

MEMORANDUM

A.1863-B (Rosenthal)/S.561-A (Krueger)

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York and the real property tax law, in relation to notice regarding the rent increase exemption for low income elderly persons and persons with disabilities programs

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation which would require notice to be provided to tenants of certain dwelling units, informing them of their potential eligibility for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disabilities Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs.

According to the community-based organization Woodside on the Move, about 60,000 older adults live in rent stabilized housing in NYC and almost half are rent burdened, with 33 percent paying more than half their income in rent.

When forced to choose between rising housing, healthcare, and food costs, older adults are more likely to face homelessness, avoidable negative health outcomes, and unnecessary hospitalization or reliance on long-term care. In fact, older New Yorkers are the fastest-growing homeless population in New York City. At the same time, shelters and supportive housing providers are often ill-equipped to address the aging related needs of their clients.

Modest and effective programs like SCRIE can help older adults maintain housing stability, remain independent, and age with dignity in community. However, despite its benefits, the program is reportedly undersubscribed. Moreover, outreach by community-based organizations has revealed that many older adults are delayed in enrolling in SCRIE, diluting the positive impact for those individuals. Standardized, timely notification as proposed by this legislation would help ensure eligible tenants are informed of their enrollment opportunity earlier and more consistently.

Especially given the overall rise in homelessness and the workforce challenges plaguing higher-level health and long-term care settings, the State must take practical steps to strengthen proven programs that support older adults living independently in the community. **For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.1863-B (Rosenthal)/S.561-A (Krueger) and urges its adoption.**

LeadingAge New York represents over 350 not-for-profit and public long-term care providers, including nursing homes, home care agencies, senior housing, retirement communities, assisted living, adult care facilities, adult day health care and managed long term care.

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