

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 497

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ALLSTATE LIFE OF NEW YORK SEPARATE ACCOUNT A

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROSPECTUS DATED MAY 1, 1997
OF ALLSTATE LIFE OF NEW YORK
SEPARATE ACCOUNT A

The following information is added to the Federal Tax Matters Section of your prospectus.

Roth Individual Retirement Annuities

Section 408A of the Code permits eligible individuals to make nondeductible contributions to an individual retirement program known as a Roth Individual Retirement Annuity. Roth Individual Retirement Annuities are subject to limitations on the amount that can be contributed and on the time when distributions may commence. "Qualified distributions" from Roth Individual Retirement Annuities are not includible in gross income. "Qualified distributions" are any distributions made more than five taxable years after the taxable year of the first contribution to the Roth Individual Retirement Annuity, and which are made on or after the date the individual attains age 59 1/2, made to a beneficiary after the owner's death, attributable to the owner being disabled or for a first time home purchase (first time home purchases are subject to a lifetime limit of \$10,000). "Nonqualified distributions" are treated as made from contributions first and are includible in gross income to the extent such distributions exceed the contributions made to the Roth Individual Retirement Annuity. The taxable portion of a "nonqualified distribution" may be subject to the 10% penalty tax on premature distributions. Subject to certain limitations, a traditional Individual Retirement Account or Annuity may be converted or "rolled over" to a Roth Individual Retirement Annuity. The taxable portion of a conversion or rollover distribution is includible in gross income, but is exempted from the 10% penalty tax on premature distributions.

Please retain this Supplement for future reference.

January 1, 1998

