over, live in rent-regulated apartments, and spend at least one-third of their incomes on rent to apply for SCRIE certificates exempting them from certain future rent increases; and

Whereas, The SCRIE program allows property owners to abate the amounts of tenants' exempted rent increases from the property taxes of the buildings where such increases are exempted or apply to the New York City Department of Finance for a refund if they do not owe taxes; and

Whereas, According to the New York State Assembly, approximately 55,000 seniors currently receive assistance through the SCRIE program; and

Whereas, The SCRIE program enables senior citizens to live in their apartments rather than forcing them to seek alternative housing due to rent increases; and

Whereas, Medical treatment and prescription drug costs not covered by insurance represent a significant financial burden to seniors living on fixed incomes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill A607, which would amend the Real Property Tax Law to exclude from the definition of income all medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid by a senior citizen which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for SCRIE benefits.

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