



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1061-2019, **Version:** *

Preconsidered Res. No. 1061

Resolution calling on the State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.2381/S.5471, authorizing shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy.

By Council Members Louis, Ayala and Cornegy

Whereas, Domestic violence, sometimes known as intimate partner violence or relationship abuse, is usually defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship used by one partner to maintain or gain power and control over another partner; and

Whereas, Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness in New York City, in addition to evictions and overcrowding; and

Whereas, Domestic violence survivors often cannot stay with family members for fear of running into their abusers, and many lack the income to find permanent housing quickly; and

Whereas, The provision of safe emergency shelter is a primary tool for those fleeing domestic violence; and

Whereas, The domestic violence emergency shelter system was originally created to provide short-term respite for victims of domestic violence and their families who were fleeing imminent danger; and

Whereas, Within New York City, domestic violence shelters were created over several decades to house families rather than single adults; and

Whereas, New York City Human Resources Administration's domestic violence shelters served an average of 122 single adults per month in the first half of 2019; and

Whereas, Non-profit providers who operate these shelters are reimbursed by the New York State Office

of Children and Family Services per person per night; and

Whereas, The reimbursement from the State is intended to cover the entire cost of operating domestic violence shelters, including rent, utilities, staffing, and services; and

Whereas, Any reduction in this reimbursement severely impacts the ability of the provider to cover the cost of operating the shelter; and

Whereas, The State reimbursement formula discourages domestic violence emergency shelter providers from placing a smaller family or single adult in a large apartment or room; and

Whereas, Single adult victims of domestic violence have a harder time accessing domestic violence shelters; and

Whereas, A.2381, sponsored by Assembly Member Andrew D. Hevesi, and S.5471, sponsored by Senator Andrew Gounardes, requires the State to preserve the full reimbursement to providers who accommodate a single adult in a room configured for a family of two; and

Whereas, This legislation will help increase system-wide capacity for single adults who otherwise face serious obstacles to accessing the domestic violence shelter system; and

Whereas, A.2381/S.5471 will ensure that providers are not penalized for accommodating a single adult fleeing a dangerous situation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.2381/S.5471, authorizing shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy.

CP
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