**Plain Language Summary**

**Current Introduction Number:**

Int. No. 1470-A

**Prime Sponsors:**

Council Member Levine, Rivera, Powers, Rosenthal and Ayala

**Bill Title:**

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to legal services for small business tenants

**Bill Summary:**

**This plain language summary is for informational purposes only and does not substitute for legal counsel. For more information, you should review the full text of the bill, which is available online at legistar.council.nyc.gov.**

This bill would require the Department of Small Business Services (“SBS”) to provide individualized legal assistance to small business tenants on commercial lease-related issues free of charge, through a designated organization. It would also explicitly empower SBS to provide legal representation in court for small business tenants facing eviction, lease termination or allegations that the businesses had breached their lease terms, at no cost to the small business tenant, through a designated organization. SBS would also be required to provide assistance to small businesses with regards to funding programs related to COVID-19, such as loans and grants, until 180 days after the Mayor’s declaration of a state of emergency expires. All these programs would be subject to appropriation.

Additionally, SBS would have to report on the outcomes of the programs established by the bill and promulgate rules implementing the bill, including considerations for accepting clients for in-court legal representation.

**Effective Date:**

60 days after it becomes law

**Legislative Impact:**

[x]  **Agency Rulemaking Required**: Is City agency rulemaking required?

[x]  **Report Required**: Is a report due to Council required?

[x]  **Sunset Date Included**: Does the legislation have a sunset date?

[ ]  **Council Appointment Required**: Is an appointment by the Council required?

[ ]  **Other Appointment Required**: Are other appointments not by the Council required?

**Note:** In the full bill text online at legistar.council.nyc.gov, language in proposed consolidated laws that is enclosed by [brackets] would be deleted, and language that is underlined would be new. Language in proposed unconsolidated laws, in contrast, will not have brackets or underlining because it would be entirely new. Consolidation means that the law would be placed in the New York City Charter or Administrative Code.

ARP/SJ

LS #2542