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IN ASSEMBLY

June 7, 2016

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Markey, Dinowitz, Morelle, Sepulveda, Englebright, Gunther, Otis, Jaffee, Robinson, Stirpe, Aubry, Simotas, Galef, Hooper, Mosley, Russell, Rosenthal, Lifton, Barrett, Paulin, Cook, Arroyo, Walker, Linares, Weprin, Bichotte, Lavine, O'Donnell, Simon, Blake, Cahill, Seawright, Barron, Buchwald, Bronson, Solages, Brindisi, Fahy, Glick, Hevesi, Hyndman, Ortiz, Pretlow, Rivera) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to the statute of limitations in criminal prosecution of a sexual offense, committed against a child; to amend the civil practice law and rules, relation to the statute of limitations for civil actions related to a sexual offense committed against a child, reviving such actions otherwise barred by the existing statute of limitations and granting trial preference to such actions; to amend the general municipal law, in relation to providing that the notice of claim provisions shall not apply to such actions; to amend the court of claims act, in relation to providing that the notice of intention to file provisions shall not apply to such actions; to amend the education law, in relation to providing that the notice of claim provisions shall not apply to such actions; to amend the social services law, in relation to designating members of the clergy as persons required to report cases of suspected child abuse or maltreatment; and to amend the judiciary law, in relation to judicial training relating to sexual abuse of minors and rules reviving civil actions relating to sexual offenses committed against children

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

Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section 30.10 of the criminal procedure law, as separately amended by chapters 3 and 320 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

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(f) For purposes of a prosecution involving a sexual offense as defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law, other than a sexual offense delineated in paragraph (a) of subdivision two of this

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

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section, committed against a child less than eighteen years of age, incest in the first, second or third degree as defined in sections 255.27, 255.26 and 255.25 of the penal law committed against a child less than eighteen years of age, or use of a child in a sexual performance as defined in section 263.05 of the penal law, the period of limitation shall not begin to run until the child has reached the age of [eighteen] TWENTY-THREE or the offense is reported to a law enforcement agency or statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, whichever occurs earlier.

- S 2. The opening paragraph of section 208 of the civil practice law and rules is designated subdivision (a) and a new subdivision (b) is added to read as follows:
- (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW WHICH IMPOSES A PERIOD OF 13 14 LIMITATION TO THE CONTRARY, WITH RESPECT TO ALL CIVIL CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION BROUGHT BY ANY PERSON FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR 16 INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED BY SUCH PERSON AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED 17 THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST SUCH PERSON WHO WAS LESS 18 19 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 OR 20 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST SUCH PERSON WHO WAS LESS 21 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF SUCH PERSON IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW, OR A PREDECESSOR STATUTE THAT PROHIBITED SUCH CONDUCT AT THE TIME OF THE ACT, WHICH CONDUCT WAS 23 24 COMMITTED AGAINST SUCH PERSON WHO WAS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, 25 SUCH ACTION MAY BE COMMENCED, AGAINST ANY PARTY WHOSE INTENTIONAL OR NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE RESULTED IN THE COMMIS-26 SION OF SAID CONDUCT, ON OR BEFORE THE PLAINTIFF OR INFANT PLAINTIFF REACHES THE AGE OF TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS. IN ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION, IN 27 28 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DEFENSE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE THAT MAY BE AVAIL-29 ABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, RULE OR THE COMMON LAW, TO THE EXTENT THAT 30 THE ACTS ALLEGED IN SUCH ACTION ARE OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION 31 32 ONE OF SECTION 130.30 OF THE PENAL LAW OR SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 130.45 OF THE PENAL LAW, THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES SET FORTH, RESPECTIVE-33 LY, IN THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF SUCH SECTION OF THE 34 PENAL LAW 35 APPLY.
 - S 3. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new section 214-f to read as follows:
- 38 S 214-F. CERTAIN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW WHICH IMPOSES A PERIOD OF LIMITATION TO THE CONTRARY, 39 40 EVERY CIVIL CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION BROUGHT BY A PERSON FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF 41 CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 42 43 HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 45 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED 47 OF THE PENAL LAW, OR A PREDECESSOR STATUTE THAT SECTION 263.05 48 PROHIBITED SUCH CONDUCT AT THE TIME OF THE ACT, WHICH CONDUCT 49 COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, WHICH IS 50 BARRED AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION BECAUSE THE APPLICABLE 51 PERIOD OF LIMITATION HAS EXPIRED IS HEREBY REVIVED, AND ACTION THEREON MAY BE COMMENCED NOT EARLIER THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER, AND NOT LATER 52 YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH 53 54 TWO OF SUBDIVISION (I) OF RULE THIRTY-TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS CHAP-IN ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DEFENSE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, RULE

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OR THE COMMON LAW, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE ACTS ALLEGED IN SUCH ACTION ARE OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 130.30 OF THE PENAL LAW OR SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 130.45 OF THE PENAL LAW, THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES SET FORTH, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF SUCH SECTION OF THE PENAL LAW SHALL APPLY.

