

STATE OF NEW YORK

10074

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law and the criminal procedure law,
in relation to the withholding of salaries of elected officials who
have been indicted on charges of any crimes related to their public
office

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Article 8 of the public officers law, as renumbered by
2 chapter 511 of the laws of 1976, is renumbered article 9 and a new arti-
3 cle 8 is added to read as follows:

ARTICLE 8

WITHHOLDING SALARY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Section 112. Definitions.

113. Terms and conditions.

114. Withholding of salary payments.

§ 112. Definitions. As used in this article:

10 1. "Elected officials" means every officer who is elected by electors
11 of the state or officer who is elected by a political party.

12 2. "Crimes related to public office" means any of the following crimi-
13 nal offenses whether committed in this state or in any other jurisdic-
14 tion by an elected official through the use of his or her public office
15 or by the individual representing that he or she was acting with the
16 authority of any governmental entity, and acting as an elected official:

17 a. a felony for committing, aiding or abetting a larceny of public
18 funds from the state or a municipality;

19 b. a felony committed in direct connection with service as an elected
20 official; or

21 c. a felony committed by such person who, with the intent to defraud,
22 realizes or obtains, or attempts to realize or obtain, a profit, gain or
23 advantage for himself or herself or for some other person, through the
24 use or attempted use of the power, rights, privileges or duties of his
25 or her position as an elected official.

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

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1 § 113. Terms and conditions. Notwithstanding any other law to the
2 contrary, it shall be a term and condition of holding public elected
3 office in the state of New York that all elected officials' salary
4 payments are subject to the provisions of this article.

5 § 114. Withholding of salary payments. 1. a. Upon notification of an
6 indictment pursuant to section 190.95 of the criminal procedure law, the
7 public employer of an elected official, who has been indicted on charges
8 of any crimes related to their public office, shall withhold such
9 elected official's salary payments. If such elected official seeks
10 another public office or another public employment position while under
11 indictment, it shall be the burden of the elected official to notify
12 their new public employer of their indictment. This section shall apply
13 for all salary payments while employed as an elected official, official
14 or employee of the state or local government.

15 b. A public employer shall notify the elected official of such salary
16 payment withholding and provide them with a copy of notification of the
17 indictment pursuant to section 190.95 of the criminal procedure law.

18 2. Upon notification, the public employer or employers of an elected
19 official facing charges of crimes related to their public office that
20 has had such charges dismissed, acquitted or have been found not guilty
21 by trial jury, shall promptly pay the withheld salary payments to the
22 elected official within sixty days.

23 3. Upon a plea of guilty, or by conviction after trial to crimes
24 related to public office of an elected official, the withheld salary
25 payments shall not be paid and returned. Such withheld payments shall be
26 deposited into the public employer's general fund.

27 4. A public employer shall provide the elected official with a
28 detailed accounting of the withheld salary payments following the
29 conclusion of an indictment pursuant to subdivision two or three of this
30 section.

31 § 2. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section
32 190.95 to read as follows:

33 § 190.95 Grand jury; notification of indictment in certain cases.

34 Upon the indictment of an elected official on crimes related to public
35 office, as defined in section one hundred twelve of the public officers
36 law, the grand jury shall direct the district attorney to notify the
37 elected official's public employer of the indictment. The district
38 attorney shall notify the public employer no later than thirty days
39 following the indictment.

40 § 3. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section
41 220.52 to read as follows:

42 § 220.52 Notice of entry of guilty plea involving an elected official.

43 The court shall notify the public employer or employers of a defend-
44 ant, who is facing crimes related to their public office as an elected
45 official as defined in section one hundred twelve of the public officers
46 law, that has entered a guilty plea to a count or counts of an indict-
47 ment of a crime that was related to their public office. The court shall
48 notify such defendant's public employer or employers of the entry of a
49 guilty plea within thirty days.

50 § 4. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section
51 310.90 to read as follows:

52 § 310.90 Verdict; notification in certain cases.

53 The verdict of the jury involving a defendant, who at the time of the
54 criminal act in question was an elected official and the crimes were
55 related to their public office, shall be transmitted by the court to the
56 defendant's public employer or employers within thirty days.

§ 5. Section 290.10 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. Upon issuing a trial order of dismissal for a defendant, who at the time of the criminal act or acts in question was an elected official and the crimes were related to their public office, which dismisses all counts of the indictment which are related to the defendant's public office, the court shall notify the defendant's public employer within thirty days.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.