

2425

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 16, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. CAHILL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON,  
DINOWITZ, FINCH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Govern-  
mental Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to establishing a New  
York state legislative research service

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

1 Section 1. The legislative law is amended by adding a new section 7-h  
2 to read as follows:  
3 S 7-H. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE. 1. THERE SHALL HEREBY BE ESTAB-  
4 LISHED A NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE. IT SHALL BE THE  
5 DUTY OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE, WITHOUT PARTISAN BIAS TO:  
6 (A) UPON REQUEST, ADVISE AND ASSIST ANY COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE  
7 IN THE ANALYSIS, APPRAISAL, AND EVALUATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
8 WITHIN SUCH COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION, OR OF ANY RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMIT-  
9 TED TO THE LEGISLATURE BY THE GOVERNOR OR ANY EXECUTIVE AGENCY, SO AS TO  
10 ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN:  
11 (I) DETERMINING THE ADVISABILITY OF ENACTING SUCH PROPOSALS;  
12 (II) ESTIMATING THE PROBABLE RESULTS OF SUCH PROPOSALS AND ALTERNA-  
13 TIVES THERETO; AND  
14 (III) EVALUATING ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THOSE RESULTS;  
15 AND, BY PROVIDING SUCH OTHER RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL SERVICES AS THE  
16 COMMITTEE CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE FOR THESE PURPOSES, OTHERWISE TO ASSIST  
17 IN FURNISHING A BASIS FOR THE PROPER EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION OF  
18 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GENERALLY; AND IN THE PERFORM-  
19 ANCE OF THIS DUTY THE SERVICE SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY, WHEN SO AUTHORIZED  
20 BY A COMMITTEE AND ACTING AS THE AGENT OF THAT COMMITTEE, TO REQUEST OF  
21 ANY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE STATE THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH BOOKS,  
22 RECORDS, CORRESPONDENCE, MEMORANDA, PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS AS THE SERVICE  
23 CONSIDERS NECESSARY, AND SUCH DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE STATE SHALL  
24 COMPLY WITH SUCH REQUEST; AND FURTHER IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS AND ANY

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

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1 OTHER RELEVANT DUTY, THE SERVICE SHALL MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS LIAISON WITH  
2 ALL COMMITTEES;

3 (B) MAKE AVAILABLE TO EACH COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE AT THE OPENING  
4 OF A NEW SESSION, A LIST OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER EXISTING LAW  
5 SCHEDULED TO TERMINATE DURING THE CURRENT SESSION, WHICH ARE WITHIN THE  
6 JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE;

7 (C) TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO EACH COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE AT THE  
8 OPENING OF A NEW SESSION, A LIST OF SUBJECTS AND POLICY AREAS WHICH THE  
9 COMMITTEE MIGHT PROFITABLY ANALYZE IN DEPTH;

10 (D) UPON REQUEST, OR UPON ITS OWN INITIATIVE IN ANTICIPATION OF  
11 REQUESTS, PREPARE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND REFERENCE MATE-  
12 RIALS AND SERVICES TO COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO  
13 ASSIST THEM IN LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS;

14 (E) UPON REQUEST, OR UPON ITS OWN INITIATIVE IN ANTICIPATION OF  
15 REQUESTS, COLLECT, CLASSIFY AND ANALYZE IN THE FORM OF STUDIES, REPORTS,  
16 COMPILATIONS, DIGESTS, BULLETINS, INDEXES, TRANSLATIONS, AND OTHERWISE,  
17 DATA HAVING A BEARING ON LEGISLATION, AND TO MAKE SUCH DATA AVAILABLE  
18 AND SERVICEABLE TO COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE;

19 (F) PREPARE SUMMARIES AND DIGESTS OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS OF PUBLIC,  
20 GENERAL NATURE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE;

