



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1456-A

By Council Members Brannan, Ung, Brewer, Narcisse, Sanchez, Gutiérrez, Louis and Morano

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the department of buildings and the department of small business services to provide education concerning the proper installation of awnings and accessory signs, and in relation to waiving penalties and fees related to such signs

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 3 of local law number 28 for the year 2019, as amended by local law number 43 for the year 2023, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3. Violations for existing accessory signs. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a period of 9 years beginning on February 9, 2019 and ending on February 8, 2028, no applicable violations shall be issued [on or after the effective date of the local law that established this section] for an accessory sign in existence on or before [such date] February 9, 2025 [for a period of six years], unless such accessory sign creates an imminent threat to public health or safety or the commissioner of buildings determines that such sign is otherwise not eligible for the temporary waiver created under this section.

§ 2. Section 4 of local law number 28 for the year 2019, as amended by local law number 43 for the year 2023, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4. Temporary assistance for respondents. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for a period of 9 years beginning on August 8, 2019 and ending on August 7, 2028, the commissioner of buildings shall [establish] administer a temporary program to provide assistance to respondents of judgments resulting from applicable violations resolved by payment by the respondent or other payor [between] on or after June 1, 2006 [and the effective date of the local law that established this section for a six-year period]. The

assistance provided by such program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Technical assistance in acquiring the permit or permits required to install an accessory sign;
2. Review of all permit applications relevant to the installation of an accessory sign including a preliminary review of compliance with paragraph (a) of section 32-653 or paragraph (a) of section 42-542 of the zoning resolution, or any provision amending, replacing or supplementing such sections of the zoning resolution within seven days of receiving such application; and
3. A waiver of all fees in connection with permits relevant to the installation of an accessory sign incurred on or after the effective date of the local law that established this section.

§ 3. Article 103 of chapter 1 of title 28 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 28-103.39 to read as follows:

§ 28-103.39 Education and outreach regarding awnings and accessory signs. No later than June 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the department, in coordination with the department of small business services, shall conduct outreach to educate small business owners and sign makers about local laws and regulations applicable to awnings and accessory signs and their installation, including the provisions of articles 105 and 415 of this title, the relevant provisions of the New York city building code, and the provisions of the New York city zoning resolution related to awnings and accessory signs. Such outreach shall include the distribution of written materials in the designated citywide languages, as defined in section 23-1101, copies of which shall also be available on the department’s website. Such written materials shall be updated whenever the relevant laws or regulations change. Such written materials and outreach shall be developed to guide business owners and sign makers in the compliant design, structure, and hanging of awnings and accessory signs and shall, at a minimum, include educational materials concerning:

1. The requirements of the New York city zoning resolution and the New York city building code related to the surface area, projection, and text on signs and awnings, including examples of compliant signs and awnings;
2. The circumstances in which a permit is required for the installation of an accessory sign;
3. The circumstances in which a special licensed sign hanger or master licensed sign hanger is required to install a sign; and
4. The penalties for failing to comply with the above requirements.

§ 4. This local law takes effect immediately, provided that sections one and two of this local law are retroactive to and deemed to have been in effect as of January 1, 2025.

