STATE OF NEW YORK

1463

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER, MAMDANI, EPSTEIN, SIMON, KELLES, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law and the penal law, in relation to abolishing citizen's arrests; and to repeal certain provisions of the criminal procedure law and the family court act relating thereto

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

Section 1. Section 140.45 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 550 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

§ 140.45 Arrest without a warrant; dismissal of insufficient local criminal court accusatory instrument.

If a local criminal court accusatory instrument filed with a local criminal court pursuant to section 140.20[~~,~~] or 140.25 [~~or 140.40~~] is not sufficient on its face, as prescribed in section 100.40, and if the court is satisfied that on the basis of the available facts or evidence it would be impossible to draw and file an accusatory instrument which is sufficient on its face, it must dismiss such accusatory instrument and discharge the defendant.

§ 2. Sections 140.30, 140.35 and 140.40 of the criminal procedure law are REPEALED.

§ 3. Subdivision 4 of section 35.30 of the penal law, as added by chapter 73 of the laws of 1968, the opening paragraph and paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 511 of the laws of 2004 and paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 264 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

4. A private person acting on [~~his or her~~] their own account may use physical force, other than deadly physical force, upon another person when and to the extent that [~~he or she~~] such principal person reasonably believes such to be necessary to [~~effect an arrest or to~~] prevent the escape [~~from custody~~] of a person whom [~~he or she~~] such principal person

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

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reasonably believes to have committed [~~an offense~~] a felony and who in fact has committed [~~such offense~~] a felony and is in immediate flight therefrom; and may use deadly physical force for such purpose when [~~he or she~~] such principal person reasonably believes such to be necessary to[~~:~~

~~(a) Defend himself, herself~~] defend themself or a third person from what [~~he or she~~] such principal person reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force[~~; or~~

~~(b) Effect the arrest of a person who has committed murder, manslaughter in the first degree, robbery, forcible rape or forcible criminal sexual act and who is in immediate flight therefrom~~].

§ 4. Section 305.1 of the family court act is REPEALED.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.