

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

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

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to establishing the commission on prosecutorial conduct

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

1 Section 1. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new article 15-A  
2 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 15-A

4 STATE COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT

5 SECTION 499-A. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

6 499-B. DEFINITIONS.

7 499-C. STATE COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT; ORGANIZATION.

8 499-D. FUNCTIONS; POWERS AND DUTIES.

9 499-E. PANELS; REFEREES.

10 499-F. COMPLAINT; INVESTIGATION; HEARING AND DISPOSITION.

11 499-G. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS.

12 499-H. BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMISSION INFORMATION.

13 499-I. RESIGNATION NOT TO DIVEST COMMISSION OR COURT OF APPEALS  
14 OF JURISDICTION.

15 499-J. EFFECT.

16 S 499-A. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION. A STATE COMMISSION OF PROSECUTO-  
17 RIAL CONDUCT IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE  
18 AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE CONDUCT OF PROSECUTORS UPON THE FILING OF A  
19 COMPLAINT WITH THE COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER SAID CONDUCT AS  
20 ALLEGED DEPARTS FROM THE APPLICABLE STATUTES, CASE LAW, NEW YORK RULES  
21 OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RULE 3.8 (SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF  
22 PROSECUTORS) OF THE MODEL RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE AMERICAN  
23 BAR ASSOCIATIONS.

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

LBD01145-01-5

1 S 499-B. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING  
2 TERMS HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

3 1. "COMMISSION" MEANS THE STATE COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT.

4 2. "PROSECUTOR" MEANS A DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR ANY ASSISTANT DISTRICT  
5 ATTORNEY OF ANY COUNTY OF THE STATE, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR ANY  
6 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE, OR ANY INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY  
7 OR SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
8 ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY, ATTORNEY GENERAL OR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY  
9 GENERAL, IN AN ACTION TO EXACT ANY CRIMINAL PENALTY, FINE, SANCTION OR  
10 FORFEITURE.

11 3. "HEARING" MEANS A PROCEEDING UNDER SUBDIVISION FOUR OF SECTION FOUR  
12 HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-F OF THIS ARTICLE.

13 4. "MEMBER OF THE BAR" MEANS A PERSON ADMITTED TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW  
14 IN THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

15 S 499-C. STATE COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT; ORGANIZATION. 1.  
16 THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, OF WHOM TWO SHALL BE  
17 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, TWO BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,  
18 ONE BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, TWO BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
19 ASSEMBLY, ONE BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THREE BY THE  
20 CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS. OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE  
21 GOVERNOR ONE SHALL BE A PUBLIC DEFENDER AND ONE SHALL BE A PROSECUTOR.  
22 OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE ONE PERSON SHALL BE A  
23 JUSTICE OF THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT AND TWO SHALL BE  
24 JUDGES OF COURTS OTHER THAN THE COURT OF APPEALS OR APPELLATE DIVISION.  
25 OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, THERE SHALL BE AN  
26 EQUAL NUMBER OF PROSECUTORS AND ATTORNEYS PROVIDING DEFENSE SERVICES;  
27 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A TEMPORARY IMBALANCE IN THE NUMBER OF PROSECU-  
28 TORS AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS PENDING NEW APPOINTMENTS SHALL NOT PREVENT  
29 THE COMMISSION FROM CONDUCTING BUSINESS.

30 2. MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION BY A PROSECUTOR SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE  
31 THE HOLDING OF A PUBLIC OFFICE AND NO PROSECUTOR SHALL BE REQUIRED TO  
32 TAKE AND FILE AN OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE SERVING ON THE COMMISSION. THE  
33 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ONE OF THEIR NUMBER TO SERVE AS  
34 CHAIRMAN DURING HIS OR HER TERM OF OFFICE OR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS,  
35 WHICHEVER IS SHORTER.

