

2155

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2013

---

Introduced by Sen. MARTINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, the general municipal law and the New York city health and hospitals corporation act, in relation to the filing of notices of claim prior to the commencement of a cause of action against any state or municipal entity, public authority or public benefit corporation; and to amend chapter 500 of the laws of 2012, amending the civil practice law and rules and other laws, relating to establishing a uniform process and requirement for the filing of notices of claim prior to the commencement of a cause of action against any state or municipal entity, public authority or public benefit corporation, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 217-a of the civil practice law and rules, as added  
2     by chapter 500 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:  
3     S 217-a. Actions to be commenced within one year and ninety days.  
4     Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and irre-  
5     spective of whether the relevant statute is expressly amended by  
6     [sections three through seventy-nine of] the uniform notice of claim  
7     act, every action for damages or injuries to real or personal property,  
8     or for the destruction thereof, or for personal injuries or wrongful  
9     death, against any political subdivision of the state, or any instrumen-  
10    tality or agency of the state or a political subdivision, any public  
11    authority or any public benefit corporation that is entitled to receive  
12    a notice of claim as a condition precedent to commencement of an action,  
13    shall not be commenced unless a notice of claim shall have been served  
14    on such governmental entity within the time limit established by SECTION  
15    FIFTY-E OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, and SUCH ACTION MUST BE COMMENCED  
16    in compliance with all the requirements of section fifty-e AND SUBDIVI-  
17    SION ONE OF SECTION FIFTY-I of the general municipal law. Except in an

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05824-01-3

1 action for wrongful death against such an entity, an action for damages  
2 or for injuries to real or personal property, or for the destruction  
3 thereof, or for personal injuries, alleged to have been sustained, shall  
4 not be commenced more than one year and ninety days after the cause of  
5 action therefor shall have accrued or within the time period otherwise  
6 prescribed by any special provision of law, whichever is longer. Noth-  
7 ing herein is intended to amend the court of claims act or any provision  
8 thereof.

9 S 2. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section 50-e of the general  
10 municipal law, as added by chapter 500 of the laws of 2012, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 (f) Service of a notice of claim on the secretary of state as agent of  
13 any public corporation, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION SIXTY-  
14 SIX OF THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LAW, whatsoever created or existing by  
15 virtue of the laws of the state of New York upon whom service of a  
16 notice of claim is required as a condition precedent to being sued, may  
17 be made by personally delivering to and leaving with the secretary of  
18 state or a deputy, or with any person authorized by the secretary of  
19 state to receive such service, at [any] THE office of the department of  
20 state in the city of Albany [or at one of his or her regularly estab-  
21 lished offices], duplicate copies of such notice of claim together with  
22 the statutory fee, which fee shall be a taxable disbursement BUT ONLY IN  
23 THE AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE PORTION OF THE FEE COLLECTED BY THE PUBLIC  
24 CORPORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION.  
25 Service on such public corporation shall be complete when the secretary  
26 of state is so served. [The secretary of state shall promptly] WITHIN  
27 TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A NOTICE OF CLAIM, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL  
28 EITHER: (1) send one of such copies by certified mail, return receipt  
29 requested, to such public corporation, at the post office address[, ] on  
30 file in the department of state, specified for the purpose; OR (2) ELEC-  
31 TRONICALLY TRANSMIT A COPY TO SUCH PUBLIC CORPORATION AT THE ELECTRONIC  
32 ADDRESS ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPECIFIED FOR THAT PURPOSE;  
33 OR (3) TRANSMIT A COPY TO SUCH PUBLIC CORPORATION BY ANY OTHER SUCH  
34 MEANS OR PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, PROVIDED THAT  
35 SUCH OTHER MEANS OR PROCEDURE OF TRANSMITTAL MUST BE VERIFIABLE.

36 S 3. Section 53 of the general municipal law, as added by chapter 500  
37 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

38 S 53. Alternative service of notice of claim upon the secretary of  
39 state. 1. In lieu of serving a notice of claim upon a public corporation  
40 as provided for in section fifty-e of this article, a notice of claim  
41 setting forth the same information as required by such section may be  
42 served upon the secretary of state in the same manner as if served with  
43 the public corporation. All the requirements relating to the form,  
44 content, time limitations, exceptions, extensions and any other proce-  
45 dural requirements imposed in such section with respect to a notice of  
46 claim served upon a public corporation shall correspondingly apply to a  
47 notice of claim served upon the secretary of state as permitted by this  
48 section. For purposes of this article, the secretary of state shall be  
49 deemed to be the agent for all public corporations upon whom a notice of  
50 claim may be served prior to commencement of any action or proceeding  
51 subject to the requirements of this article.