- S 4. Rule 3211 of the civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new subdivision (i) to read as follows:
- (I) STANDARDS FOR MOTIONS TO DISMISS AND MOTIONS TO DISMISS AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES IN CERTAIN ACTIONS IN WHICH CONDUCT CONSTITUTING THE COMMISSION OF CERTAIN SEXUAL OFFENSES ARE ALLEGED. 1. IN ANY ACTION WHERE THE PLAINTIFF SEEKS TO REVIVE AN ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN-F OF THIS CHAPTER AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION WHICH HAD BEEN TIME BARRED, ANY AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE OF LACHES, DELAY, OR MATERIAL IMPAIRMENT IN THE DEFENSE OR INVESTIGATION OF THE CLAIM MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT SUBMITTED BY A PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS SETTING FORTH THE SPECIFIC MANNER IN WHICH THE DEFENSE OR INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN AFFECTED. SAID CERTIFICATE MUST BE FILED AT OR BEFORE THE TIME IN WHICH THE ANSWER IS SERVED, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY ORDER OF THE COURT.
- 2. UPON MOTION BY ANY PARTY, THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE BY A PREPONDER-ANCE OF THE EVIDENCE, WHETHER DEFENDANT HAS SUSTAINED HIS OR HER BURDEN OF PROOF ON ANY MOTION TO DISMISS THE ACTION OR ON ANY AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE IN WHICH IT IS ALLEGED THAT PREJUDICE HAS BEEN CAUSED TO DEFENDANT IN THE INVESTIGATION OR DEFENSE OF THE ACTION DIRECTLY RESULTING FROM A DELAY IN COMMENCING THE ACTION. A DEFENDANT SHALL NOT BE DEEMED PREJUDICED SOLELY ON ACCOUNT OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME.
- 3. ANY SUCH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE SHALL BE DISMISSED, AND ANY SUCH MOTION TO DISMISS THE ACTION DENIED, IF THE COURT FINDS THAT PLAINTIFF ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AND WITH DUE DILIGENCE IN PURSUING THE CLAIM UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE WHETHER DEFENDANT TOOK ANY ACTIONS TO IMPEDE OR DELAY ANY INVESTIGATION OR PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF THE FACTS ALLEGED TO THE PLAINTIFF OR TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS WELL AS WHETHER PLAINTIFF TOOK ANY ACTIONS WHICH DELIBERATELY PREJUDICED THE DEFENSE OR INVESTIGATION OF THE CLAIM. NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL LIMIT THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, FROM RESERVING ANY DISPUTED ISSUES OF FACT FOR LATER DISPOSITION BY THE FINDER OF FACT.
- 4. FURTHERMORE, IN ANY SUCH ACTION, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DEFENSE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, RULE OR THE COMMON LAW, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE ACTS ALLEGED IN SUCH ACTION ARE OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 130.30 OF THE PENAL LAW OR SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 130.45 OF THE PENAL LAW, THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES SET FORTH, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF SUCH SECTION OF THE PENAL LAW SHALL APPLY.
- S 5. Subdivision (a) of rule 3403 of the civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new paragraph 7 to read as follows:
 - 7. ANY ACTION WHICH HAS BEEN REVIVED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN-F OF THIS CHAPTER.
 - S 6. Subdivision 8 of section 50-e of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 24 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:
- 8. Inapplicability of section. (A) This section shall not apply to claims arising under the provisions of the workers' compensation law, the volunteer firefighters' benefit law, or the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law or to claims against public corporations by their own infant wards.

(B) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY CLAIM MADE FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 OR 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

- S 7. Section 50-i of the general municipal law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:
- 5. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY CLAIM MADE AGAINST A CITY, COUNTY, TOWN, VILLAGE, FIRE DISTRICT OR SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 OR 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
- S 8. Section 10 of the court of claims act is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:
- 10. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY CLAIM TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 OR 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
- S 9. Subdivision 2 of section 3813 of the education law, as amended by chapter 346 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as follows:
- 2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereinbefore contained in this section, no action or special proceeding founded upon tort shall be prosecuted or maintained against any of the parties named in this section or against any teacher or member of the supervisory or administrative staff or employee where the alleged tort was committed by such teacher or member or employee acting in the discharge of his duties within the scope of his employment and/or under the direction of the board of education, trustee or trustees, or governing body of the school unless a notice of claim shall have been made and served in compliance with section fifty-e of the general municipal law. Every such action shall be commenced pursuant to the provisions of section fifty-i of the general municipal law; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SECTION ANY CLAIM TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION 255.27, 255.26 OR 255.25 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

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S 10. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social services law, as separately amended by chapters 126 and 205 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