36 3. THE PERSONS FIRST APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE RESPECTIVELY  
37 THREE AND FOUR YEAR TERMS AS HE OR SHE SHALL DESIGNATE. THE PERSONS  
38 FIRST APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS SHALL HAVE  
39 RESPECTIVELY TWO, THREE AND FOUR YEAR TERMS AS HE OR SHE SHALL DESIG-  
40 NATE. THE PERSONS FIRST APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE  
41 SENATE SHALL HAVE RESPECTIVELY THREE AND FOUR YEAR TERMS AS HE OR SHE  
42 SHALL DESIGNATE. THE PERSON FIRST APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF  
43 THE SENATE SHALL HAVE A TWO YEAR TERM. THE PERSONS FIRST APPOINTED BY  
44 THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE RESPECTIVELY THREE AND FOUR YEAR  
45 TERMS AS HE OR SHE SHALL DESIGNATE. THE PERSON FIRST APPOINTED BY THE  
46 MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE A THREE YEAR TERM. EACH  
47 MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED THEREAFTER FOR A TERM OF  
48 FOUR YEARS. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP OF A JUDGE OR JUSTICE APPOINTED BY THE  
49 GOVERNOR OR THE CHIEF JUDGE SHALL TERMINATE IF SUCH MEMBER CEASES TO  
50 HOLD THE JUDICIAL POSITION WHICH QUALIFIED HIM OR HER FOR SUCH APPOINT-  
51 MENT. MEMBERSHIP SHALL ALSO TERMINATE IF A MEMBER ATTAINS A POSITION  
52 WHICH WOULD HAVE RENDERED HIM OR HER INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT AT THE  
53 TIME OF HIS OR HER APPOINTMENT. A VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED BY THE  
54 APPOINTING OFFICER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM.

55 4. IF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WHO IS A PROSECUTOR IS THE SUBJECT OF  
56 A COMPLAINT OR INVESTIGATION WITH RESPECT TO HIS OR HER QUALIFICATIONS,

1 CONDUCT, FITNESS TO PERFORM OR PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL  
2 DUTIES, HE OR SHE SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY AND  
3 ALL PROCEEDINGS WITH RESPECT THERETO. IF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IS  
4 EMPLOYED IN THE SAME ORGANIZATION AS THE SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT OR  
5 INVESTIGATION WITH RESPECT TO HIS OR HER QUALIFICATIONS, CONDUCT,  
6 FITNESS TO PERFORM, OR PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES, HE OR  
7 SHE SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY AND ALL PROCEEDINGS  
8 WITH RESPECT THERETO.

9 5. EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE WITHOUT SALARY OR OTHER  
10 COMPENSATION, BUT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ACTUAL AND NECESSARY  
11 EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES.

12 6. FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISIONS FOUR THROUGH NINE OF  
13 SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-F OR SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION FOUR  
14 HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-E OF THIS ARTICLE, EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION  
15 SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE COMMISSION AND THE CONCURRENCE OF SIX  
16 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE NECESSARY. TWO MEMBERS OF A THREE  
17 MEMBER PANEL OF THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE PANEL  
18 AND THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE PANEL SHALL BE NECESSARY FOR  
19 ANY ACTION TAKEN.

20 7. THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT AND AT PLEASURE MAY REMOVE AN ADMINIS-  
21 TRATOR WHO SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BAR WHO IS NOT A PROSECUTOR OR  
22 RETIRED PROSECUTOR. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT SUCH  
23 DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, COUNSEL, INVESTIGATORS AND OTHER OFFICERS AND  
24 EMPLOYEES AS HE OR SHE MAY DEEM NECESSARY, PRESCRIBE THEIR POWERS AND  
25 DUTIES, FIX THEIR COMPENSATION AND PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THEIR  
26 EXPENSES WITHIN THE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED THEREFOR.

27 S 499-D. FUNCTIONS; POWERS AND DUTIES. THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE  
28 FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES:

29 1. TO CONDUCT HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS, ADMINISTER OATHS OR AFFIR-  
30 MATIONS, SUBPOENA WITNESSES, COMPEL THEIR ATTENDANCE, EXAMINE THEM UNDER  
31 OATH OR AFFIRMATION AND REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF ANY BOOKS, RECORDS,  
32 DOCUMENTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT IT MAY DEEM RELEVANT OR MATERIAL TO AN  
33 INVESTIGATION; AND THE COMMISSION MAY DESIGNATE ANY OF ITS MEMBERS OR  
34 ANY MEMBER OF ITS STAFF TO EXERCISE ANY SUCH POWERS, PROVIDED, HOWEVER,  
35 THAT EXCEPT AS IS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED  
36 NINETY-NINE-E OF THIS ARTICLE, ONLY A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OR THE  
37 ADMINISTRATOR SHALL EXERCISE THE POWER TO SUBPOENA WITNESSES OR REQUIRE  
38 THE PRODUCTION OF BOOKS, RECORDS, DOCUMENTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE.

