



CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER  
SCOTT M. STRINGER

DYLAN C. HEWITT  
DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS

BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

**LEGISLATION** S2375 by Senator Krueger  
A1620 by Assemblymember Hevesi

**TITLE**

An act to amend the social services law, in relation to home stability support programs.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 of this bill adds a new section 131-bb of the Social Services Law, to create the Home Stability Support (HSS) rent supplement program. Section 2 of this bill amends section 153 of the Social Services Law by adding a new subdivision 13, to provide the funding structure for HSS. Section 3 of this bill provides an effective date of April 1, 2020.

**JUSTIFICATION**

New York City is suffering through an affordable housing crisis, a fact which has been well-documented for years, but has become increasingly acute for families at the lowest end of the economic spectrum. The earnings for New York City workers in the bottom quartile declined in real terms between 2007 and 2016. In 2005, the average city household with income between \$10,000 and \$20,000 paid 56.4 percent of its income toward rent. By 2016, those families were forced to sink a full 74 percent of their income into rent, leaving that much less for food, utilities, medical care, and other vital necessities.

*The Housing We Need*, a 2018 report from the Office of the New York City Comptroller, showed that New Yorkers classified as extremely low-income or very low-income make up 46.3 percent of the City's crowded households and 49.4 percent of the City's severely crowded households. Given the ever-increasing burden of meeting the rent, it is not surprising that homelessness has soared and remains stubbornly high, with some 60,000 people sleeping in homeless shelters every night.

To provide opportunities for truly affordable permanent housing for households in shelter or at imminent risk of homelessness, tenants need the rent supplement that the Home Stability Support Act provides. Accordingly, the Office of the New York City Comptroller strongly urges the New York State Legislature to pass this legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Dylan C. Hewitt  
Director of Intergovernmental Relations