

10049

I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 6, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. SCHIMMINGER -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to permitting  
support to a vulnerable elderly person testifying in grand jury  
proceedings

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 3 of section 190.25 of the  
2     criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 347 of the laws of 2014,  
3     is amended and a new paragraph (i) is added to read as follows:  
4     (h) A social worker, rape crisis counselor, psychologist or other  
5     professional providing emotional support to a child witness twelve years  
6     old or younger[, or a social worker or informal caregiver, as provided  
7     in subdivision two of section two hundred six of the elder law, for a  
8     vulnerable elderly person as provided in subdivision three of section  
9     260.31 of the penal law,] who is called to give evidence in a grand jury  
10    proceeding concerning a crime defined in article one hundred twenty-one,  
11    article one hundred thirty, article two hundred sixty, section 120.10,  
12    125.10, 125.15, 125.20, 125.25, 125.26, 125.27, 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27  
13    of the penal law provided that the district attorney consents. Such  
14    support person shall not provide the witness with an answer to any ques-  
15    tion or otherwise participate in such proceeding and shall first take an  
16    oath before the grand jury that he or she will keep secret all matters  
17    before such grand jury within his or her knowledge.  
18    (I) A SOCIAL WORKER OR INFORMAL CAREGIVER, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION  
19    TWO OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED SIX OF THE ELDER LAW, FOR A VULNERABLE ELDER-  
20    LY PERSON AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION 260.31 OF THE PENAL  
21    LAW, AS ADDED BY CHAPTER THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE OF THE LAWS OF NINE-  
22    TEEN HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT, WHO IS CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN A GRAND  
23    JURY PROCEEDING, CONCERNING ANY TYPE OF OFFENSE, PROVIDED THAT THE  
24    DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONSENTS. SUCH SUPPORT PERSON SHALL NOT PROVIDE THE  
25    WITNESS WITH AN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN SUCH  
26    PROCEEDING AND SHALL FIRST TAKE AN OATH BEFORE THE GRAND JURY THAT HE OR  
27    SHE WILL KEEP SECRET ALL MATTERS BEFORE SUCH GRAND JURY WITHIN HIS OR  
28    HER KNOWLEDGE.  
29    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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