39 2. TO CONFER IMMUNITY WHEN THE COMMISSION DEEMS IT NECESSARY AND PROP-  
40 ER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 50.20 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW;  
41 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE  
42 OF THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO CONFER SUCH IMMUNITY IS GIVEN THE  
43 ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

44 3. TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE FROM ANY COURT, DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BOARD,  
45 BUREAU, COMMISSION, OR OTHER AGENCY OF THE STATE OR POLITICAL SUBDIVI-  
46 SION THEREOF OR ANY PUBLIC AUTHORITY SUCH ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND  
47 DATA AS WILL ENABLE IT PROPERLY TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND  
48 DUTIES.

49 4. TO REPORT ANNUALLY, ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF MARCH IN EACH  
50 YEAR AND AT SUCH OTHER TIMES AS THE COMMISSION SHALL DEEM NECESSARY, TO  
51 THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE AND THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF  
52 APPEALS, WITH RESPECT TO PROCEEDINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED  
53 BY THE COMMISSION. SUCH REPORTS MAY INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRA-  
54 TIVE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ANY OTHER  
55 REPORT SHALL CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE RELATING TO  
56 CONFIDENTIALITY.

1 5. TO ADOPT, PROMULGATE, AMEND AND RESCIND RULES AND PROCEDURES, NOT  
2 OTHERWISE INCONSISTENT WITH LAW, NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS  
3 AND PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE. ALL SUCH RULES AND PROCEDURES SHALL BE  
4 FILED IN THE OFFICES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS AND THE  
5 SECRETARY OF STATE.

6 6. TO DO ALL OTHER THINGS NECESSARY AND CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT ITS  
7 FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES EXPRESSLY SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE.

8 S 499-E. PANELS; REFEREES. 1. THE COMMISSION MAY DELEGATE ANY OF ITS  
9 FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES TO A PANEL OF THREE OF ITS MEMBERS, ONE OF  
10 WHOM SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BAR, EXCEPT THAT NO PANEL SHALL CONFER  
11 IMMUNITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 50.20 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW.  
12 NO PANEL SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISIONS  
13 FOUR THROUGH NINE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-F OF THIS ARTICLE  
14 OR SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION.

15 2. THE COMMISSION MAY DESIGNATE A MEMBER OF THE BAR WHO IS NOT A  
16 PROSECUTOR OR A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OR ITS STAFF AS A REFEREE TO  
17 HEAR AND REPORT TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
18 SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-F OF THIS ARTICLE. SUCH REFEREE SHALL  
19 BE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT HEARINGS, ADMINISTER OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS,  
20 SUBPOENA WITNESSES, COMPEL THEIR ATTENDANCE, EXAMINE THEM UNDER OATH OR  
21 AFFIRMATION AND REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF ANY BOOKS, RECORDS, DOCUMENTS  
22 OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE REFEREE MAY DEEM RELEVANT OR MATERIAL TO THE  
23 SUBJECT OF THE HEARING.

24 S 499-F. COMPLAINT; INVESTIGATION; HEARING AND DISPOSITION. 1. THE  
25 COMMISSION SHALL RECEIVE, INITIATE, INVESTIGATE AND HEAR COMPLAINTS WITH  
26 RESPECT TO THE CONDUCT, QUALIFICATIONS, FITNESS TO PERFORM, OR PERFORM-  
27 ANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES OF ANY PROSECUTOR, AND MAY DETERMINE THAT A  
28 PROSECUTOR BE ADMONISHED, OR CENSURED; AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
29 GOVERNOR THAT A PROSECUTOR BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE FOR CAUSE, FOR,  
30 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS  
31 OR HER DEPARTURE FROM HIS OR HER OBLIGATIONS UNDER APPROPRIATE STATUTE,  
32 CASELAW, AND/OR RULE 3.8 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROSECUTORS WHICH  
33 IS PART OF THE MODEL RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE AMERICAN BAR  
34 ASSOCIATION, PERSISTENT FAILURE TO PERFORM HIS OR HER DUTIES, HABITUAL  
35 INTEMPERANCE AND CONDUCT, IN AND OUTSIDE OF HIS OR HER OFFICE, PREJUDI-  
36 CIAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, OR THAT A PROSECUTOR BE RETIRED  
37 FOR MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY PREVENTING THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF  
38 HIS OR HER PROSECUTORIAL DUTIES. A COMPLAINT SHALL BE IN WRITING AND  
39 SIGNED BY THE COMPLAINANT AND, IF DIRECTED BY THE COMMISSION, SHALL BE  
40 VERIFIED. UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPLAINT (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT  
41 AN INVESTIGATION OF THE COMPLAINT; OR (B) THE COMMISSION MAY DISMISS THE  
42 COMPLAINT IF IT DETERMINES THAT THE COMPLAINT ON ITS FACE LACKS MERIT.  
43 IF THE COMPLAINT IS DISMISSED, THE COMMISSION SHALL SO NOTIFY THE  
44 COMPLAINANT. IF THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE NOTIFIED THE PROSECUTOR OF THE  
45 COMPLAINT, THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO NOTIFY THE PROSECUTOR OF SUCH  
46 DISMISSAL.

