



Search

[Real Estate](#) [Home](#) [Nation](#) [World](#) [China](#) [Business](#) [Opinion](#) [Science & Technology](#) [Arts & Entertainment](#) [Health](#) [Life](#) [Sports](#)

[Culture](#) | [Society](#) | [Democracy and Human Rights](#) | [Business & Economy](#) | [Regime](#)

Landlords Could Soon be Responsible for Indoor Air Quality

By Christine Lin

May 21, 2009

[Epoch Times Staff](#)

Share: [Facebook](#) [Digg](#) [del.icio.us](#) [StumbleUpon](#) TEXT SIZE

[E-mail to a friend](#) [Give feedback](#)

Related articles: [United States](#) > [New York City](#)



Council member Rosie Mendez and Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum join community groups in cheering on a bill that will make it a landlord's responsibility to clean up asthma triggers in buildings. (Christine Lin/The Epoch Times)

NEW YORK—Two years in the works, a bill to make landlords responsible for the cleanup of indoor asthma triggers such as mold, rats, and cockroaches is close to becoming a law.

If passed, the Asthma-Free Housing Act (City Council Int. 750) would increase the presence of visible mold from a level A violation to a level C violation. It would allow the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to inspect residences at the request of tenants and issue violations. Landlords whose tenants have respiratory problems must fundamentally correct the infestation within 21 to 60 days of receiving an HPD violation. If they don't, it becomes the City's burden to do so. Following the cleanup, the landlord may be issued a fine or the tenants could take their landlord to

housing court.

The bill is sponsored by council member Rosie Mendez and has the backing of 25 council members. Mendez and Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum stood with members of community group Make the Road [New York](#), Urban Justice Center, and others to show their support of the bill.

Mendez likened asthma to other public health issues the city has tackled. "While the city has taken diligent steps against obesity and diabetes, now is the time to take action against asthma," she said.

Attention to the health of indoor air has increased since the Public Advocate's 2006 report on mold, titled "Unhealthy Exposure: Mold in [New York City](#) Homes." In it, researchers wrote that though current guidelines for mold remediation are not enough because they do not have the force of the law. Without enforceable measures, landlords often simply paint over visible mold. Cleanup crews are also not currently required to have licenses for mold remediation. A bill in both the Assembly and Senate will require remediators to be certified by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Housing in poorer neighborhoods are more likely to have structural issues. Mold, rodent, and cockroach infestations are present in 50-60 percent in areas such as upper Manhattan, Stuyvesant Town, parts of Queens and Central Brooklyn, according to the 2008 Housing and Vacancy survey by the U.S. [Census Bureau](#). Droppings from pests are known asthma triggers.

New York City has some of the highest asthma rates among major cities, especially among children. New York was rated number 39 among 50 cities for air quality in a study last year by Sustain Lane, based on [data](#) from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Last Updated
May 21, 2009

[Mold Inspection & Removal](#)
Call Today FREE Mold Service
24-Hour Emergency Service
reliablecertifiedmoldremoval.com

[Mold Removal/Remediation](#)
Find 5-Star Rated Mold Services
Backed by Our Service Guarantee!
www.ServiceMagic.com


[Test for Mold in NY](#)
Sick Building Syndrome?
Environmentally sound solutions
www.airtekenv.com


[Is Your Air Safe?](#)
Call Air Quality Investigations All
We Do Is Mold Testing
www.testyourair.com


2009 NTDTV
Global Competition


Total Prizes: **\$350,000** Register Now!
1-646-736-2988


amazon.com


 [Michael Jackson](#)
Michael Jackson, M...
New \$9.97
Best \$9.97

 [HDMI](#)
Inspiretech
New \$0.70
Best \$0.01

 [Bags on Board Biodegradable Bag Refill](#)
Bags on Board
New \$6.46
Best \$2.50

 [Catastrophe](#)
Dick Morris, Eilee...
New \$14.84
Best \$14.59

 [Guitar Hero World Tour Band Bundle](#)

 [Activision Inc.](#)
New \$159.99
Best \$69.99

Privacy Information



[Subscribe](#) | [Print Edition](#) | [Advertise](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)

National Editions: [Australia](#) | [Canada](#) | [Ireland](#) | [New Zealand](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#)

Languages: [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Russian](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Hebrew](#) | [Romanian](#) | [Bulgarian](#) | [Slovak](#) | [Swedish](#) | [Indonesian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Copyright © 2000–2009

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)