

SENATE, No. 1216

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Directs Attorney General to investigate Special One-Time Assistance Program offered by City of New York.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning investigation of the City of New York's Special
2 One-Time Assistance Program.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. The Attorney General shall investigate the Special One-
8 Time Assistance Program offered by the City of New York to
9 ensure participants are provided with housing accommodations
10 suitable for habitation.

11 b. As part of the investigation, the Attorney General shall
12 gather, compile, and analyze information concerning the Special
13 One-Time Assistance Program, the circumstances under which
14 tenants entered into lease agreements with landlords, the conditions
15 of housing units, and any other information that the Attorney
16 General finds necessary to fulfill the requirements of this act.

17 c. Within nine months after enactment of P.L. , c. (pending
18 before the Legislature as this bill), the Attorney General shall issue
19 and make available to the public a report detailing the findings of
20 its investigation. The Attorney General shall present the report to
21 the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to P.L.1991, c.164
22 (C.52:14-19.1).

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
25 issuance of the report required by this act.

26

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 This bill requires the Attorney General of the State of New
31 Jersey to investigate the Special One-Time Assistance Program
32 Offered by the City of New York. Furthermore, this bill requires
33 that the Attorney General release a report detailing the findings of
34 the investigation to the public and present the report to the
35 Governor and the Legislature.

36 The Special One-Time Assistance Program (SOTA) offered by
37 the City of New York provides eligible homeless individuals and
38 families one year of rent. The program places participants in
39 housing within New York City or the surrounding area. New Jersey
40 is home to many SOTA participants with more than 2,200 families
41 relocating to the State.

42 Despite its attempt to help individuals break the cycle of
43 homelessness, the program has a number of issues that affect the
44 well-being of our communities. A recent investigation by the City
45 of New York has revealed that participants were placed in units
46 without valid occupancy certificates, without heating, and with
47 insect and rodent infestations. There are also allegations that

1 participants here in New Jersey have been pressured into quickly
2 accepting a unit with limited opportunity to inspect the premises.

3 In an effort to ensure that SOTA participants have access to safe
4 and adequate housing, it is necessary to investigate how this
5 program has been administered here in New Jersey and take
6 appropriate action to hold those responsible for mistreating tenants.