47 2. THE COMMISSION MAY, ON ITS OWN MOTION, INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION OF  
48 A PROSECUTOR WITH RESPECT TO HIS OR HER QUALIFICATIONS, CONDUCT, FITNESS  
49 TO PERFORM OR THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES. PRIOR TO  
50 INITIATING ANY SUCH INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION SHALL FILE AS PART OF  
51 ITS RECORD A WRITTEN COMPLAINT, SIGNED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
52 COMMISSION, WHICH COMPLAINT SHALL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR SUCH INVESTI-  
53 GATION.

54 3. IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE THE  
55 APPEARANCE OF THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED BEFORE IT, IN WHICH EVENT THE  
56 PROSECUTOR SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF HIS OR HER REQUIRED APPEAR-

1 ANCE, EITHER PERSONALLY, AT LEAST THREE DAYS PRIOR TO SUCH APPEARANCE,  
2 OR BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS PRIOR  
3 TO SUCH APPEARANCE. IN EITHER CASE A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE  
4 SERVED UPON THE PROSECUTOR AT THE TIME OF SUCH NOTIFICATION. THE PROSE-  
5 CUTOR SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL DURING ANY AND  
6 ALL STAGES OF THE INVESTIGATION IN WHICH HIS OR HER APPEARANCE IS  
7 REQUIRED AND TO PRESENT EVIDENTIARY DATA AND MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE  
8 COMPLAINT. A TRANSCRIPT SHALL BE MADE AND KEPT WITH RESPECT TO ALL  
9 PROCEEDINGS AT WHICH TESTIMONY OR STATEMENTS UNDER OATH OF ANY PARTY OR  
10 WITNESS SHALL BE TAKEN, AND THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROSECUTOR'S TESTIMONY  
11 SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PROSECUTOR WITHOUT COST. SUCH TRANSCRIPT  
12 SHALL BE CONFIDENTIAL EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY SECTION FOUR  
13 HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-G OF THIS ARTICLE.

14 4. IF IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION DETERMINES  
15 THAT A HEARING IS WARRANTED IT SHALL DIRECT THAT A FORMAL WRITTEN  
16 COMPLAINT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR BE DRAWN AND SERVED  
17 UPON THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED, EITHER PERSONALLY OR BY CERTIFIED MAIL,  
18 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED. THE PROSECUTOR SHALL FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO  
19 THE COMPLAINT WITH THE COMMISSION WITHIN TWENTY DAYS OF SUCH SERVICE.  
20 IF, UPON RECEIPT OF THE ANSWER, OR UPON EXPIRATION OF THE TIME TO  
21 ANSWER, THE COMMISSION SHALL DIRECT THAT A HEARING BE HELD WITH RESPECT  
22 TO THE COMPLAINT, THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING  
23 OF THE DATE OF THE HEARING EITHER PERSONALLY, AT LEAST TWENTY DAYS PRIOR  
24 THERETO, OR BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, AT LEAST TWEN-  
25 TY-TWO DAYS PRIOR THERETO. UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE PROSECUTOR,  
26 THE COMMISSION SHALL, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING OR ANY  
27 ADJOURNED DATE THEREOF, MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PROSECUTOR WITHOUT COST  
28 COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO PRESENT AT SUCH  
29 HEARING AND ANY WRITTEN STATEMENTS MADE BY WITNESSES WHO WILL BE CALLED  
30 TO GIVE TESTIMONY BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN ANY CASE,  
31 MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PROSECUTOR AT LEAST FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING  
32 OR ANY ADJOURNED DATE THEREOF ANY EXCULPATORY EVIDENTIARY DATA AND MATE-  
33 RIAL RELEVANT TO THE COMPLAINT. THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION TO TIMELY  
34 FURNISH ANY DOCUMENTS, STATEMENTS AND/OR EXCULPATORY EVIDENTIARY DATA  
35 AND MATERIAL PROVIDED FOR HEREIN SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF ANY  
36 PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION PROVIDED THAT SUCH FAILURE IS NOT  
37 SUBSTANTIALLY PREJUDICIAL TO THE PROSECUTOR. THE COMPLAINANT MAY BE  
38 NOTIFIED OF THE HEARING AND UNLESS HE OR SHE SHALL BE SUBPOENAED AS A  
39 WITNESS BY THE PROSECUTOR, HIS OR HER PRESENCE THEREAT SHALL BE WITHIN  
40 THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION. THE HEARING SHALL NOT BE PUBLIC UNLESS  
41 THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED SHALL SO DEMAND IN WRITING. AT THE HEARING THE  
42 COMMISSION MAY TAKE THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES AND RECEIVE EVIDENTIARY  
43 DATA AND MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE COMPLAINT. THE PROSECUTOR SHALL HAVE  
44 THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL DURING ANY AND ALL STAGES OF THE  
45 HEARING AND SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL AND CROSS-EXAMINE WITNESSES AND  
46 PRESENT EVIDENTIARY DATA AND MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE COMPLAINT. A TRAN-  
47 SCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND OF THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES AT THE HEAR-  
48 ING SHALL BE TAKEN AND KEPT WITH THE RECORDS OF THE COMMISSION.