- The following persons and officials are required to report or cause a report to be made in accordance with this title when they have 5 reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their 7 professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child, or 8 when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person 9 10 legally responsible for such child comes before them in their profes-11 sional or official capacity and states from personal knowledge facts, 12 conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an 13 abused or maltreated child: any physician; registered physician assist-14 ant; surgeon; medical examiner; coroner; dentist; dental hygienist; 15 osteopath; optometrist; chiropractor; podiatrist; resident; intern; 16 psychologist; registered nurse; social worker; emergency medical techni-17 cian; licensed creative arts therapist; licensed marriage and family 18 therapist; licensed mental health counselor; licensed psychoanalyst; 19 licensed behavior analyst; certified behavior analyst assistant; tal personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment 20 21 of persons; a Christian Science practitioner; school official, 22 includes but is not limited to school teacher, school guidance counse-23 lor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, school 24 administrator or other school personnel required to hold a teaching or 25 administrative license or certificate; full or part-time compensated 26 school employee required to hold a temporary coaching license or profes-27 sional coaching certificate; social services worker; director of a children's overnight camp, summer day camp or traveling summer day camp, as 28 29 such camps are defined in section thirteen hundred ninety-two of the public health law; day care center worker; school-age child care worker; 30 provider of family or group family day care; employee or volunteer in a 31 32 residential care facility for children that is licensed, certified or 33 operated by the office of children and family services; or any other child care or foster care worker; mental health professional; substance 34 35 abuse counselor; alcoholism counselor; all persons credentialed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services; MEMBER OF THE CLERGY 36 37 ANY RELIGION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CLERGYMAN AND MINISTER 38 AS SUCH TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION TWO OF THE RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS 39 AND SHALL ALSO INCLUDE ANY PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIRING, 40 RETENTION, OR SUPERVISING OF SUCH MEMBER OF THE CLERGY OF Α INSTITUTION OR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A RELIGIOUS INSTI-41 TUTION; peace officer; police officer; district attorney or assistant 42 district attorney; investigator employed in the office of a district 43 attorney; or other law enforcement official. 44 45
 - S 11. Subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social services law is amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:
 - (E) UNLESS THE PERSON CONFESSING OR CONFIDING WAIVES THE PRIVILEGE AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO SECTION FORTY-FIVE HUNDRED FIVE OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES, A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY OF ANY RELIGION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CLERGYMAN AND MINISTER AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWO OF THE RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS LAW, SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A REPORT AS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION IF THE CONFESSION OR CONFIDENCE WAS MADE TO HIM OR HER IN HIS OR HER PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER AS SPIRITUAL ADVISOR.
 - S 12. Section 219-c of the judiciary law, as added by chapter 506 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

S 219-c. Crimes involving sexual assault AND THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS; judicial training. The office of court administration shall provide training for judges and justices with respect to crimes involving sexual assault, AND THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS.

- S 13. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new section 219-d to read as follows:
- S 219-D. RULES REVIVING CERTAIN ACTIONS; SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST CHIL-DREN. 1. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS SHALL PROMULGATE RULES ESTABLISHING A SUPREME COURT PART IN EACH OF FOUR JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS TO ADJUDICATE REVIVED ACTIONS BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN-F OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES, WHICH SHALL BE THE SOLE VENUE IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT IN WHICH SAID CASES SHALL BE ADJUDI-TRIED. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE TO INSTITUTE ANY SUCH ACTION IN THE COURT DESIGNATED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS SHALL CONSTITUTE A GROUND TO DISMISS THE ACTION. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS SHALL ALSO PROMULGATE RULES REQUIRING THE TRANSFER OF ANY SUCH CASES TO SUCH APPROPRIATE PART WITHIN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT WHERE THE ACTION WAS COMMENCED, ON A SUA SPONTE BASIS, UPON APPROPRIATE NOTICE THE PARTIES. SAID RULES SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THAT THE PLAINTIFF DESIG-NATE THAT AN ACTION HAS BEEN BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN-F OF THECIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES IN THEIR REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION.
- 2. THE RULES PROMULGATED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THAT IF ANY DEFENDANT HAS FILED A REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION PRIOR TO THE PLAINTIFF SO FILING, PLAINTIFF SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, AT ANY POINT PRIOR TO THE FILING OF A NOTE OF ISSUE, TO FILE A SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION DESIGNATING THAT THE MATTER WAS FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN-F OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION SHALL ABROGATE THE ABILITY OF THE COURT TO SO ASSIGN SUCH A MATTER SUA SPONTE, OR ABROGATE ANY PARTY'S RIGHT TO A JURY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE FORTY-ONE OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.
- S 14. The provisions of this act shall be severable, and if any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.
- S 15. This act shall take effect immediately; except that section twelve of this act shall take effect six months after this act shall have become a law; provided, however, that training for cases brought pursuant to section 214-f of the civil practice law and rules, as added by section three of this act, shall commence three months after this act shall have become a law; and section thirteen of this act shall take effect three months after this act shall have become a law.