



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S7524 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A10350 (Shimsky)

Expands e-filing in NYS courts

July 30, 2024

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the judiciary law, the civil practice law and rules, the court of claims act, the New York city criminal court act, the uniform district court act, the uniform city court act, the uniform justice court act, the criminal procedure law and the family court act, in relation to filing by electronic means; to amend chapter 237 of the laws of 2015 amending the judiciary law, the civil practice law and rules and other laws relating to the use of electronic means for the commencement and filing of papers in certain actions and proceedings, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal certain provisions of the civil practice law and rules, the criminal procedure law and the family court act, relating to court filings.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it will streamline NYS court filing, increase transparency, and save taxpayer dollars. E-filing has been used in NYS courts for years, but the rules vary by court (and even divisions within courts), creating a complicated set of rules for litigants to navigate. Additionally, the continued use of paper filings is costing taxpayers millions of dollars in administrative and printing costs. The slow pace of change has been due in part to provisions of law that require paper filing.

[According to the NYS Bar Association](#), other states, including Florida and Utah, have transitioned to e-filing and seen massive benefits including millions in savings and reduced administrative costs. This bill will help NY do the same. E-filing will also enable greater transparency of court records by reducing the number of steps it takes to disclose such records to the public.

We urge Governor Hochul to sign the bill.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 amends the Judiciary Law to include County Courts and District Attorneys in those counties among those whom the chief administrator of the courts shall consult with when preparing an annual report on the use of e-filing.

Section 2 extends e-filing to all of the state's trial courts of civil jurisdiction.

Section 3 permits the Chief Judge to institute mandatory e-filing at their discretion.

Sections 4 and 14 respectively make technical changes to the Civil Practice Law and Rules, and Criminal Procedure Law.

Section 5 amends the Civil Practice Law and Rules to clarify that e-filing rules may apply to terms established by appellate divisions.

Section 6 eliminates the Court of Claims language to make e-filing and fax filing no longer voluntary.

Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 respectively clarify that e-filing may be used in the Criminal Court, and civil and criminal cases in the District Courts, City Courts, and Town and Village Justice Courts.

Sections 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17 amend the Criminal Procedure Law to give the chief judge authority to administer e-filing in all criminal and Family courts, and provide rules for e-filing in these courts.

Section 15 clarifies that e-filing may be used in any criminal court, not just Supreme and County courts.

Section 18 establishes that certain parts of the law related to paper filing and e-filing shall expire on September 1, 2027.

Section 19 states that the bill takes effect immediately.