49 5. SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION, THE ADMINISTRATOR AND  
50 THE PROSECUTOR MAY AGREE ON A STATEMENT OF FACTS AND MAY STIPULATE IN  
51 WRITING THAT THE HEARING SHALL BE WAIVED. IN SUCH A CASE, THE COMMISSION  
52 SHALL MAKE ITS DETERMINATION UPON THE PLEADINGS AND THE AGREED STATEMENT  
53 OF FACTS.

54 6. IF, AFTER A FORMAL WRITTEN COMPLAINT HAS BEEN SERVED PURSUANT TO  
55 SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION, OR DURING THE COURSE OF OR AFTER A  
56 HEARING, THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT NO FURTHER ACTION IS NECESSARY,

1 THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE DISMISSED AND THE COMPLAINANT AND THE PROSECUTOR  
2 SHALL BE SO NOTIFIED IN WRITING.

3 7. AFTER A HEARING, THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE THAT A PROSECUTOR BE  
4 ADMONISHED OR CENSURED, OR MAY RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR THAT A PROSECU-  
5 TOR BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE FOR CAUSE. THE COMMISSION SHALL TRANSMIT ITS  
6 WRITTEN DETERMINATION, TOGETHER WITH ITS FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLU-  
7 SIONS OF LAW AND THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS UPON WHICH ITS DETERMI-  
8 NATION IS BASED, TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS WHO SHALL  
9 CAUSE A COPY THEREOF TO BE SERVED EITHER PERSONALLY OR BY CERTIFIED  
10 MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, ON THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED. UPON  
11 COMPLETION OF SERVICE, THE DETERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION, ITS FINDINGS  
12 AND CONCLUSIONS AND THE RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC  
13 AND SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE PRINCIPAL  
14 OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AND AT THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT OF  
15 APPEALS. THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED MAY EITHER ACCEPT THE DETERMINATION OF  
16 THE COMMISSION OR MAKE WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE CHIEF JUDGE, WITHIN THIRTY  
17 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF SUCH DETERMINATION, FOR A REVIEW THEREOF BY THE  
18 COURT OF APPEALS. IF THE COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED THAT A PROSECUTOR BE  
19 ADMONISHED OR CENSURED, AND IF THE PROSECUTOR ACCEPTS SUCH DETERMINATION  
20 OR FAILS TO REQUEST A REVIEW THEREOF BY THE COURT OF APPEALS, THE  
21 COMMISSION SHALL THEREUPON ADMONISH OR CENSURE HIM OR HER IN ACCORDANCE  
22 WITH ITS FINDINGS. IF THE COMMISSION HAS AND THE COURT OF APPEALS RECOM-  
23 MENDS THAT A PROSECUTOR BE REMOVED IT SHALL TRANSMIT THE COMMISSION AND  
24 COURT OF APPEALS FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR WHO WILL INDEPENDENTLY DETER-  
25 MINE WHETHER THE PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE REMOVED OR RETIRED.

