STATE OF NEW YORK

3959

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 31, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to the creation of the fourteenth judicial district consisting of the county of Monroe

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

Section 1. Section 70 of the judiciary law, as amended by chapter 690 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

§ 70. Judicial departments. The state is hereby divided into four judicial departments. The first department shall consist of the counties embraced within the first and twelfth judicial districts; the second department shall consist of the counties embraced within the second, ninth, tenth, eleventh and thirteenth judicial districts; the third department shall consist of the counties embraced within the third, fourth and sixth judicial districts; the fourth department shall consist of the counties embraced within the fifth, seventh [~~and~~], eighth **and fourteenth** judicial districts.

§ 2. The opening paragraph and the seventh undesignated paragraph of section 140 of the judiciary law, the opening paragraph as amended by chapter 690 of the laws of 2007 and the seventh undesignated paragraph as amended by chapter 10 of the laws of 1948, are amended and a new fourteenth undesignated paragraph is added to read as follows:

The state is hereby divided into [~~thirteen~~] **fourteen** judicial districts, pursuant to the provisions of the first section of the sixth article of the constitution, which districts shall be arranged as follows:

The seventh judicial district shall consist of the counties of Livingston, Wayne, Seneca, Yates, Ontario, Steuben[~~, Monroe~~] and Cayuga;

The fourteenth judicial district shall consist of the county of Monroe. The creation of such fourteenth judicial district shall not affect or impair the rights, privileges or compensation of any officer

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

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or employee of the supreme court in office on the first day of January, two thousand twenty-six in the seventh judicial district as theretofore constituted; each such officer or employee employed in the county of Monroe on such date shall thereafter be an officer or employee for the fourteenth judicial district and each such officer or employee employed in the counties of Livingston, Wayne, Seneca, Yates, Ontario, Steuben and Cayuga on such date shall thereafter be an officer or employee for the seventh judicial district.

§ 3. Subdivisions 7 and 13 of section 140-a of the judicial law, as amended by chapter 749 of the laws of 2023, are amended and a new subdivision 14 is added to read as follows:

7. Seventh district, [~~twenty~~] six;

13. Thirteenth district, nine[~~.~~]; and

14. Fourteenth district, fourteen.

§ 4. The county of Monroe shall establish, maintain and expand, if necessary, its court library, as established in accordance with sections 813 and 814 of the judiciary law, to accommodate the needs of the fourteenth judicial district.

§ 5. The following named justices or their successors in office on the effective date of this act shall for the remainder of the terms for which they were elected or appointed be justices of the supreme court in and for the seventh judicial district as reconstituted and continued by this act.

Elena F. Cariola
Jason Cook
Craig J. Doran
William K. Taylor
James A. Vazzana
Joseph D. Waldorf

The following named justices or their successors in office on the effective date of this act shall for the remainder of the terms for which they were elected or appointed be justices of the supreme court in and for the fourteenth judicial district as created and constituted by this act.

Victoria M. Argento
Vincent M. Dinolfo
Gail A. Donofrio
Daniel J. Doyle
John B. Gallagher, Jr.
Steven K. Lindley
Kevin M. Nasca
Alex R. Renzi
Stacey M. Romeo
Judith A. Sinclair
Charles A. Schiano, Jr.
Erin Skinner
Sam L. Valleriani
James W. Walsh

§ 6. It is the intended object of this act to erect, in the fourth judicial department, the fourteenth judicial district, comprised of the county of Monroe and to provide for the employees thereof selection, designation, nomination and election in the general election to be held in November, 2026 of justices of the seventh and fourteenth judicial districts consistent with the foregoing provisions of this act. Any other consistent provision of law, rule or regulation which by its terms or in its application aids in the accomplishment of such object shall be

given full force and effect. Any provision which is inconsistent with the accomplishment of such object shall be denied force and effect to the extent that it may be applicable thereto.

§ 7. If any provisions of any section of this act shall be held void or unconstitutional, all other provisions and all other sections of this act which are not expressly held to be void or unconstitutional shall continue in full force and effect.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that sections one through five of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.