

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Emergency Ordinance - Protections for Occupants of Residential Hotels During COVID-19 Pandemic]

Reenactment of emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 84-20) to establish protections for occupants of residential hotels (“SRO Residents”) during the COVID-19 pandemic by, among other things: making it City policy to place in solitary hotel rooms SRO residents who meet the criteria for isolation or quarantine established by the County Health Officer, and requiring the Department of Public Health to: develop a protocol to assist health care providers to identify SRO Residents who may require protection against or treatment for COVID-19; notify the operator of a residential hotel when an SRO Resident has tested positive for COVID-19, to facilitate contact tracing, testing for COVID-19, and cleaning; establish a telephone hotline for SRO Residents, to respond to questions about accessing COVID-19 health screenings, testing, and solitary hotel rooms; provide face coverings to SRO Residents and workers in residential hotels; and provide daily aggregate data concerning the incidence of COVID-19 among SRO Residents, access to quarantine rooms by such residents, and the number of such residents who have died due to complications from COVID-19.

Existing Law

An emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 84-20) temporarily establishes protections for occupants of residential hotels during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislative digest for that emergency ordinance is found in Board File No. 200456. Slightly edited, it summarizes the emergency ordinance as follows:

The emergency ordinance makes it the policy of the City to place SRO residents in solitary isolation / quarantine hotel rooms where they meet the standards for isolation or quarantine established by the Health Officer, and requires the City to provide such residents with essential services and amenities, including three meals per day, during their placement in such a room.

The emergency ordinance requires the Department of Public Health to:

- Prepare and disseminate to health care providers a protocol designed to help them identify SRO residents who may require protection against or treatment for COVID-19;
- Notify residential hotel operators when a resident has tested positive for COVID-19 to facilitate contact tracing, testing, and cleaning;
- Provide personal protective equipment to SRO residents and workers who occupy areas of the residential hotel that have been accessed by people who tested positive for COVID-19.

- Establish a telephone hotline for SRO residents to facilitate screening, testing, referral to healthcare providers, and placement in solitary hotel rooms;
- Report daily data relating to the aggregate number of SRO hotels with residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and other indicators;
- Take other specified steps to protect SRO residents against exposure to COVID-19 and to inform them of their rights.

The emergency ordinance requires SRO operators to post information in public areas of residential hotels.

Ordinance No. 84-20 became effective on May 29, 2020, and terminates automatically on July 28, 2020, unless reenacted.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed emergency ordinance reenacts Ordinance No. 84-20, with the result that it will be extended for an additional 60 days.

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