26 8. IF THE PROSECUTOR REQUESTS A REVIEW OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE  
27 COMMISSION, IN ITS REVIEW OF A DETERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION, THE  
28 COURT OF APPEALS SHALL REVIEW THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS OF FACT AND  
29 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW ON THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS UPON WHICH THE  
30 COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION WAS BASED. AFTER SUCH REVIEW, THE COURT MAY  
31 ACCEPT OR REJECT THE DETERMINED SANCTION; IMPOSE A DIFFERENT SANCTION  
32 INCLUDING ADMONITION OR CENSURE, RECOMMEND REMOVAL OR RETIREMENT FOR THE  
33 REASONS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION; OR IMPOSE NO SANC-  
34 TION. HOWEVER, IF THE COURT OF APPEALS DETERMINES REMOVAL OR RETIRE-  
35 MENT, IT SHALL, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSION, TRANSMIT THE ENTIRE RECORD  
36 TO THE GOVERNOR WHO WILL INDEPENDENTLY DETERMINE WHETHER A PROSECUTOR  
37 SHOULD BE REMOVED OR RETIRED.

38 9. (A) THE COURT OF APPEALS MAY SUSPEND A PROSECUTOR FROM EXERCISING  
39 THE POWERS OF HIS OR HER OFFICE WHILE THERE IS PENDING A DETERMINATION  
40 BY THE COMMISSION FOR HIS OR HER REMOVAL OR RETIREMENT, OR WHILE HE OR  
41 SHE IS CHARGED IN THIS STATE WITH A FELONY BY AN INDICTMENT OR AN INFOR-  
42 MATION FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION SIX OF ARTICLE ONE OF THE CONSTITUTION.  
43 THE SUSPENSION SHALL CONTINUE UPON CONVICTION AND, IF THE CONVICTION  
44 BECOMES FINAL, HE OR SHE SHALL BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR.  
45 THE SUSPENSION SHALL BE TERMINATED UPON REVERSAL OF THE CONVICTION AND  
46 DISMISSAL OF THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT.

47 (B) UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION OR ON ITS OWN MOTION,  
48 THE COURT MAY SUSPEND A PROSECUTOR FROM OFFICE WHEN HE OR SHE IS CHARGED  
49 WITH A CRIME PUNISHABLE AS A FELONY UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE, OR ANY  
50 OTHER CRIME WHICH INVOLVES MORAL TURPITUDE. THE SUSPENSION SHALL CONTIN-  
51 UE UPON CONVICTION AND, IF THE CONVICTION BECOMES FINAL, HE OR SHE SHALL  
52 BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE. THE SUSPENSION SHALL BE TERMINATED UPON REVERSAL  
53 OF THE CONVICTION AND DISMISSAL OF THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT.

54 (C) A PROSECUTOR WHO IS SUSPENDED FROM OFFICE BY THE COURT SHALL  
55 RECEIVE HIS OR HER SALARY DURING SUCH PERIOD OF SUSPENSION, UNLESS THE  
56 COURT DIRECTS OTHERWISE. IF THE COURT HAS SO DIRECTED AND SUCH SUSPEN-

1 SION IS THEREAFTER TERMINATED, THE COURT MAY DIRECT THAT HE OR SHE SHALL  
2 BE PAID HIS OR HER SALARY FOR SUCH PERIOD OF SUSPENSION.

3 (D) NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL PREVENT THE COMMISSION FROM  
4 DETERMINING THAT A PROSECUTOR BE ADMONISHED OR CENSURED OR PREVENT THE  
5 COMMISSION FROM RECOMMENDING REMOVAL OR RETIREMENT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVI-  
6 SION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION.

7 10. IF DURING THE COURSE OF OR AFTER AN INVESTIGATION OR HEARING, THE  
8 COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT THE COMPLAINT OR ANY ALLEGATION THEREOF  
9 WARRANTS ACTION, OTHER THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDI-  
10 VISIONS SEVEN THROUGH NINE OF THIS SECTION, WITHIN THE POWERS OF: (A) A  
11 PERSON HAVING ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER THE PROSECUTOR INVOLVED  
12 IN THE COMPLAINT; OR (B) AN APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT; OR  
13 (C) A PRESIDING JUSTICE OF AN APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT;  
14 OR (D) THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS; OR (E) THE GOVERNOR  
15 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (B) OF SECTION THIRTEEN OF ARTICLE THIRTEEN OF  
16 THE CONSTITUTION; OR (F) AN APPLICABLE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OR  
17 OTHER PROSECUTING AGENCY, THE COMMISSION SHALL REFER SUCH COMPLAINT OR  
18 THE APPROPRIATE ALLEGATIONS THEREOF AND ANY EVIDENCE OR MATERIAL RELATED  
19 THERETO TO SUCH PERSON, AGENCY OR COURT FOR SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE DEEMED  
20 PROPER OR NECESSARY.

