STATE OF NEW YORK

9433

IN SENATE

May 27, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the uniform justice court act, the town law and the village law, in relation to requiring certain town and village justices be admitted to practice law in the state

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

Section 1. Section 105 of the uniform justice court act is amended by adding a new subdivision (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Education. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person may serve as a town or village justice in a town or village with a high volume caseload unless they are admitted to practice law in the state. For the purposes of this subdivision, "town or village with a high volume caseload" shall mean the fifty highest volume caseloads in town and village courts in the state as determined by the office of court administration in consultation with the division of criminal justice services. The initial determination shall be based on the sum of cases from two thousand eighteen and two thousand nineteen. Subsequent determinations shall take place every ten years thereafter and shall use the sum of at least two years' data. Any change in the requirements for eligibility to serve as a town or village justice in such town or village shall take effect upon commencement of the next judicial term of office following the designation as a town or village with a high volume caseload.

§ 2. Section 31 of the town law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person may serve as a town justice in a town with a high volume caseload, as determined pursuant to subdivision (a-1) of section one hundred five of the uniform justice court act, unless they are admitted to practice law in the state. Any change in the requirements for eligibility to serve as a town justice in such town shall take effect upon commencement of the next judicial term of office following the designation as a town with a high volume caseload.

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

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§ 3. Section 3-301 of the village law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person may serve as a village justice in a village with a high volume caseload, as determined pursuant to subdivision (a-1) of section one hundred five of the uniform justice court act, unless they are admitted to practice law in the state. Any change in the requirements for eligibility to serve as a village justice in such village shall take effect upon commencement of the next judicial term of office following the designation as a village with a high volume caseload.

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