

STATE OF NEW YORK

2550

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 21, 2025

Introduced by Sens. MYRIE, BAILEY, BRISPORT, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON, RAMOS, SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to providing for the release of certain grand jury proceeding materials on the basis of enduring historical importance

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 190.25 of the
2 criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 677 of the laws of 1985,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) [~~Grand~~] (i) Except as otherwise provided by law, grand jury
5 proceedings are secret, and no grand juror, or other person specified in
6 subdivision three of this section or section 215.70 of the penal law,
7 may, except in the lawful discharge of [~~his~~] their duties or upon writ-
8 ten order of the court, disclose the nature or substance of any grand
9 jury testimony, evidence, or any decision, result or other matter
10 attending a grand jury proceeding. For the purpose of assisting the
11 grand jury in conducting its investigation, evidence obtained by a grand
12 jury may be independently examined by the district attorney, members of
13 [~~his~~] their staff, police officers specifically assigned to the investi-
14 gation, and such other persons as the court may specifically authorize.
15 Such evidence may not be disclosed to other persons without a court
16 order. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a witness from disclos-
17 ing [~~his~~] their own testimony.

18 (ii) In proceedings where a grand jury is impaneled to hear and exam-
19 ine evidence concerning offenses, misconduct, nonfeasance and neglect
20 by a public officer or employee, whether criminal or otherwise, in
21 which a charge that a designated person committed a crime is dismissed
22 pursuant to subdivision one of section 190.75 of this article or
23 concluded without an indictment, any person may file a written petition

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

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1 seeking the release of material concerning or related to such grand jury
2 proceeding, including but not limited to transcripts, reports, exhibits,
3 and material of any nature or substance of any grand jury testimony,
4 evidence or any decision, result or any other matter which occurred
5 during a grand jury proceeding upon the basis of enduring historical
6 importance. Enduring historical importance shall include grand jury
7 records forty years old or older and there shall be a rebuttable
8 presumption of the historical importance of such records pursuant to
9 this subparagraph. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "enduring
10 historical importance" shall mean a matter where the release of such
11 grand jury information would enhance the existing historical record,
12 foster further scholarly discussion, and improve the public's under-
13 standing of a significant historical event. In all such cases, upon a
14 finding of enduring historical importance, a court shall release such
15 grand jury records in a manner and form as determined by the court.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to such
17 records created before, on or after such date.