21 11. THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY THE COMPLAINANT OF ITS DISPOSITION OF  
22 THE COMPLAINT.

23 12. IN THE EVENT OF REMOVAL FROM OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR OF ANY PROSE-  
24 CUTOR, A VACANCY SHALL EXIST PURSUANT TO ARTICLE THREE OF THE PUBLIC  
25 OFFICERS LAW.

26 S 499-G. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS. EXCEPT AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED,  
27 ALL COMPLAINTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSCRIPTS  
28 THEREOF, OTHER PAPERS AND DATA AND RECORDS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE  
29 CONFIDENTIAL AND SHALL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY PERSON EXCEPT PURSU-  
30 ANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-F OF THIS ARTICLE. THE COMMIS-  
31 SION AND ITS DESIGNATED STAFF PERSONNEL SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO CONFIDEN-  
32 TIAL MATERIAL IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES. IF THE  
33 PROSECUTOR WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT SO REQUESTS IN WRITING,  
34 COPIES OF THE COMPLAINT, THE TRANSCRIPTS OF HEARINGS BY THE COMMISSION  
35 THEREON, IF ANY, AND THE DISPOSITIVE ACTION OF THE COMMISSION WITH  
36 RESPECT TO THE COMPLAINT, SUCH COPIES WITH ANY REFERENCE TO THE IDENTITY  
37 OF ANY PERSON WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE AT ANY SUCH HEARING SUITABLY  
38 DELETED THEREFROM, EXCEPT THE SUBJECT PROSECUTOR OR COMPLAINANT, SHALL  
39 BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND COPYING TO THE PUBLIC, OR TO ANY  
40 PERSON, AGENCY OR BODY DESIGNATED BY SUCH PROSECUTOR.

41 S 499-H. BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMISSION INFORMATION. 1. ANY  
42 STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL  
43 CONDUCT WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINE-  
44 TY-NINE-G OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A REPRIMAND, A FINE,  
45 SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL BY THE COMMISSION.

46 2. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE THAT A  
47 STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE COMMISSION HAS OR MAY HAVE  
48 BREACHED THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-G OF THIS  
49 ARTICLE, WRITTEN CHARGES AGAINST SUCH STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT  
50 SHALL BE PREPARED AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION AND FILED  
51 WITH THE COMMISSION. WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF CHARGES, THE  
52 COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE, BY A VOTE OF THE MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS  
53 OF THE COMMISSION, WHETHER PROBABLE CAUSE FOR SUCH CHARGES EXISTS. IF  
54 SUCH DETERMINATION IS AFFIRMATIVE, WITHIN FIVE DAYS THEREAFTER A WRITTEN  
55 STATEMENT SPECIFYING THE CHARGES IN DETAIL AND OUTLINING HIS OR HER  
56 RIGHTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE ACCUSED STAFF

1 MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL. THE COMMISSION MAY SUSPEND  
2 THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT, WITH OR WITHOUT PAY, PENDING THE  
3 FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE CHARGES. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE  
4 STATEMENT OF CHARGES, THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT SHALL NOTIFY  
5 THE COMMISSION IN WRITING WHETHER HE OR SHE DESIRES A HEARING ON THE  
6 CHARGES. THE FAILURE OF THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT TO NOTIFY  
7 THE COMMISSION OF HIS OR HER DESIRE TO HAVE A HEARING WITHIN SUCH PERIOD  
8 OF TIME SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO A HEARING. IF THE HEAR-  
9 ING HAS BEEN WAIVED, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROCEED, WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER  
10 SUCH WAIVER, BY A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF SUCH COMMIS-  
11 SION, TO DETERMINE THE CHARGES AND FIX THE PENALTY OR PUNISHMENT, IF  
12 ANY, TO BE IMPOSED AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED.

