

A RESOLUTION

25-380

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 5, 2023

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend An Act to revise certain laws relating to the liability of hotels, motels, and similar establishments in the District of Columbia to their guests to authorize the Mayor to issue rules to establish requirements for cleaning and maintenance of hotels and motel rooms, with the exception of certain establishments operating on an extended stay model, and to establish standards for public notice of lodging establishment service disruptions.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Hotel Enhanced Cleaning and Notice of Service Disruption Second Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

Sec 2. (a) There is an immediate need to re-authorize the Mayor to issue regulations to establish requirements for cleaning and maintenance of District hotel and motel rooms and to establish standards for public notice of lodging establishment service disruptions.

(b) On March 7, 2023, the Council passed the Hotel Enhanced Cleaning and Notice of Service Disruption Temporary Amendment Act of 2023, effective May 25, 2023 (D.C. Law 25-4; 70 DCR 8443) (“temporary act”). The temporary act was transmitted to Congress on April 13, 2023, became effective on May 25, 2023, and will expire on January 5, 2024.

(c) During the pandemic, most hotels and motels implemented enhanced cleaning of guest rooms and shared areas to limit the spread of COVID-19. Some hotels and motels, however, suspended or lessened the frequency with which they provided cleaning services leaving staff and patrons at risk of contracting COVID-19.

(d) The recovery of the tourism industry is vital to our economic recovery, but some visitors are surprised that some hotels and motels are not offering daily cleaning services. As we continue to see a return to pre-pandemic tourism levels, it is imperative for both safety and consumer protections that guests be provided routine and enhanced housekeeping and maintenance of communal spaces in hotels and motels unless a guest opts out of cleanings.

(e) Lastly, hotel and motel patrons should have the security and assurance of knowing that the hotel or motel is abiding by its agreement to provide safe, secure, and comfortable accommodations.

(f) To mitigate the potential of a gap in the law, which could compromise compliance with the cleaning requirements, it is necessary to pass emergency legislation.

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Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Hotel Enhanced Cleaning and Notice of Service Disruption Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 be approved on an emergency basis.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.