



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S1571 (Gianaris) / A7739 (Simon)

Requires online publishing of NYS judges' financial disclosure statements

March 22, 2024

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the Judiciary Law, in relation to requiring the Ethics Commission of the Unified Court System to post judges' annual financial disclosures on the Commission's website.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 adds a new subsection (b) to subdivision 4 of section 211 of the Judiciary Law to require that financial disclosures and amendments filed by any state-paid judge or justice to be published on the Ethics Commission website within 30 days of receipt of the statement, or 10 days of receipt of an amendment.

Section 2 sets the effective date as immediate.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Our groups support this legislation because it increases public access to the financial disclosure statements submitted by NYS judges. Currently, statements [are only available upon written request](#) from the Unified Court System's Ethics Commission. Financial disclosure statements of state legislators and statewide elected officials are published [online by the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government](#), so we see no reason why statements from judges – many of whom are elected – should not also be published online.

Financial disclosure statements allow the public to see potential conflicts of interest among public officials, and whether governmental decisions being made are being improperly influenced.

We urge the Legislature to pass this bill and consider other measures to [further increase transparency of financial disclosure statements](#).