21 (G) UPON REQUEST MADE BY ANY COMMITTEE OR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE,  
22 PREPARE AND TRANSMIT TO SUCH COMMITTEE OR MEMBER A CONCISE MEMORANDUM  
23 WITH RESPECT TO ONE OR MORE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES UPON WHICH HEARINGS BY  
24 ANY COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, WHICH MEMORANDUM  
25 SHALL CONTAIN A STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF EACH SUCH MEAS-  
26 URE, A DESCRIPTION OF OTHER RELEVANT MEASURES OF SIMILAR PURPOSE OR  
27 EFFECT PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND A RECITATION OF ALL  
28 ACTION TAKEN THERETOFORE BY OR WITHIN THE LEGISLATURE WITH RESPECT TO  
29 EACH SUCH OTHER MEASURES; AND

30 (H) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CAPABILITY TO  
31 INCLUDE SENIOR SPECIALISTS, SPECIALISTS, OTHER EMPLOYEES AND CONSULT-  
32 ANTS, AS NECESSARY, TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SUBDI-  
33 VISION.

34 2. THE LIBRARIAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY SHALL APPOINT THE DIRECTOR  
35 OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE. THE DIRECTOR SHALL RECEIVE A SALARY  
36 EQUAL TO THAT OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE AS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION  
37 ONE OF SECTION FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE.

38 3. THE DIRECTOR IS AUTHORIZED TO APPOINT IN THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
39 SERVICE, SPECIALISTS AND SENIOR SPECIALISTS IN THE FOLLOWING BROAD  
40 FIELDS:

41 (A) AGING;

42 (B) AGRICULTURE;

43 (C) ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE;

44 (D) CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PROTECTION;

45 (E) CRIME VICTIMS AND CORRECTIONS;

46 (F) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION;

47 (G) EDUCATION;

48 (H) ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS;

49 (I) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY;

50 (J) GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS;

51 (K) HEALTH;

52 (L) HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT;

53 (M) INSURANCE;

54 (N) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT;

55 (O) MONEY AND BANKING;

56 (P) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;

- 1 (Q) SOCIAL WELFARE;  
2 (R) TAXATION AND FISCAL POLICY;  
3 (S) TRANSPORTATION;  
4 (T) URBAN AFFAIRS;  
5 (U) VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND  
6 (V) SUCH OTHER FIELDS, AS THE DIRECTOR MAY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

7 SUCH SPECIALISTS AND SENIOR SPECIALISTS, TOGETHER WITH SUCH OTHER  
8 EMPLOYEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL  
9 BE AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL WORK WITH THE COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE  
10 LEGISLATURE FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN THIS SECTION.

11 4. THE DIRECTOR IS AUTHORIZED:

12 (A) TO CLASSIFY, ORGANIZE, ARRANGE, GROUP AND DIVIDE, FROM TIME TO  
13 TIME, AS THE DIRECTOR CONSIDERS ADVISABLE, THE REQUESTS FOR ADVICE,  
14 ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER SERVICES SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
15 SERVICE BY COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE INTO SUCH CLASSES  
16 AND CATEGORIES AS THE DIRECTOR CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO:

17 (I) EXPEDITE AND FACILITATE THE HANDLING OF THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS  
18 SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE;

19 (II) PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES FOR THE COMMIT-  
20 TEES OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND

21 (III) PROVIDE A BASIS FOR THE EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE BY THE LEGISLATIVE  
22 RESEARCH SERVICE OF ITS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND RELATED FUNCTIONS  
23 GENERALLY;

24 (B) TO ESTABLISH AND CHANGE, FROM TIME TO TIME, AS THE DIRECTOR  
25 CONSIDERS ADVISABLE, WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE, SUCH  
26 RESEARCH AND REFERENCE DIVISIONS OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS, OR BOTH,  
27 AS SUCH DIRECTOR CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
28 SECTION; AND

29 (C) TO PROCURE BY CONTRACT, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY PROVISION OF LAW  
30 REQUIRING ADVERTISING FOR CONTRACT BIDS, THE TEMPORARY (FOR RESPECTIVE  
31 PERIODS NOT IN EXCESS OF ONE YEAR) OR INTERMITTENT ASSISTANCE OF EDUCA-  
32 TIONAL, RESEARCH, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS  
33 (INCLUDING STENOGRAPHIC REPORTERS) AND OF EDUCATIONAL, RESEARCH, AND  
34 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF PERSONS LEARNED IN PARTICULAR OR SPECIALIZED  
35 FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE.

36 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
37 it shall have become a law.