



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 553

By Council Members Brewer, Won and Hudson

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to housing accommodations and tenant blacklists

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of paragraph a of subdivision 5 of section 8-107 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 58 for the year 2020, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Housing accommodations. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for the owner, lessor, lessee, sublessee, assignee, or managing agent of, or other person having the right to sell, rent or lease or approve the sale, rental or lease of a housing accommodation, constructed or to be constructed, or an interest therein, or any agent or employee thereof:

(1) Because of the actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, or immigration or citizenship status of any person or group of persons, or because of any lawful source of income of such person or persons, or because children are, may be or would be residing with such person or persons, or because such person or persons were a party in a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding:

(a) To refuse to sell, rent, lease, approve the sale, rental or lease or otherwise deny to or withhold from any such person or group of persons such a housing accommodation or an interest therein;

(b) To discriminate against any such person or persons in the terms, conditions or privileges of the sale, rental or lease of any such housing accommodation or an interest therein or in the furnishing of facilities or

services in connection therewith; or

(c) To represent to such person or persons that any housing accommodation or an interest therein is not available for inspection, sale, rental or lease when in fact it is available to such person.

(2) To declare, print or circulate or cause to be declared, printed or circulated any statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of application for the purchase, rental or lease of such a housing accommodation or an interest therein or to make any record or inquiry in conjunction with the prospective purchase, rental or lease of such a housing accommodation or an interest therein which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, or immigration or citizenship status, or any lawful source of income, or whether children are, may be, or would be residing with a person, or because such person or persons were a party in a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding, or any intent to make such limitation, specification or discrimination.

§ 2. Paragraph c of subdivision 5 of section 8-107 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 58 for the year 2020, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Real estate brokers. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any real estate broker, real estate salesperson or employee or agent thereof:

(1) To refuse to sell, rent or lease any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein to any person or group of persons or to refuse to negotiate for the sale, rental or lease, of any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein to any person or group of persons because of the actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, or immigration or citizenship status of such person or persons, or because of any lawful source of income of such person or persons, or because children are, may be or would be residing with such person or persons, or because such person or persons were a party in a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding, or to represent that any housing accommodation, land or

commercial space or an interest therein is not available for inspection, sale, rental or lease when in fact it is so available, or otherwise to deny or withhold any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein or any facilities of any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein from any person or group of persons because of the actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, or immigration or citizenship status of such person or persons, or because of any lawful source of income of such person or persons, or because children are, may be or would be residing with such person or persons[.] , or because such person or persons were a party in a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding.

(2) To declare, print or circulate or cause to be declared, printed or circulated any statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of application for the purchase, rental or lease of any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein or to make any record or inquiry in connection with the prospective purchase, rental or lease of any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, or immigration or citizenship status, or any lawful source of income, or [to] whether children are, may be or would be residing with a person, or whether such person or persons were a party in a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding, or any intent to make such limitation, specification or discrimination.

(3) To induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any housing accommodation, land or commercial space or an interest therein by representations, explicit or implicit, regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood or area of a person or persons of any race, creed, color, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed service, marital status, partnership status, national origin, immigration or citizenship status, or a person or persons with any lawful source of income, or a person or persons with whom children are, may be or would be residing[.] or a person or persons were a party in a past or current

landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding.

§ 3. Subdivision 5 of section 8-107 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 115 for the year 2020, is amended by adding a new paragraph q to read as follows:

(q) Applicability; landlord-tenant actions or housing court proceedings. Where the commission finds that a person has engaged in an unlawful discriminatory practice relating to a past or current landlord-tenant action or housing court proceeding, the commission may impose a civil penalty according to the following structure: (i) \$100 per unit per month for the first five instances; (ii) \$250 per unit per month for instances six through 10; (iii) \$500 per unit per month for instances 11 through 15; (iv) \$1,000 per unit per month for instances 16 through 20; (v) \$2,000 per unit per month for instances 21 and beyond. Owners may voluntarily report violations for a reduction of 50 percent of overall fines, which may be waived at the commission's discretion.

§ 4. Subdivision a of section 8-126 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 63 for the year 2018, is amended to read as follows:

a. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5 and 13 of section 8-107, in addition to any of the remedies and penalties set forth in subdivision a of section 8-120, where the commission finds that a person has engaged in an unlawful discriminatory practice, the commission may, to vindicate the public interest, impose a civil penalty of not more than \$125,000. Where the commission finds that an unlawful discriminatory practice was the result of the respondent's willful, wanton or malicious act or where the commission finds that an act of discriminatory harassment or violence as set forth in chapter 6 of this title has occurred, the commission may, to vindicate the public interest, impose a civil penalty of not more than \$250,000.

§ 5. This local law takes effect immediately.

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