

BILL TEXT:

STATE OF NEW YORK

4213

2007-2008 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 30, 2007

Introduced by Sen. VOLKER -- (at request of the Office of Court Administration) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to the time of service

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

1 Section 1. Section 306-b of the civil practice law and rules, as
2 amended by chapter 473 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 § 306-b. Service of the summons and complaint, summons with notice,
5 third-party summons and complaint, or petition with a notice of petition
6 or order to show cause. Service of the summons and complaint, summons
7 with notice, third-party summons and complaint, or petition with a
8 notice of petition or order to show cause shall be made within one
9 hundred twenty days after the [~~filing of the summons and complaint,~~
10 ~~summons with notice, third party summons and complaint, or petition~~]
11 commencement of the action or proceeding, provided that in an action or
12 proceeding, except a proceeding commenced under the election law, where
13 the applicable statute of limitations is four months or less, service
14 shall be made not later than fifteen days after the date on which the
15 applicable statute of limitations expires. If service is not made upon
16 a defendant within the time provided in this section, the court, upon
17 motion, shall dismiss the action without prejudice as to that defendant,
18 or upon good cause shown or in the interest of justice, extend the time
19 for service.

20 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD10514-01-7

SPONSORS MEMO:

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
INTRODUCER'S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
submitted in accordance with Senate Rule VI. Sec 1

BILL NUMBER: S4213

REVISED 02/15/08

SPONSOR: VOLKER

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to the time of service

This is one in a series of measures being introduced at the request of the Chief Administrative Judge upon recommendation of her Advisory Committee on Civil Practice.

This measure would amend CPLR 306-b to correct a time of service problem that can occur when a court order extending time for filing is granted pursuant to CPLR 304.

CPLR 306-b now requires service of the summons and complaint, summons with notice, third-party summons and complaint, petition with notice of petition or order to show cause within 120 days after filing, with appropriate modifications where the statute of limitations is four months or less. With but one exception, this is fully consistent with the provision of CPLR 304 that an action or proceeding is commenced by filing, since valid service cannot be made until the action has been commenced and that occurs upon filing.

The exception occurs when, pursuant to CPLR 304, a court finds that circumstances prevent immediate filing and signs an order requiring the subsequent filing at a specific time and date not later than five days thereafter. In this instance it is the signing of the order, and not the filing of the pleading that commences the action or proceeding.

The CPLR 304 exception can be and often is utilized in situations where a party requires a restraining order to prevent the occurrence of an event on a holiday, weekend or after business hours, when filing cannot occur but immediate service is critical. In this limited situation, although the action or proceeding has been commenced, service often must be made before the order can be filed. At least one court has held that under these circumstances service was ineffective because CPLR 306-b mandates service after filing, not after commencement of the action.

A simple amendment to CPLR 306-b to provide that service be made within 120 days "after commencement of the action or proceeding" should rectify the problem created by the CPLR 304 exception, without having any adverse effect upon the more usual situation where the action is commenced by filing of the pleading. In either event, whether the action is commenced by filing or by the signing of an order which extends the time for filing, post commencement service will occur.

This measure, which would have no fiscal impact upon the State, would take effect immediately.

2006 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Senate 7254 (Volker)

Codes

Assembly 4615 (M. of A. Dinowitz)

Passed

2007-08 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Senate 4213 (Volker)

Codes

Assembly 8508 (Dinowitz)

Ordered to 3rd Rdg., Cal. 580