13 3. UPON RECEIPT OF A REQUEST FOR A HEARING, THE COMMISSION SHALL SCHE-  
14 DULE A HEARING, TO BE HELD AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES, WITHIN TWENTY DAYS  
15 AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST THEREFOR, AND SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY IN  
16 WRITING THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE TIME AND PLACE THERE-  
17 OF.

18 4. THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ESTABLISH NECESSARY RULES  
19 AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF HEARINGS UNDER THIS SECTION. SUCH  
20 RULES SHALL NOT REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL RULES OF EVIDENCE. ALL  
21 SUCH HEARINGS SHALL BE HELD BEFORE A HEARING PANEL COMPOSED OF THREE  
22 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION. EACH HEARING SHALL  
23 BE CONDUCTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL WHO SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE  
24 PANEL. THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT SHALL HAVE A REASONABLE  
25 OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND TO TESTIFY ON HIS OR HER OWN BEHALF.  
26 HE OR SHE SHALL ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, TO  
27 SUBPOENA WITNESSES AND TO CROSS-EXAMINE WITNESSES. ALL TESTIMONY TAKEN  
28 SHALL BE UNDER OATH WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED  
29 TO ADMINISTER. A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS SHALL BE MADE AND A COPY OF  
30 THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING SHALL, UPON WRITTEN REQUEST, BE FURNISHED  
31 WITHOUT CHARGE TO THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT INVOLVED.

32 5. WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A HEARING, THE PANEL SHALL  
33 FORWARD A REPORT OF THE HEARING, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDA-  
34 TIONS, INCLUDING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO PENALTY OR PUNISHMENT, IF ONE  
35 IS WARRANTED, TO THE COMMISSION AND TO THE ACCUSED STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOY-  
36 EE OR AGENT. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF SUCH REPORT THE COMMISSION  
37 SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER IT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
38 PANEL. IF THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE TO IMPLEMENT SUCH RECOMMENDA-  
39 TIONS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE PENALTY OR PUNISHMENT, IF ANY, OF A  
40 REPRIMAND, A FINE, SUSPENSION FOR A FIXED TIME WITHOUT PAY OR DISMISSAL,  
41 IT SHALL DO SO WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER SUCH DETERMINATION. IF THE CHARGES  
42 AGAINST THE STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT ARE DISMISSED, HE OR SHE  
43 SHALL BE RESTORED TO HIS OR HER POSITION WITH FULL PAY FOR ANY PERIOD OF  
44 SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND THE CHARGES SHALL BE EXPUNGED FROM HIS OR HER  
45 RECORD.

46 6. THE ACCUSED STAFF MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT MAY SEEK REVIEW OF THE  
47 RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMISSION BY WAY OF A SPECIAL PROCEEDING PURSUANT  
48 TO ARTICLE SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.

49 S 499-I. RESIGNATION NOT TO DIVEST COMMISSION OR COURT OF APPEALS OF  
50 JURISDICTION. THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND THE COMMIS-  
51 SION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL CONTINUE NOTWITHSTANDING THAT A  
52 PROSECUTOR RESIGNS FROM OFFICE AFTER A RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMISSION  
53 THAT THE PROSECUTOR BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE  
54 CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, OR IN ANY CASE IN WHICH THE COMMIS-  
55 SION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT A PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE  
56 SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS WITHIN



1 ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
2 COURTS OF THE RESIGNATION OF SUCH PROSECUTOR. ANY DETERMINATION BY THE  
3 GOVERNOR THAT A PROSECUTOR WHO HAS RESIGNED SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM  
4 OFFICE SHALL RENDER SUCH PROSECUTOR INELIGIBLE TO HOLD ANY OTHER PROSE-  
5 CUTORIAL OFFICE.

6 S 499-J. EFFECT. 1. THE POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE  
7 COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT SHALL NOT SUPERSEDE THE POWERS AND  
8 DUTIES OF THE GOVERNOR AS OUTLINED IN SECTION THIRTEEN OF ARTICLE THIR-  
9 TEEN OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION.

10 2. REMOVAL OR RETIREMENT OF A PROSECUTOR PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE  
11 SHALL BE CONSIDERED A REMOVAL FROM OFFICE PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY OF  
12 THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW.

13 S 2. If any part or provision of this act is adjudged by a court of  
14 competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such  
15 judgment shall not affect or impair any other part or provision of this  
16 act, but shall be confined in its operation to such part or provision.

17 S 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2016.