STATE OF NEW YORK

10597

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Cunningham) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to implementing the "Cassie's law"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cassie's law".

§ 2. Article 5 of the general obligations law is amended by adding a new title 18 to read as follows:

TITLE 18

CERTAIN CONTRACTS RENDERING CRIMINAL ASSISTANCE VOID

Section 5-1801. Certain contracts rendering criminal assistance void.

§ 5-1801. Certain contracts rendering criminal assistance void. 1. For the purposes of this section, a person or private entity "renders criminal assistance" when, with intent to prevent, hinder or delay the discovery or apprehension of, or the lodging of a criminal charge against, an alleged offender who such person or private entity knows or believes has committed a crime or is being sought by law enforcement officials for the commission of a crime, such person or private entity suppresses, by any act of concealment, alteration or destruction, any physical evidence which might aid in the discovery or apprehension of such alleged offender or in the lodging of a criminal charge against such alleged offender in exchange for monetary or non-monetary compensation.

2. Every undertaking or promise, whether written or oral, express or implied, constituting or contained, in any contract or agreement to render criminal assistance between any individual or private entity, is hereby declared to be contrary to public policy and wholly void. The victim of a crime, who was the subject of the undertaking or promise, whether written or oral, express or implied, constituting or contained, in any contract or agreement to render criminal assistance between any

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

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individual or private entity, shall have a right of private action against such individual or private entity.

3. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to abrogate or otherwise limit any right or remedy otherwise conferred by federal or state law.

4. A cause of action under this section shall be commenced no later than five years from the date a crime victim discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, such concealment of a crime by either a person or private entity.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.