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File #:	Int 0882-2015	Version: *	Name:	Requiring that all public meetings be held in facilities equipped with assistive listening systems.
Type:	Introduction	Status:	Committee:	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services
On agenda:	8/13/2015			
Enactment date:		Law number:		
Title:	A Local Law amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring that all public meetings and hearings be held in facilities equipped with assistive listening systems, where possible in the form of induction loop assistive listening systems, and requiring an annual report relating to assistive listening systems.			
Sponsors:	Helen K. Rosenthal , Ritchie J. Torres , Maria Del Carmen Arroyo , Mathieu Eugene , Peter A. Koo , Karen Koslowitz			
Council Member Sponsors:	6			
Summary:	This bill will require, beginning in 2020, that any city agency meeting or hearing that is required to be open to the public be held in a space with a permanently installed induction hearing loop system. Agencies may apply to the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities for a waiver from the induction loop requirement; to receive a waiver, the agency must 1. prove impossibility or extreme hardship and 2. provide a comparable alternative assistive listening system. Finally, the bill will require an agency chosen by the Mayor to work with other agencies and the community to report each year on the availability of assistive listening technology at public meetings and hearings and in city facilities, on the availability of hearing-looped spaces citywide, on applications for and grants of waivers, and on new and developing assistive listening technologies.			
Attachments:	1. Summary of Int. No. 882			

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Int. No. 882

By Council Members Rosenthal, Torres, Arroyo, Eugene ,and Koo and Koslowitz

A Local Law amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring that all public meetings and hearings be held in facilities equipped with assistive listening systems, where

possible in the form of induction loop assistive listening systems, and requiring an annual report relating to assistive listening systems.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Title 23 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new chapter 8 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS

§ 23-801 Assistive listening systems for public meetings. By January 1, 2020, every meeting or hearing held by any community board or any entity subject to paragraph d of section 1063 of the charter, which meeting or hearing is required to be open to the public pursuant to any federal, state or local law shall be held in facilities equipped with a permanently installed induction loop assistive listening system.

§ 23-802 Waivers. a. Application. Any community board or other entity subject to section 23-801 may apply to the mayor's office for people with disabilities or such other office or agency as the mayor may designate for a waiver of the requirements in section 23-801 for any meeting or hearing.

b. Standards. No such waiver shall be granted unless the applicant demonstrates that:

1. compliance with section 23-801 is impossible or would subject the applicant to extreme hardship; and

2. a comparable alternative assistive listening system will be available at the meeting or hearing.

§ 23-803 Accountability. a. Report required. On or before August 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, such office or agency as the mayor may designate, in cooperation with other relevant agencies and interested members of the public, shall deliver a report to the mayor, the council of the city of New York, and each community board. That report shall include for the prior calendar year:

1. The number and percentage of public meetings and hearings of city agencies at which assistive listening technology was available, which data shall be broken down by agency and type of assistive listening technology;

2. The number of waivers applied for pursuant to section 23-802, the number of such waivers granted, and the grounds for each grant;

3. The number and location of public and private facilities, not including private residences, in each community district at which an assistive listening system in the form of a permanent or temporary induction hearing loop is available and, if such system is available in a portion of such facility, which portion:

4. The number and identity of facilities built or renovated by or on behalf of any city agency at which a permanently installed induction loop assistive listening system:

(a) was installed; and

(b) was not installed, and for each such building or facility the reason no such system was installed, including whether any alternative assistive listening system was installed and whether any such alternative system was permanent or temporary;

5. Information regarding new or additional types of assistive listening systems and whether they are reasonable alternatives to induction hearing loops.

6. A current estimated total and yearly cost for full compliance with this chapter.

b. Sources of information. The report called for in subdivision a shall include information reasonably available from the relevant agencies, community outreach and other publicly available sources of information.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately. The commissioner of the mayor's office for people with disabilities or such other officer as the mayor may designate may promulgate rules or take other actions for the implementation of this local law.

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