

870--C

Cal. No. 1059

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

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Introduced by Sens. GRISANTI, KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first report, amended on first report, ordered to a second report and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of second report

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to directing the city of Buffalo to adjudicate traffic infractions

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

1     Section 1. Section 155 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by  
2     chapter 628 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:  
3     S 155. Traffic infraction. The violation of any provision of this  
4     chapter, except articles forty-seven and forty-eight, or of any law,  
5     ordinance, order, rule or regulation regulating traffic which is not  
6     declared by this chapter or other law of this state to be a misdemeanor  
7     or a felony. A traffic infraction is not a crime and the punishment  
8     imposed therefor shall not be deemed for any purpose a penal or criminal  
9     punishment and shall not affect or impair the credibility as a witness  
10    or otherwise of any person convicted thereof. This definition shall be  
11    retroactive and shall apply to all acts and violations heretofore  
12    committed where such acts and violations would, if committed subsequent  
13    to the taking effect of this section, be included within the meaning of

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

LBD04104-09-4

1 the term "traffic infraction" as herein defined. Except in those  
2 portions of Suffolk county for which a district court has been estab-  
3 lished, outside of cities having a population in excess of two hundred  
4 thousand BUT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND in which administra-  
5 tive tribunals have heretofore been established AND OUTSIDE OF CITIES  
6 HAVING A POPULATION IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION IN WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE  
7 TRIBUNALS HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN ESTABLISHED, courts and judicial officers  
8 heretofore having jurisdiction over such violations shall continue to do  
9 so and for such purpose such violations shall be deemed misdemeanors and  
10 all provisions of law relating to misdemeanors except as provided in  
11 section eighteen hundred five of this chapter and except as herein  
12 otherwise expressly provided shall apply except that no jury trial shall  
13 be allowed for traffic infractions. In those portions of Suffolk county  
14 for which a district court has been established, and in cities having a  
15 population in excess of two hundred thousand BUT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED  
16 TWENTY THOUSAND in which administrative tribunals have heretofore been  
17 established AND IN CITIES HAVING A POPULATION IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION  
18 IN WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN ESTABLISHED, the  
19 criminal courts of such cities or portions of Suffolk county in which a  
20 district court has been established shall have jurisdiction to hear and  
21 determine any complaint alleging a violation constituting a traffic  
22 infraction, except that administrative tribunals heretofore established  
23 in such cities or portions of Suffolk county in which a district court  
24 has been established shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any  
25 charge of an offense which is a traffic infraction, except parking,  
26 standing or stopping. In cities having a population in excess of two  
27 hundred thousand in which administrative tribunals have heretofore been  
28 established, and any such administrative tribunal established by the  
29 city of Yonkers, the city of Peekskill, or the city of Syracuse, such  
30 tribunals shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any charge of an  
31 offense which is a parking, standing or stopping violation. Any fine  
32 imposed by an administrative tribunal shall be a civil penalty. For  
33 purposes of arrest without a warrant, pursuant to article one hundred  
34 forty of the criminal procedure law, a traffic infraction shall be  
35 deemed an offense.

36 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 225 of the vehicle and traffic law, as  
37 amended by chapter 388 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as  
38 follows:

39 1. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, all violations  
40 of this chapter or of a law, ordinance, order, rule or regulation relat-  
41 ing to traffic, except parking, standing, stopping or pedestrian  
42 offenses, which occur within a city having a population of two hundred  
43 thousand or more BUT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND in which  
44 administrative tribunals have heretofore been established, OR WITHIN A  
45 CITY HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE IN WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE  
46 TRIBUNALS HAVE HERETOFORE, BEEN ESTABLISHED, and which are classified as  
47 traffic infractions, may be heard and determined pursuant to the regu-  
48 lations of the commissioner as provided in this article. Whenever a  
49 crime and a traffic infraction arise out of the same transaction or  
50 occurrence, a charge alleging both offenses may be made returnable  
51 before the court having jurisdiction over the crime. Nothing herein  
52 provided shall be construed to prevent a court, having jurisdiction over  
53 a criminal charge relating to traffic or a traffic infraction, from  
54 lawfully entering a judgment of conviction, whether or not based on a  
55 plea of guilty, for any offense classified as a traffic infraction.

1 S 3. Pending actions and proceedings. (a) No proceeding involving a  
2 charge of a traffic infraction pending at such time when an existing  
3 administrative tribunal shall cease to exist shall be affected or abated  
4 by the passage of this act or by anything herein contained or by the  
5 cessation of the existence of any administrative tribunal. All such  
6 proceedings are hereby transferred to the court of appropriate jurisdic-  
7 tion in the city where such traffic infractions allegedly occurred.

8 (b)(i) The agency, department, office, or person charged with the  
9 custody of the records of an existing administrative tribunal which is  
10 about to cease existing under, or in connection with, this act shall  
11 arrange for the transfer of the records of pending proceedings to the  
12 court of appropriate jurisdiction to which the proceedings shall be  
13 transferred. The presiding judge of such court shall enter an order  
14 providing for adequate notice consistent with due process of law to  
15 respondents in such pending proceedings regarding the transfer of such  
16 proceedings.

17 (ii) In no event shall any difficulty or delay resulting from the  
18 transfer process, not caused by the respondent, increase the penalty  
19 required of the respondent appearing before the court due to a transfer  
20 of the traffic infraction proceeding or otherwise prejudice such  
21 respondent. Respondents before the court due to a transfer of the traf-  
22 fic infraction proceeding from an administrative tribunal to the court  
23 that fail to appear shall be permitted at least one adjournment before  
24 the penalties and procedures pursuant to subdivision 3 of section 226 of  
25 the vehicle and traffic law shall be available. The presiding judge of  
26 such court shall enter an order providing for adequate notice consistent  
27 with due process of law to respondents, including notice of the penal-  
28 ties and procedures available pursuant to subdivision 3 of section 226  
29 of the vehicle and traffic law.

30 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.