

1828

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 15, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law and the penal law, in relation to the disclosure of information attending grand jury proceedings

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 190.25 of the  
2 criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 677 of the laws of 1985,  
3 is amended and a new paragraph (c) is added to read as follows:  
4     (a) Grand jury proceedings are secret, and no grand juror, or other  
5 person, EXCEPT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, specified in subdivision three of  
6 this section or section 215.70 of the penal law, may, except in the  
7 lawful discharge of his OR HER duties or upon written order of the  
8 court, disclose the nature or substance of any grand jury testimony,  
9 evidence, or any decision, result or other matter attending a grand jury  
10 proceeding. For the purpose of assisting the grand jury in conducting  
11 its investigation, evidence obtained by a grand jury may be independent-  
12 ly examined by the district attorney, members of his OR HER staff,  
13 police officers specifically assigned to the investigation, and such  
14 other persons as the court may specifically authorize. [Such evidence  
15 may not be disclosed to other persons without a court order.] THE  
16 DISTRICT ATTORNEY MAY DISCLOSE THE NATURE OR SUBSTANCE OF ANY GRAND JURY  
17 TESTIMONY, EVIDENCE, OR ANY DECISION, RESULT OR OTHER MATTER ATTENDING A  
18 GRAND JURY PROCEEDING IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE BASED ON A VALID WRIT-  
19 TEN REQUEST. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a witness from  
20 disclosing his OR HER own testimony.  
21     (C) WHEN A DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISCLOSES THE NATURE OR SUBSTANCE OF ANY  
22 GRAND JURY TESTIMONY, EVIDENCE, OR ANY DECISION, RESULT OR OTHER MATTER  
23 ATTENDING A GRAND JURY PROCEEDING, HE OR SHE SHALL REDACT THE NAMES OF  
24 THE GRAND JURORS, THE NAMES OF ANY WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE GRAND

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

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1 JURY, ANY EVIDENCE THAT MAY IMPERIL THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ANY GRAND  
2 JUROR OR WITNESS APPEARING BEFORE THE GRAND JURY, ANY EVIDENCE THAT MAY  
3 IDENTIFY ANY GRAND JUROR OR WITNESS APPEARING BEFORE THE GRAND JURY, ANY  
4 INFORMATION THAT COULD IMPACT ANY CURRENT OR ONGOING INVESTIGATION, AND  
5 ANY OTHER INFORMATION IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

6 S 2. Section 215.70 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 843 of the  
7 laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

8 S 215.70 Unlawful grand jury disclosure.

9 A person is guilty of unlawful grand jury disclosure when, being a  
10 grand juror, [a public prosecutor,] a grand jury stenographer, a grand  
11 jury interpreter, a police officer or a peace officer guarding a witness  
12 in a grand jury proceeding, or a clerk, attendant, warden or other  
13 public servant having official duties in or about a grand jury room or  
14 proceeding, or a public officer or public employee, he OR SHE inten-  
15 tionally discloses to another the nature or substance of any grand jury  
16 testimony, or any decision, result or other matter attending a grand  
17 jury proceeding which is required by law to be kept secret, except in  
18 the proper discharge of his OR HER official duties or upon written order  
19 of the court. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a witness from  
20 disclosing his own testimony.

21 Unlawful grand jury disclosure is a class E felony.

22 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.