Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 0791-2023	**Version:**	*	**Name:**	Provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income threshold eligibility for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE by any increase in the Consumer Price Index. (S.2960/A.5741)
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Filed (End of Session)
				In control:	Committee on Aging
On agenda:	9/28/2023				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.2960/A.5741, to provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income threshold eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) by any increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Res. No. 791, 2. September 28, 2023 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 3. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 9-28-23, 4. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - September 28, 2023, 5. Committee Report 11/17/23, 6. Hearing Testimony 11/17/23, 7. Hearing Transcript 11/17/23

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/28/2023	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
9/28/2023	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Aging	Hearing Held by Committee	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Aging	Laid Over by Committee	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Health	Hearing Held by Committee	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Health	Laid Over by Committee	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Hospitals	Hearing Held by Committee	
11/17/2023	*	Committee on Hospitals	Laid Over by Committee	
12/31/2023	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 791

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.2960/A.5741, to provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income threshold eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) by any increase in the Consumer Price Index.

By Council Members Brewer, Hanif, Restler, Marte, Riley, Lee, Won, Hudson, Rivera, Cabán, Gennaro, Menin, Abreu, Krishnan, Mealy, Ayala, Sanchez, Williams, Brooks-Powers and Schulman

Whereas, U.S. Census Bureau data show that the median income among Americans aged 55 years to 64

years declined by 2.6 percent between 2020 and 2021, from an estimated $77,872 per year to an estimated $75,842 per year; and

Whereas, Similarly, the median income among U.S. adults aged 65 years and older decreased by 2.6 percent between 2020 and 2021, from an estimated $48,866 per year to an estimated $47,620 per year; and

Whereas, U.S. Census Bureau data also reveal that the prevalence of poverty among Americans aged 65 years and older increased between 2020 and 2021, from 8.9 percent, or over 4.8 million people, to 10.3 percent, or more than 5.8 million older adults; and

Whereas, Moreover, 4.2 percent, or over 2.3 million, of U.S. adults aged 65 years and older lived in deep poverty in 2021; and

Whereas, Furthermore, 24.9 percent, or more than 3.9 million, of disabled U.S. adults were in poverty in 2021; and

Whereas, The number of disabled U.S. adults living in poverty grew between 2020 and 2021, from about 3.7 million to over 3.9 million; and

Whereas, As of 2021, 7.7 percent of adults in New York State and 6.9 percent of adults in New York City were disabled; and

Whereas, According to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, as of November 2021, 631,101 people in New York State and 372,302 people in New York City received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)-a program providing monthly payments to supplement modest incomes of disabled people and of people aged 65 years and older; and

Whereas, New York State Department of Labor data demonstrate that 10.9 percent of adults aged 55 years to 74 years and 13.1 percent of adults aged 75 years and older in New York State lived in poverty in 2021; and

Whereas, Likewise, 15.6 percent of adults aged 55 years to 74 years and 19.8 percent of adults aged 75 years and older in New York City were in poverty in 2021; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, between April 2022 and April 2023, prices paid by urban consumers for all items, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased by 4.9 percent nationally and by 3.7 percent in New York State; and

Whereas, Between May 2022 and May 2023, residential rent in the New York Metropolitan Area grew by 6 percent; and

Whereas, To contextualize residential rent increase in the New York Metropolitan Area, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the median rent in New York City in 2021 was $1,579 per month or $18,948 per year; and

Whereas, The U.S. Census Bureau also calculated that in New York City, the median monthly homeowner costs, inclusive of a mortgage, amounted to $2,913 in 2021; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, as of 2023, the median property tax in New York State was $3,755 per year, or, on average, 1.23 percent of the property value; and

Whereas, Among the counties encompassed by New York City, as of 2023, the median property tax was $2,653 per year in Bronx County, $2,903 per year in Kings County, $5,873 per year in New York County, $2,914 per year in Queens County, and $2,842 per year in Richmond County; and

Whereas, A number of programs in New York offer assistance to older adults and disabled persons to address rent increases and property taxes; and

Whereas, The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) help eligible persons aged 62 years and older and eligible tenants with disabilities, respectively, to remain in affordable housing by freezing their rent, with their landlords receiving a property tax credit to cover the difference between the increased and the original rent amount; and

Whereas, To be eligible for SCRIE or DRIE, a tenant’s combined annual household income has to be $50,000 or less; and

Whereas, However, per the Economic Policy Institute’s Family Budget Calculator, a household of one adult and no children needs an annual income of $56,718 in 2020 dollars to attain a modest, yet adequate

standard of living in the New York Metropolitan Area; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator, a household with an annual income of $50,000 in May 2022 dollars needs an annual income of $52,023 in May 2023 dollars to sustain the same standard of living in the New York Metropolitan Area; and

Whereas, The Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and the Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) provide a property tax exemption for eligible persons aged 65 years and older and for disabled people, respectively, who own one-, two-, or three-family homes, condominiums, or cooperative apartments, provided that the total combined annual income of the property owner and spouse or co-owner does not exceed $58,399; and

Whereas, However, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator, a household with an annual income of $58,399 in May 2022 dollars needs an annual income of $60,762 in May 2023 dollars to sustain the same standard of living in the New York Metropolitan Area; and

Whereas, Moreover, the U.S. Social Security Administration implements an annual cost-of-living adjustment, based on the Consumer Price Index, to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits to ensure that the purchasing power of benefits is not eroded by inflation; and

Whereas, For example, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits were increased by 5.9 percent in January 2022 and by 8.7 percent in January 2023; and

Whereas, Given that an applicant's income calculations for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE include Social Security benefits, and income calculations for SCRIE and DRIE additionally incorporate Supplemental Security Income benefits, a cost-of-living adjustment to these benefits could render an otherwise eligible tenant or homeowner ineligible for rent freezing or a property tax exemption, thereby placing the person at risk of housing displacement and homelessness; and

Whereas, With the aim of ensuring that older adults and disabled persons are not displaced from their homes, and that many more people are able to benefit from SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE, State Senator

Brian Kavanagh introduced S.2960 in the New York State Senate, and Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick introduced companion bill A.5741 in the New York State Assembly, which would provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income threshold for eligibility for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE by any increase in the Consumer Price Index; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.2960/A.5741, to provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income threshold eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) by any increase in the Consumer Price Index.

LS #13642
08/24/2023
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