

4209

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 14, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. BALL -- 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 authorizing the electronic filing of certain accusatory instruments in local criminal courts; and to repeal subdivision 5 of section 1.20 of such law relating to simplified traffic information

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure  
2 law, as separately amended by chapters 315, 383, 661 and 729 of the laws  
3 of 1972, is REPEALED.  
4     S 2. Subdivision 17 of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law is  
5 amended to read as follows:  
6     17. "Commencement of criminal action." A criminal action is commenced  
7 by the filing of an accusatory instrument against a defendant in a crim-  
8 inal court, and, if more than one accusatory instrument is filed in the  
9 course of the action, it commences when the first of such instruments is  
10 filed; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT A LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT ACCUSATORY INSTRU-  
11 MENT OR ANY ACCUSATION OF A VIOLATION OF A LOCAL LAW, CODE OR ORDINANCE  
12 MAY BE FILED WITH A LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT BY ELECTRONIC MEANS AS AUTHOR-  
13 IZED BY LAW AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE OFFICE OF COURT  
14 ADMINISTRATION.  
15     S 3. Section 100.05 of the criminal procedure law, subdivision 2 as  
16 amended by chapter 661 of the laws of 1972, is amended to read as  
17 follows:  
18 S 100.05 Commencement of action; in general.  
19     1. A criminal action is commenced by the filing of an accusatory  
20 instrument with a criminal court, and if more than one such instrument  
21 is filed in the course of the same criminal action, such action  
22 commences when the first of such instruments is filed. The only way in  
23 which a criminal action can be commenced in a superior court is by the

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

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1 filing therewith by a grand jury of an indictment against a defendant  
2 who has never been held by a local criminal court for the action of such  
3 grand jury with respect to any charge contained in such indictment.  
4 Otherwise, a criminal action can be commenced only in a local criminal  
5 court, by the filing therewith of a local criminal court accusatory  
6 instrument, namely:

- 7 [1.] (A) An information; or
- 8 [2.] (B) A simplified information; or
- 9 [3.] (C) A prosecutor's information; or
- 10 [4.] (D) A misdemeanor complaint; or
- 11 [5.] (E) A felony complaint.

12 2. THE FILING OF A LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT BY ELEC-  
13 TRONIC MEANS, AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF  
14 THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF THE  
15 CRIMINAL ACTION COMMENCED THEREBY.

16 S 4. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section  
17 100.60 to read as follows:

18 S 100.60 ELECTRONIC FILING OF ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT.

19 IN ANY CRIMINAL ACTION COMMENCED BY THE ELECTRONIC FILING OF A LOCAL  
20 CRIMINAL COURT ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT, AND IN ANY ACTION COMMENCED BY THE  
21 FILING OF AN ACCUSATION OF A VIOLATION OF A LOCAL LAW, CODE OR ORDI-  
22 NANCE, AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE  
23 OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH RESULTS IN A CONVICTION, THE LOCAL  
24 CRIMINAL COURT SHALL IMPOSE AND COLLECT A FEE OF FIVE DOLLARS, WHICH  
25 SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND FEES IMPOSED FOR SUCH  
26 CONVICTION. REVENUE DERIVED FROM SUCH FEE SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORD-  
27 ANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER AND THE OFFICE OF COURT  
28 ADMINISTRATION. SIXTY PERCENT OF THE REVENUE FROM THE FEE IMPOSED PURSU-  
29 ANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT FOR  
30 ITS EXPENSES OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING AN ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM,  
31 AND THE REMAINING FORTY PERCENT SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE LAW ENFORCE-  
32 MENT AGENCY COMMENCING THE ACTION.

33 S 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
34 ing the date on which it shall have become a law; provided that, effec-  
35 tive immediately, any rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
36 provisions of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed  
37 to be completed on or before such date.