STATE OF NEW YORK

8848

IN SENATE

January 9, 2026

Introduced by Sen. LIU -- 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 enacting the "Clock Should Stop Act"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Clock Should Stop Act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. On Wednesday, July 30, 2025, a young woman taking the New York State bar exam at a location at Hofstra University suddenly suffered an apparent heart attack shortly before the scheduled lunch break. The woman collapsed onto the floor, suffered impaired breathing, and turned blue. Emergency help was summoned and subsequently, Hofstra Public Safety officers provided life-saving emergency care to the woman, including CPR and defibrillation, until paramedics arrived and transported the woman to a nearby hospital. It has been reported that there was a delay in seeking assistance for the young woman.

Multiple other bar examination takers were present during the incident. Despite the occurrence of this medical emergency, the morning session of the bar examination was not halted. The examination was allowed to continue to the conclusion of the morning session, at which time the other examination-takers were allowed to leave the room. These same individuals were required to return to the scene of the emergency an hour later and complete the afternoon session of the examination.

The legislature finds that there is a need to establish protocols to address medical or other emergencies that occur during the administration of the New York State bar examination. These protocols should address measures taken to render assistance to an injured or ill person, and address other conditions of the emergency, as well as measures to provide testing accommodations to other examination-takers affected by the emergency.

§ 3. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new section 460-a to read as follows:

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

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§ 460-a. Special arrangements due to emergency. 1. The state board of law examiners shall provide protocols for:

(a) addressing emergencies that occur immediately prior to or during the administration of the bar examination, including during any routinely scheduled lunch breaks; and

(b) providing testing accommodations for persons who have applied for examination for admission to practice as an attorney and counsellor-at-law and who are the subject of, are witness to or are affected by the emergency or emergencies.

2. As used in this section, "emergency" includes:

(a) the medical emergency of a person who has applied for examination for admission to practice as an attorney and counsellor-at-law;

(b) a criminal incident that directly and materially affects an examination location or the administration of the examination; and

(c) any natural or man-made disaster as contemplated by section twenty of the executive law that directly and materially affects an examination location or the administration of the examination.

3. The protocols required by this section shall include procedures to:

(a)(i) immediately seek medical assistance for any person who suffers illness or a physical injury as a result of the emergency;

(ii) allow for the use of cell phones by examination proctors to be used for the purpose of summoning emergency assistance; and

(iii) mandate an immediate pause of the examination timer when an emergency is reported or observed, without delay, to uphold examinee welfare and preserve the integrity of the testing process;

(b) ensure the prompt reporting of the incident, and to the extent possible, the safety of persons present in the location of the emergency; and

(c) provide testing accommodations for persons taking the examination in the same location who were affected by the occurrence of the emergency, including:

(i) providing additional time to complete the portion of the examination during which the emergency occurred to compensate for any time lost as a result of the emergency or a response to the emergency;

(ii) allowing credit for those portions of the exam that were completed prior to the occurrence of the emergency; and

(iii) allowing affected persons to re-take the examination, or a portion thereof, at no additional fee and without penalty within six months from original exam date.

4. (a) Any person provided a testing accommodation under paragraph (c) of subdivision three of this section shall be required to provide proof of attendance at the examination at the location where and on the date when the emergency occurred.

(b) If a person elects to complete the examination on the date of the emergency, a testing accommodation shall be allowed under paragraph (c) of subdivision three of this section only in the event that the person fails the examination due to such person's score on the portion of the examination during which the emergency occurred or a subsequent portion of the examination completed on the same date.

(c) No person shall be allowed more than one testing accommodation under this section.

5. The retaking of an examination or any portion thereof pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to constitute an examination for purposes of the limit specified under section 6000.4(c) of the rules of the state board of law examiners.

6. The state board of law examiners shall render an annual report on the number of law examinees receiving testing accommodations pursuant to this section, if any, and the types of testing accommodations provided.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law; and shall apply to New York State bar examinations administered on and after such effective date. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.