



Legislation Text

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A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring a know your rights pamphlet for older adults

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 2 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-210 to read as follows:

§ 21-210 Older adults know your rights pamphlet. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Designated citywide languages. The term “designated citywide languages” means (i) the top six limited English proficiency languages spoken by the population of New York city as determined by the department of city planning and the office of the language services coordinator, based on United States census data; and (ii) the top four limited English proficiency languages spoken by the population served or likely to be served by the agencies of the city of New York as determined by the office of the language services coordinator, based on language access data collected by the department of education, excluding the languages designated based on United States census data.

Naturally occurring retirement community. The term “naturally occurring retirement community” means an apartment building, a housing complex or a housing development, as identified by the department, (i) that was not originally built for older adults, (ii) that is not restricted in admissions solely to older adults and (iii) where at least 2,500 older adults reside or at least 50 percent of the dwelling units are occupied by one or more

older adults.

Older adult. The term “older adult” means an adult who is 60 years of age or older.

Relevant agencies. The term “relevant agencies” means the commission on human rights, the department of consumer and worker protection, the department of health and mental hygiene, the department of housing preservation and development, the department of parks and recreation, the department of social services, the department of youth and community development, the mayor’s office for people with disabilities, the mayor’s office of immigrant affairs and any other agency that the commissioner deems relevant.

b. Pamphlet. The commissioner, in consultation with relevant agencies and relevant community-based organizations, shall create and maintain a culturally appropriate pamphlet written in plain English to educate older adults about their rights in topics including, but not limited to, age discrimination, deed theft, digital resources, elder abuse, emergency preparedness and response, food security, health care and insurance, home care, housing accommodations, living wills and transportation. Such pamphlet shall (i) describe each such topic and the rights of older adults regarding such topic and (ii) provide the name, address, contact information and website of the relevant agency and the relevant community-based organization that an older adult may contact to obtain additional information to address such rights. The commissioner shall post, and update as necessary, such pamphlet on the department’s website and make it available in the designated citywide languages. Such pamphlet shall also be posted on the website of each relevant agency, the 311 citizen center website, and other city websites or platforms as appropriate.

c. Outreach. Beginning no later than 30 days after the commissioner publishes the pamphlet as required by subdivision b of this section, and continuing thereafter, the commissioner, in collaboration with relevant agencies and relevant community-based organizations, shall conduct culturally appropriate outreach on such pamphlet in the designated citywide languages. Such outreach shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Mailing such pamphlet to each older adult in the city who receives services from a relevant agency, to

the extent feasible;

2. Conducting informational sessions on such pamphlet;

3. Providing such pamphlet to organizations and institutions in the city serving older adults, including, but not limited to, community centers, food pantries, medical facilities, naturally occurring retirement communities, New York city housing authority buildings, relevant agencies, relevant community-based organizations and older adult centers; and

4. Conducting targeted outreach regarding such pamphlet to paid care workers and informal caregivers of older adults.

d. Report. Beginning no later than one year after the commissioner publishes the pamphlet as required by subdivision b of this section, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall report on the department's outreach efforts as required by subdivision c of this section. The commissioner shall submit such report to the mayor and the speaker of the council and post such report on the department's website. The annual report shall include, but need not be limited to, the following information for the previous year:

1. The number of downloads of the pamphlet from the department's website;

2. The number of pamphlets mailed to older adults;

3. The number of informational sessions conducted on the pamphlet;

4. The number of pamphlets provided to organizations and institutions serving older adults;

5. The targeted outreach regarding the pamphlet to paid care workers and informal caregivers of older adults; and

6. Any recommendations to improve such outreach efforts.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 60 days after it becomes law.

7/1/2022