52 2. [The secretary of state shall designate an office within the  
53 department of state whereat persons are entitled by law to timely serve  
54 a notice of claim upon the secretary of state as the agent for a public  
55 corporation as a condition precedent to commencement of an action or  
56 proceeding.] All public corporations entitled to have served upon them a

1 notice of claim as a condition precedent to commencement of an action or  
2 proceeding shall, no later than thirty days after the date upon which  
3 this section shall take effect, file a certificate with the secretary of  
4 state designating the secretary as the agent for service of a notice of  
5 claim and shall in such statement provide the secretary with the name,  
6 POST OFFICE ADDRESS and ELECTRONIC MAIL address, IF AVAILABLE, of an  
7 officer, person, or designee, nominee or other agent-in-fact for the  
8 transmittal of notices of claim served upon the secretary as the public  
9 corporation's agent. Any designated [post-office] POST OFFICE address OR  
10 ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS to which the secretary of state shall [mail]  
11 TRANSMIT a copy of the notice of claim served upon him or her as agent  
12 shall continue to be the address to which such notices shall be [mailed]  
13 TRANSMITTED until the public corporation sends a notice to the secretary  
14 informing him or her of a new POST OFFICE address OR ELECTRONIC MAIL  
15 ADDRESS to which such notices shall be [mailed] TRANSMITTED. The initial  
16 filing with the secretary of state shall also contain the applicable  
17 time limit for filing a notice of claim upon that public corporation, or  
18 if later changed by statute, a new filing shall be made detailing the  
19 [altered] NEW time limit. Any public corporation [who] THAT does not  
20 have a current and timely statutory designation filed with the secretary  
21 of state shall not be entitled to the portion of the fee to which it  
22 would otherwise be entitled pursuant to subdivision four of this  
23 section. Failure of the public corporation to so file with the secretary  
24 of state will not invalidate any service of a notice of claim upon the  
25 public corporation which has been received by the secretary of state.

26 3. The secretary of state is hereby empowered to accept properly tran-  
27 smitted notices of claims on behalf of a public corporation, with the  
28 same effect as if served directly upon a public corporation. The secre-  
29 tary of state shall accept such service upon the following terms and  
30 conditions:

31 (a) the secretary of state shall set and notify the public, on his or  
32 her website, [as to reasonable] OF times, places and manner of service  
33 upon him or her of notices of claims NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH THE  
34 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION;

35 (b) upon receipt of a notice of claim, the secretary of state shall  
36 issue a receipt or other document acknowledging his or her receipt of  
37 such notice, and such receipt shall contain the date and time of receipt  
38 of the notice, an identifying number or name particular to the notice  
39 received, and the logo or seal of the department of state embossed upon  
40 it. Such receipt shall be prima facie evidence of service upon the  
41 secretary of state for all purposes;

42 (c) [within ten days after receiving the notice of claim, the secre-  
43 tary of state shall transmit an original or a copy of the notice of  
44 claim to the public corporation named in the notice;

45 (d)] nothing in this section shall be deemed to alter, waive or other-  
46 wise abrogate any defense available to a public corporation as to the  
47 nature, sufficiency, or appropriateness of the notice of claim itself,  
48 or to any challenges to the timeliness of the service of a notice of  
49 claim. Timely service upon the secretary of state shall be deemed time-  
50 ly service upon the public corporation for purposes of instituting an  
51 action or proceeding or other requirement imposed by law.

52 4. The secretary of state may impose a fee upon any person who serves  
53 a notice of claim with the department. Such fee shall not exceed two  
54 hundred fifty dollars for each such notice filed. One-half of the fee  
55 imposed shall be retained by the secretary of state as payment for its  
56 services provided in accordance with this section. The remaining one-

half of such fee shall be forwarded to the public corporation named in the notice of claim provided, however, if more than one such public corporation is named, each named public corporation shall be entitled to an equal percentage of the one-half amount.

5. The secretary of state shall within sixty days after the effective date of this section post on the departmental website a list of any public corporation, including any public authority, public benefit corporation or any other entity entitled to receive a notice of claim as a condition precedent to commencement of an action or proceeding, and that has filed, pursuant to this section, a certificate with the secretary of state designating the secretary as the agent for service of a notice of claim. The list should identify the entity, the POST OFFICE address AND ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS, IF AVAILABLE, of the public corporation to which the notice of claim shall be forwarded by the secretary of state, and any statutory provisions uniquely pertaining to such public corporation and the commencement of an action or proceeding against it.

6. THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE ANY RULES OR REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 4. Subdivision 2 of section 50-h of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 254 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

2. The demand for examination as provided in subdivision one of this section shall be made by the chief executive officer or, where there is no such officer, by the chairman of the governing body of the city, county, town, village, fire district or school district or by such officer, agent or employee as may be designated by him for that purpose. The demand shall be in writing and shall be served personally or by registered or certified mail upon the claimant unless the claimant is represented by an attorney, when it shall be served personally or by mail upon his attorney. The demand shall give reasonable notice of the examination. It shall state the person before whom the examination is to be held, the time, place and subject matter thereof and, if a physical examination is to be required, it shall so state. If the place of examination is located outside the municipality against which the claim is made, the claimant may demand, within ten days of such service, that the examination be held at a location within such municipality. Such location shall be determined by the municipality. If a physical examination is to be required and there is no appropriate place for such an examination within the municipality, such examination shall be given at a location as close to such municipality as practicable. No demand for examination shall be effective against the claimant for any purpose unless it shall be served as provided in this subdivision within ninety days from the date of filing of the notice of claim, OR IF SERVICE OF THE NOTICE OF CLAIM IS MADE BY SERVICE UPON THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, WITHIN ONE HUNDRED DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SUCH SERVICE.

S 5. Subdivision 1 of section 50-i of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 738 of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

1. No action or special proceeding shall be prosecuted or maintained against a city, county, town, village, fire district or school district for personal injury, wrongful death or damage to real or personal property alleged to have been sustained by reason of the negligence or wrongful act of such city, county, town, village, fire district or school district or of any officer, agent or employee thereof, including

1 volunteer firemen of any such city, county, town, village, fire district  
2 or school district or any volunteer fireman whose services have been  
3 accepted pursuant to the provisions of section two hundred nine-i of  
4 this chapter, unless, (a) a notice of claim shall have been made and  
5 served upon the city, county, town, village, fire district or school  
6 district in compliance with section fifty-e of this [chapter] ARTICLE,  
7 (b) it shall appear by and as an allegation in the complaint or moving  
8 papers that at least thirty days have elapsed since the service of such  
9 notice, OR IF SERVICE OF THE NOTICE OF CLAIM IS MADE BY SERVICE UPON THE  
10 SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT  
11 AT LEAST FORTY DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE SERVICE OF SUCH NOTICE, and  
12 that adjustment or payment thereof has been neglected or refused, and  
13 (c) the action or special proceeding shall be commenced within one year  
14 and ninety days after the happening of the event upon which the claim is  
15 based; except that wrongful death actions shall be commenced within two  
16 years after the happening of the death.

17 S 6. Subdivision 1 of section 20 of section 1 of chapter 1016 of the  
18 laws of 1969 constituting the New York city health and hospitals corpo-  
19 ration act, as amended by chapter 877 of the laws of 1973, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 1. In every action against the corporation for damages for injuries to  
22 real or personal property, or for the destruction thereof, or for  
23 personal injuries or death, the complaint shall contain an allegation  
24 that at least thirty days have elapsed since the demand, claim or claims  
25 upon which such action is founded were presented to a director or offi-  
26 cer of the corporation and that the corporation has neglected or refused  
27 to make an adjustment or payment thereof for thirty days after such  
28 presentment, OR IF THE DEMAND, CLAIM OR CLAIMS UPON WHICH SUCH ACTION IS  
29 FOUNDED WAS PRESENTED TO A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE CORPORATION BY  
30 SERVICE UPON THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION FIFTY-THREE OF  
31 THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, THAT AT LEAST FORTY DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE  
32 SUCH SERVICE WAS MADE, AND THAT THE CORPORATION HAS NEGLECTED OR REFUSED  
33 TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT OR PAYMENT THEREOF FOR FORTY DAYS AFTER SUCH  
34 PRESENTMENT.

35 S 7. Section 79 of chapter 500 of the laws of 2012 amending the civil  
36 practice law and rules and other laws, relating to establishing a  
37 uniform process and requirement for the filing of notices of claim prior  
38 to the commencement of a cause of action against any state or municipal  
39 entity, public authority or public benefit corporation, is amended to  
40 read as follows:

41 S 79. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day  
42 after it shall have become a law and shall apply to all actions and  
43 proceedings accruing on or after such date; provided, however, THAT  
44 SECTION FOUR OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT TWO HUNDRED TEN DAYS AFTER  
45 THIS ACT SHALL HAVE BECOME A LAW; AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, that section  
46 seventy-eight of this act shall take effect upon the enactment into law  
47 by the state of New Jersey of legislation having an identical effect as  
48 section seventy-eight of this act, but if the state of New Jersey shall  
49 have enacted such legislation into law prior to the first day of January  
50 next succeeding the date upon which this act shall have become a law,  
51 section seventy-eight of this act shall take effect on the one hundred  
52 eightieth day from the date upon which it shall have become a law;  
53 provided further, [however,] that the state of New Jersey shall notify  
54 the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the  
55 enactment of the provisions provided for in this act in order that the  
56 commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of

1 the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of  
2 effecting the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and  
3 section 70-b of the public officers law; AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT  
4 SECTION NINE OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON THE CONCURRENCE BY  
5 MEMBERS OF THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN WATER COMMISSION.

6 S 8. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same  
7 manner as chapter 500 of the laws of 2012 takes effect.