



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

APPROVAL #69
CHAPTER #745

December 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM filed with Assembly Bill 6291-A, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to standards for establishing and maintaining an emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities”

A P P R O V E D

This bill would require the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (“Code Council”) to ensure that the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (“Code”) contains standards for emergency planning and preparedness that address the needs of individuals with disabilities in high-rise buildings. The bill specifies certain standards for the Code to address and requires building owners to adopt emergency evacuation plans.

I fully support the goals of this bill, which would protect the safety and well-being of individuals with disabilities. However, changes were necessary to ensure the Code Council consults with advocates for individuals with disabilities that the New York Department of State (“DOS”) and Office of the Chief Disability Officer identify as relevant stakeholders. Additionally, to give the Code Council flexibility to adopt standards informed by best practices, the bill should not require specific standards to be included in the Code other than that it must address procedures for evacuating individuals with disabilities. As opposed to a mandate, the Code Council should be required to consider whether to include certain other standards. Finally, other technical changes were needed, and the effective date should be January 1, 2025.

I have reached an agreement with the Legislature to enact these changes. On the basis of this agreement, I am pleased to sign this bill.

This bill is approved.

Ruth Hochul