

6946

I N S E N A T E

March 8, 2016

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

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to expediting actions involving insurance claims for damages resulting from a state disaster emergency

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

1 Section 1. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding three  
2 new rules 3410, 3411 and 3412 to read as follows:

3 RULE 3410. MANDATORY PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE IN CERTAIN INSURANCE  
4 ACTIONS. (A) IN ANY ACTION INVOLVING AN INSURANCE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES  
5 OCCURRING TO PROPERTY IN A COUNTY WHERE A STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY HAS  
6 BEEN DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE  
7 EXECUTIVE LAW RELATING TO ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM THE CAUSE OF SUCH  
8 DECLARATION, THE COURT SHALL HOLD A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE WITHIN THIRTY  
9 DAYS AFTER THE REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION IS FILED.

10 (B) AT ANY CONFERENCE HELD PURSUANT TO THIS RULE, ALL PARTIES SHALL  
11 APPEAR IN PERSON OR BY COUNSEL, AND IF APPEARING BY COUNSEL, SUCH COUN-  
12 SEL SHALL BE FULLY AUTHORIZED TO DISPOSE OF THE CASE. IN THE COURT'S  
13 DISCRETION, THE COURT MAY PERMIT A REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY PARTY TO ATTEND  
14 THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE TELEPHONICALLY OR BY VIDEO-CONFERENCE.

15 (C) UPON FILING OF A REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION, THE COURT  
16 SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A NOTICE TO PARTIES ADVISING THEM OF THE TIME AND  
17 PLACE OF THE CONFERENCE, THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE REQUIRE-  
18 MENTS OF THIS RULE. THE NOTICE SHALL BE IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE  
19 OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, OR, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICE OF  
20 COURT ADMINISTRATION, THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
21 IN WHICH THE ACTION IS PENDING, AND SHALL ADVISE THE PARTIES OF THE  
22 DOCUMENTS THAT THEY SHOULD BRING TO THE CONFERENCE.

23 (D) NO ADJOURNMENT IN EXCESS OF TEN DAYS SHALL BE GRANTED BY THE COURT  
24 FOR ANY SUCH PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE, AND SUCH AN ADJOURNMENT SHALL ONLY  
25 BE GRANTED UPON GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.

26 (E) DISCOVERY SHALL BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIXTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF  
27 THE PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE, AND PENALTIES MAY BE ASSESSED AGAINST ANY

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

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1 PARTY AS PER SECTION THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX OF THIS CHAP-  
2 TER FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH DISCOVERY WITHIN SAID SIXTY DAY TIME  
3 PERIOD. THE COURT MAY EXTEND SAID SIXTY DAY TIME PERIOD SUA SPONTE IN  
4 THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE, OR UPON GOOD CAUSE SHOWN BY ANY PARTY.

5 RULE 3411. MANDATORY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IN CERTAIN INSURANCE  
6 ACTIONS. IN ANY ACTION INVOLVING AN INSURANCE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES OCCUR-  
7 RING TO PROPERTY IN A COUNTY WHERE A STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY HAS BEEN  
8 DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE EXECU-  
9 TIVE LAW RELATING TO ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM THE CAUSE OF SUCH DECLARA-  
10 TION, THE COURT SHALL HOLD A MANDATORY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WITHIN  
11 FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER A NOTE OF ISSUE HAS BEEN FILED FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
12 HOLDING SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO SUCH INSURANCE CLAIMS.

13 RULE 3412. MOTIONS IN CERTAIN INSURANCE ACTIONS. (A) NOTWITHSTANDING  
14 SUBDIVISION (A) OF RULE THIRTY-TWO HUNDRED TWELVE OF THIS CHAPTER, IN  
15 ANY ACTION INVOLVING AN INSURANCE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES OCCURRING TO PROPER-  
16 TY IN A COUNTY WHERE A STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE  
17 GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW RELATING  
18 TO ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM THE CAUSE OF SUCH DECLARATION, ALL PRE-TRIAL  
19 MOTIONS SHALL BE MADE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE NOTE OF ISSUE IS  
20 FILED.

21 (B) THIS RULE SHALL NOT APPLY TO CLAIMS INVOLVING REINSURANCE.

22 S 2. Subdivision (a) of rule 3403 of the civil practice law and rules  
23 is amended by adding a new paragraph 7 to read as follows:

24 7. AN ACTION TO RECOVER DAMAGES RESULTING FROM DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN A  
25 COUNTY CAUSED BY A NATURAL DISASTER UPON DECLARATION OF A STATE DISASTER  
26 EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE EXECU-  
27 TIVE LAW RELATING TO ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM THE CAUSE OF SUCH DECLARA-  
28 TION.

29 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.