



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1484

By Council Members Levin, Holden, Chin, Lander, Brannan and Ayala

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on the placement of pets whose owners enter homeless shelters

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 3 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-324 to read as follows:

§ 21-324 Reporting on the placement of pets. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Family. The term “family” means any two or more people, one of whom is 18 years of age or older, who accompany each other upon entering shelter.

Individual. The term “individual” means any person who is 18 years of age or older who enters shelter without an accompanying person.

Shelter. The term “shelter” means housing provided to homeless individuals and families by the department or a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department.

b. No later than the fifth day of every month, the department shall post on its website and submit to the speaker of the council and the mayor a report that contains the following information for the prior month:

1. The number of individuals and families who entered shelter and reported that they had a pet; and
2. For each pet reported:

(a) Whether such pet is a dog, cat, rabbit or other animal, and the kind of animal if another animal;

(b) The amount of time such pet was in the possession of the individual or family prior to such

individual or family entering shelter;

(c) Whether, upon such individual or family entering shelter, the pet was placed with a family member, friend or foster care provider, surrendered to an animal shelter or, in the case of any other placement or disposition of such pet, the details of such placement or disposition;

(d) Whether the individual or family reported forgoing shelter because they could not find an acceptable placement for their pet and, if so, the number of days such individual or family reported having forgone shelter for that reason;

(e) Whether the individual or family would have entered shelter with their pet if permitted to do so; and

(f) Whether the individual or family intended to regain possession of their pet upon obtaining housing that would accommodate their pet.

c. The information reported pursuant to subdivision b of this section shall be disaggregated by the borough in which the individual or family entered shelter. Where foster care providers are identified as placements, the name of any affiliated not-for-profit organization shall be identified. Where surrender to an animal shelter is identified as a placement, the name and location of the animal shelter shall be identified.

d. The department shall develop and use a questionnaire for the purpose of obtaining and reporting the information this section requires.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law, except that the commissioner of homeless services shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of rules, before such date.