

9512

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 7, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to establishing gang courts; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Findings. The legislature hereby finds and declares that
2 the growth of criminal gang activities have created a public safety
3 crisis and social disorder in many communities across our state. To this
4 point, our system of justice has failed to successfully deter the spread
5 of this criminality. Whether it is the distribution and sale of
6 controlled substances, street crime, gun violence, prostitution or
7 simply the climate of fear, intimidation, and disorder that poison our
8 neighborhoods, many afflicted localities appear to be under siege. To
9 address this problem, the state should be flexible and seek integrated
10 ways of employing the resources of our judicial and criminal justice
11 system and other state and local entities.

12 Based on the foregoing findings the legislature hereby declares that
13 the New York unified court system should be empowered to establish a
14 gang court pilot program within available appropriations, to help
15 address these broad based issues. The legislature contemplates that the
16 program authorized in this act may consist of two special gang courts,
17 one in the county of Orange and one in the county of Suffolk, to hear
18 and determine gang related criminal cases, properly venued in compliance
19 with the criminal procedure law, from within each respective county,
20 commencing no later than January first, two thousand twelve and continu-
21 ing, at least, until January first, two thousand seventeen.

22 The legislature declares that the resources necessary for these
23 special gang parts of the courts of Orange county and the courts of
24 Suffolk county can be made available only through a combination of
25 federal funds from the law enforcement assistance administration of the
26 United States department of justice, and state and local funds, services
27 and facilities.

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

LBD08468-01-1

1 S 2. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new article 5-C to read
2 as follows:

3 ARTICLE 5-C

4 GANG COURT PILOT PROGRAM

5 SECTION 178. SPECIAL GANG PARTS; ESTABLISHMENT.

6 178-A. TRANSFER OF CASES TO SPECIAL GANG PARTS.

7 178-B. PROCEDURE IN A SPECIAL GANG PART.

8 S 178. SPECIAL GANG PARTS; ESTABLISHMENT. 1. THERE MAY BE ESTABLISHED
9 IN THE COURTS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE COURTS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY SPECIAL
10 GANG PARTS IN SUCH NUMBERS AND AT SUCH LOCATIONS AS SHALL BE DESIGNATED
11 BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS, BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, TO
12 EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF
13 ADEQUATE FUNDING WITHIN MONEY APPROPRIATED WITHIN A GIVEN FISCAL YEAR.
14 SUCH PARTS SHALL HEAR AND DETERMINE GANG RELATED CRIMINAL CASES ASSIGNED
15 THERETO FROM ANY COURT WITHIN SUCH COUNTIES.

16 2. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COURTS, IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL
17 APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES, MAY REQUEST THAT ALL CURRENTLY
18 AVAILABLE RESOURCES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SPECIAL GANG COURT PARTS
19 AND AUTHORIZE THESE SPECIAL PARTS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NEW PROGRAMS
20 AS DEEMED NECESSARY TO FURTHER THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

21 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "CRIMINAL GANG" IS DEFINED AS A GROUP OF
22 THREE OF MORE PERSONS WHO, THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION, FORMATION AND,
23 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSEMBLAGE, SHARE A COMMON IDENTITY AND, WHOSE
24 MEMBERS, AS A CORE UNDERTAKING OF THEIR GROUP, ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN CRIMI-
25 NAL CONDUCT IN VIOLATION OF THE PENAL LAW.

26 S 178-A. TRANSFER OF CASES TO SPECIAL GANG PARTS. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY
27 OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, UPON OR AFTER ARRAIGNMENT ON AN ACCUSATORY
28 INSTRUMENT CHARGING A CRIMINAL OFFENSE COMMITTED BY A MEMBER OF A CRIMI-
29 NAL GANG AS PART OF, OR IN THE COURSE OF SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND
30 CONDUCT IN WHICH SUCH GANG IS PURPORTEDLY ENGAGING FILED IN A CRIMINAL
31 COURT WITHIN ORANGE COUNTY OR WITHIN SUFFOLK COUNTY AND BEFORE ENTRY OF
32 A PLEA OF GUILTY OR COMMENCEMENT OF TRIAL, SUCH COURT MAY ORDER THAT THE
33 ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT AND ACTION BE ASSIGNED TO THE RESPECTIVE SPECIAL
34 GANG PART OF THE ORANGE COUNTY OR SUFFOLK COUNTY COURT SYSTEMS.

35 S 178-B. PROCEDURE IN A SPECIAL GANG PART. THE TRIAL OF ANY ACCUSATORY
36 INSTRUMENT IN A SPECIAL GANG PART SHALL FOR ALL PURPOSES BE DEEMED TO BE
37 A TRIAL, LIKE ANY OTHER CRIMINAL PROCEEDING CONDUCTED IN ORANGE COUNTY
38 AND SUFFOLK COUNTY RESPECTIVELY, IN WHICH THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT WAS
39 FILED, BUT THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS MAY PROMULGATE RULES,
40 ORDERS OR REGULATIONS TO BE APPLICABLE TO SUCH PARTS IN PLACE AND
41 INSTEAD OF THE RULES, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO COURTS IN THE
42 COUNTY WHERE THE INDICTMENT WAS FILED. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR SHALL
43 PROVIDE BY RULE, ORDER OR REGULATION FOR AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:
44 THE PROCEDURE OF THE PART; ITS AUXILIARY SERVICES; THE ASSIGNMENT OF
45 JUDICIAL PERSONNEL; THE APPOINTMENT OF TERMS; AND TRANSMITTAL OF ALL
46 PAPERS IN THE ACTION, INCLUDING ALL UNDERTAKINGS FOR APPEARANCES OF THE
47 DEFENDANT AND OF THE WITNESSES, TO THE PART OF THE SUPREME COURT TO
48 WHICH THE ACTION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED CONSISTENT WITH THE CRIMINAL PROCE-
49 DURE LAW.

50 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
51 ing the date on which it shall have become a law and shall expire and be
52 deemed repealed 5 years after such effective date.