

8013

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

June 14, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. GABRYSZAK -- (at request of the Office of Court Administration) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, the penal law and the uniform commercial code, in relation to financing statements falsely filed under the uniform commercial code

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that the retali-
2 iatory filing of false financing statements under the uniform commercial
3 code by members of separatist groups against New Yorkers in public
4 service and private service is a growing and pernicious practice. As a
5 result of the proliferation of such filings, the credit of New Yorkers
6 in public service and private service has been impaired solely because
7 they were doing their jobs on behalf of the citizens of the state. It is
8 vital that all appropriate steps be taken to counter this practice.
9 Accordingly, it is the objective of this act to discourage the filing of
10 false financing statements and to provide a meaningful and expeditious
11 remedy for those who have been harmed by such filings. It is also the
12 objective of this measure to declare the state's interest in future
13 effectuation of a second step: careful review of procedures authorizing
14 the filing of financing statements under the uniform commercial code and
15 subsequent modification of laws and procedures as may be necessary to
16 ensure that the public is adequately protected against the kind of
17 retaliatory filing of false financing statements to which this act is
18 addressed.

19 S 2. Subdivision 2 of section 212 of the judiciary law is amended by
20 adding a new paragraph (s) to read as follows:

21 (S) ESTABLISH RULES FOR SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS AUTHORIZED BY SUBSECTION
22 (D) OF SECTION 9--518 OF THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE. SUCH RULES MAY

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

LBD08971-06-3

1 AUTHORIZE THE COURT IN WHICH SUCH A SPECIAL PROCEEDING IS PENDING TO
2 ORDER A REFEREE TO HEAR AND DETERMINE SUCH SPECIAL PROCEEDING.

3 S 3. Section 175.35 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 99 of the
4 laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

5 S 175.35 Offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree.

6 A person is guilty of offering a false instrument for filing in the
7 first degree when[,]:

8 1. knowing that a written instrument contains a false statement or
9 false information, and with intent to defraud the state or any political
10 subdivision, public authority or public benefit corporation of the
11 state, he OR SHE offers or presents it to a public office, public serv-
12 ant, public authority or public benefit corporation with the knowledge
13 or belief that it will be filed with, registered or recorded in or
14 otherwise become a part of the records of such public office, public
15 servant, public authority or public benefit corporation[.]; OR

16 2. (A) HE OR SHE COMMITS THE CRIME OF OFFERING A FALSE INSTRUMENT FOR
17 FILING IN THE SECOND DEGREE; AND

18 (B) SUCH INSTRUMENT IS A FINANCING STATEMENT THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE
19 PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 9--502 OF THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE, THE COLLAT-
20 ERAL ASSERTED TO BE COVERED IN SUCH STATEMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF A
21 PERSON WHO IS A STATE OR LOCAL OFFICER AS DEFINED BY SECTION TWO OF THE
22 PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW OR WHO OTHERWISE IS A JUDGE OR JUSTICE OF THE
23 UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, SUCH FINANCING STATEMENT DOES NOT RELATE TO AN
24 ACTUAL TRANSACTION, AND HE OR SHE FILED SUCH FINANCING STATEMENT IN
25 RETALIATION FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES BY SUCH PERSON.

26 Offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree is a class
27 E felony.

28 S 4. Section 9--518 of the uniform commercial code is amended by
29 adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

30 (D) SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO REDACT OR EXPUNGE A FALSELY FILED OR AMENDED
31 FINANCING STATEMENT. (1) PROVIDED HE OR SHE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE
32 OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, A PERSON IDENTIFIED AS A DEBTOR IN A
33 FINANCING STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPART MAY BRING A SPECIAL
34 PROCEEDING AGAINST THE NAMED FILER OF SUCH STATEMENT OR ANY AMENDMENT
35 THEREOF TO INVALIDATE THE FILING OR AMENDMENT THEREOF WHERE SUCH STATE-
36 MENT WAS FALSELY FILED OR AMENDED; EXCEPT THAT AN ATTORNEY WHO IS NOT AN
37 EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF MAY ALSO BRING
38 A SPECIAL PROCEEDING HEREUNDER WHERE HE OR SHE REPRESENTS OR HAS REPRES-
39 ENTED THE RESPONDENT THEREIN IN A CRIMINAL COURT. SUCH SPECIAL PROCEED-
40 ING SHALL BE GOVERNED BY ARTICLE FOUR OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND
41 RULES, AND SHALL BE COMMENCED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALBANY COUNTY, THE
42 COUNTY OF THE PETITIONER'S RESIDENCE OR A COUNTY WITHIN THE JUDICIAL
43 DISTRICT IN WHICH ANY PROPERTY COVERED BY THE FINANCING STATEMENT IS
44 LOCATED. NO FEE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE EIGHTY OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND
45 RULES SHALL BE COLLECTED IN SUCH SPECIAL PROCEEDING.

