



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Skoufis

Three Skoufis Bills to Combat Housing Discrimination Signed into Law

JAMES SKOUFIS December 23, 2021

| ISSUE: **FAIR HOUSING, DISCRIMINATION, REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY, HOUSING, HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS**



Senator James Skoufis (D-Hudson Valley) announced that three of his bills aimed at reducing discriminatory and predatory behavior in the real estate market have been signed into law. The legislation was among a sweeping package of fair housing reforms introduced in the Senate earlier this year, the direct result of an exhaustive investigative report on housing discrimination issued by the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government

Operations, which Skoufis chairs.

Following a stunning exposé by Newsday on rampant predatory behavior in Long Island's housing market, the committee held multiple joint hearings, issued 25 subpoenas to compel uncooperative realtors and their firms to testify, and ultimately produced a wide-ranging report with recommendations for holding bad actors within the industry accountable.

“The legacy of discrimination in the housing market must be addressed head-on,” said Senator Skoufis. “With the Governor’s signature, we’re sending a clear message that discrimination of any kind in the real estate market is dead wrong and won’t be tolerated. All prospective homebuyers deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity.”

The three Skoufis bills signed by Governor Hochul this week are:

2021-S2133A

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Adds a surcharge to the fee paid for issuing or reissuing a real estate broker or salesmen license

January 19, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **James Skoufis**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S2132B

- Introduced
 - ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
-

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Increases required training for real estate brokers and real estate salespeople to prevent discrimination

January 19, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **James Skoufis**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S2131A

- Introduced
 - ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
-

- ○ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to requiring the secretary of state to promulgate regulations requiring real estate brokers to institute standardized operating procedures for the prerequisites prospective homebuyers shall meet

January 19, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **James Skoufis**

Do you support this bill?

All three bills were supported by the New York State Association of Realtors who worked with Skoufis in an effort to ensure bad actors are rooted out and answerable to the large majority of hardworking real estate professionals who do right by their clients every day.

As chair of Investigations & Government Operations, Skoufis has worked to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse throughout New York State.. A recent investigation by the committee on misuse of taxpayer dollars and double-dealing by Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) helped lead to the felony conviction of an Orange County IDA official in August.

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