



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 442-A

By The Speaker (Council Member Quinn) and Council Members Vallone Jr., Comrie, Katz, Brewer, Recchia Jr., Addabbo Jr., Felder, Fidler, Gentile, Gonzalez, James, Koppell, Liu, Martinez, McMahon, Nelson, Palma, Sanders Jr., Sears, Stewart, Weprin, White Jr., Mark-Viverito and Oddo

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring certain cabarets and public dance halls to install video surveillance cameras at all entrances and exits.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Subchapter 20 of title 20 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 20-360.2 to read as follows:

§20-360.2. Additional security measures for cabarets and public dance halls. a. No one shall operate a cabaret or public dance hall unless all entrances and exits used by patrons are equipped with digital video surveillance cameras, provided, however, that this section shall not apply to an establishment that operates primarily as a restaurant, as defined by section three of the alcoholic beverage control law, during all hours of operation.

b. Digital video surveillance systems shall comply with the following provisions and with the rules of the commissioner:

1. The video surveillance cameras shall be digital in nature and shall be of sufficient number, type, placement and location to view and record all activity in front of and within 15 feet of either side of each entrance or exit;

2. The video surveillance cameras shall be sufficiently light sensitive and provide sufficient image resolution (supported by additional lighting if necessary) to produce easily discernible images recorded at all times;

3. The video surveillance cameras shall record at a minimum speed of fifteen frames per second;
4. The video surveillance camera images shall be capable of being viewed through use of appropriate technology, including but not limited to a computer screen or closed circuit television monitor;
5. The video surveillance camera system shall be capable of transferring the recorded images to a portable form of media, including but not limited to compact disc or digital video disc;
6. The video surveillance cameras shall not have an audio capability;
7. The video surveillance cameras shall be maintained in good working condition;
8. Except as otherwise provided by rule, the video surveillance cameras shall be in operation and recording continuously during all hours of operation of the cabaret or public dance hall and for two hours after the cabaret or public dance hall closes;
9. The recordings made by video surveillance cameras installed and maintained pursuant to this section shall be indexed by dates and times and preserved for a minimum of thirty days so that they may be made available to the department, the police department and other government agencies acting in furtherance of a criminal investigation or a civil or administrative law enforcement purpose;
10. All recordings made by video surveillance cameras installed and maintained pursuant to this section while in the possession of the cabaret or public dance hall shall be stored in a locked receptacle located in a controlled access area, to which only authorized personnel have access, or shall otherwise be secured so that only authorized personnel may access such video recordings. All personnel authorized to access such video recordings must certify in writing that they have been informed on the appropriate use and retention of recordings as set forth in this section, and on the legal issues associated with video surveillance and the use and retention of recordings. The cabaret or public dance hall shall keep a log of all instances of requests for, access to, dissemination and use of, recorded materials made by video surveillance cameras installed and maintained pursuant to this section. Copies of the certifications by authorized employees and of the access log shall be provided to the department in accordance with its rules;

11. The use or dissemination of recordings made by video surveillance cameras installed and maintained pursuant to this section in violation of the penal law or section 50 of the civil rights law shall result in suspension or revocation of a license and a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000; and

12. The cabaret or public dance hall shall post signage at appropriate locations, as determined by rule of the commissioner, to notify the public of its use of video surveillance equipment and the locations of video surveillance equipment so that the public has sufficient warning that surveillance is in operation.

c. Each person subject to the provisions of this section shall submit, or ensure the submission of, a report to the department within thirty days after the effective date of this section, or, in the case of a new cabaret or public dance hall, within thirty days after the establishment of such cabaret or public dance hall. Such report shall certify that the cabaret or public dance hall is in compliance with this section. Reports filed pursuant to this subdivision shall be submitted in such form and manner and containing such information as shall be provided by rule of the commissioner.

d. The department shall conduct periodic inspections of licensees to ensure compliance with the use and retention policies set forth in this section.

e. The commissioner may suspend or revoke a cabaret or public dance hall license if the licensee violates the requirements of this section and, in addition, shall impose a fine of \$1,000 for each violation of paragraphs nine, ten or twelve of subdivision (b) of this section, and any additional penalties and fines as required by paragraph eleven of subdivision (b) of this section.

§2. This local law shall take effect one hundred eighty days after its enactment.