46 (2) THE PETITION IN A SPECIAL PROCEEDING HEREUNDER SHALL PLEAD THAT:

47 (A) THE FINANCING STATEMENT FILED OR AMENDED BY THE RESPONDENT PURSU-
48 ANT TO SECTION 9--509 WAS FALSELY FILED OR AMENDED TO RETALIATE FOR: (I)
49 THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PETITIONER'S OFFICIAL DUTIES IN HIS OR HER CAPAC-
50 ITY AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, OR
51 (II) IN THE CASE OF A SPECIAL PROCEEDING BROUGHT BY AN ATTORNEY WHO IS
52 NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, TO
53 RETALIATE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PETITIONER'S DUTIES IN HIS OR HER
54 CAPACITY AS AN ATTORNEY FOR THE RESPONDENT IN A CRIMINAL COURT; AND

1 (B) SUCH FINANCING STATEMENT DOES NOT RELATE TO AN INTEREST IN A
2 CONSUMER-GOODS TRANSACTION, A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, OR ANY OTHER ACTU-
3 AL TRANSACTION BETWEEN THE PETITIONER AND THE RESPONDENT; AND

4 (C) THE COLLATERAL COVERED IN SUCH FINANCING STATEMENT IS THE PROPERTY
5 OF THE PETITIONER; AND

6 (D) PROMPT REDACTION OR INVALIDATION OF THE FINANCING STATEMENT IS
7 NECESSARY TO AVERT OR MITIGATE PREJUDICE TO THE PETITIONER.

8 (3) IF THE COURT MAKES A WRITTEN FINDING THAT THE ALLEGATIONS IN PARA-
9 GRAPH TWO OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE ESTABLISHED, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE
10 EXPUNGEMENT OF SUCH STATEMENT OR ITS REDACTION IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS IN
11 THE OFFICE IN WHICH THE FINANCING STATEMENT IS FILED, AS APPROPRIATE,
12 AND MAY GRANT ANY ADDITIONAL RELIEF AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 9--625. IN
13 SUCH CASE, THE COURT SHALL CAUSE A COPY OF ITS ORDER TO BE FILED WITH
14 THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FILING OFFICE PURSUANT TO
15 THIS CHAPTER. UPON A FINDING THAT THE RESPONDENT HAS ENGAGED IN A
16 REPEATED PATTERN OF FALSE FILINGS AS FOUND UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE
17 COURT ALSO MAY ENJOIN THE RESPONDENT FROM FILING OR AMENDING ANY FURTHER
18 FINANCING STATEMENT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE COURT.
19 IF THE RESPONDENT IS INCARCERATED AT THE TIME THE COURT ISSUES AN ORDER
20 CONTAINING SUCH AN INJUNCTION, THE COURT SHALL CAUSE THE HEAD OF THE
21 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN WHICH THE RESPONDENT IS INCARCERATED TO RECEIVE
22 A COPY OF SUCH DETERMINATION. THE HEAD OF SUCH A FACILITY SHALL CAUSE A
23 COPY OF SUCH ORDER TO BE PROVIDED TO THE RESPONDENT. IN ANY INSTANCES OF
24 THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH AN INJUNCTION WHERE THE RESPONDENT HAS DEFAULTED,
25 THE COURT SHALL DIRECT SERVICE OF SUCH INJUNCTION UPON THE RESPONDENT.

26 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that section
27 three of this act shall take effect on the first of November next
28 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided,
29 further, subdivision 2 of section 175.35 of the penal law, as added by
30 section three of this act, shall apply solely to the filing or amendment
31 of financing statements under subpart 1 of part 5 of article 9 of the
32 uniform commercial code on or after such effective date.