STATE OF NEW YORK

5256

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. TAGUE, BLANKENBUSH, HAWLEY, E. BROWN, DeSTEFANO, MANKTELOW, LEMONDES, BEEPHAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the uniform justice court act, the judiciary law, and the criminal procedure law, in relation to providing for the presence of either a uniformed court officer or law enforcement officer during court proceedings

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 109 of the uniform justice court act is amended by adding a new closing paragraph to read as follows:

Provided, however, that the chief administrator of the courts shall, upon request by the municipality, ensure the assignment and presence of a uniformed court officer during court proceedings. If a uniformed court officer is not available, the chief administrator of the courts shall be responsible for coordinating and ensuring the presence of a law enforcement official during such court proceedings. Political subdivisions which provide security services for the courts shall be entitled to reimbursement from the state. No costs associated with facilitating the presence of a law enforcement officer in lieu of a uniformed court officer shall be incurred by the municipality.

§ 2. Section 216 of the judiciary law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. The chief administrator of the courts shall, upon request by the municipality, ensure the assignment and presence of a uniformed court officer during court proceedings. If a uniformed court officer is not available, the chief administrator of the courts shall be responsible for coordinating and ensuring the presence of a law enforcement official during such court proceedings.

§ 3. Subdivision 2 of section 849-h of the judiciary law, as added by chapter 280 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

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

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2. Funds available pursuant to this article may be used for any purpose having as its end enhancement of the justice courts' ability to provide suitable and sufficient services to their respective communities. These purposes may include, but shall not be limited to, **costs associated with hiring nonjudicial court security or reimbursement of costs for utilizing local law enforcement services;** automation of court operations; improvement or expansion of court facilities; provision of appropriate means for the recording of court proceedings; provision of lawbooks, treatises and related materials; and provision of appropriate training for justices and for nonjudicial court staff. Except as may otherwise be provided by rule of the chief administrator, funds available pursuant to this article shall not be used to compensate justices [~~and nonjudicial court staff~~], nor shall they be used as a means of reducing funding provided by a town or village to its justice court.

§ 4. Subdivision 4 of section 849-i of the judiciary law, as amended by chapter 127 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the chief administrator shall not approve any application for funding in excess of [~~thirty~~] **two hundred and fifty** thousand dollars unless such application is a joint application and the aggregate funding sought thereunder does not exceed an amount equaling the product of the number of joint applicants making such application and [~~thirty~~] **two hundred and fifty** thousand dollars.

§ 5. Subdivision 1 of section 219-b of the judiciary law, as added by chapter 548 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

1. There shall be established a New York state court officer academy (hereinafter referred to in this section as the "academy"). This academy shall serve as a center for the provision of education and training to New York state court officers and other non-judicial employees of the New York state courts. **For the purpose of this section, New York state court officers shall include court officers assigned to or employed by a unified justice court.**

§ 6. Paragraph a of subdivision 21 of section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law, as added by chapter 843 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

a. Uniformed court officers [~~of the unified court system~~]**, who have received and completed training at the New York state court officer academy**.

§ 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.