



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
S3849 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A1100 (Bores)
June 2025

TITLE OF BILL

Concurrent resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing amendments to article 6 of the constitution, in relation to the number of supreme court justices in any judicial district.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Citizens Union supports S3849 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A1100 (Bores), which would remove the constitutional limitation on the number of Supreme Court justices able to serve in each specific judicial district.

The current formula limiting the number of judges dates back to 1961 and does not reflect the current population and legal needs, which have changed immensely in the past six decades. It had resulted in a massive backlog of cases, an under-resourced justice system, and legislative and administrative workarounds that only distort the structure of courts, like the creation of a large class of acting supreme court justices.

Citizens Union has long supported removing this outdated formula from our state constitution and empowering the state legislature to deliberately and appropriately create new seats in state Supreme Court districts where the need is greatest, based on regular, systematic metrics. We believe it would lead to a more effective, responsive, and open government.

Delays, backlogs, and overburdened justices are felt by every New Yorker who goes through the justice system. Lengthy stays in jail, disruption in basic business proceedings, and holdups in divorce and other administrative hearings have a detrimental effect on people's lives, livelihood, and welfare. It breeds distrust and cynicism in a system that is foundational to our democracy.

We urge state lawmakers to improve New York's court system by passing S3849 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A1100 (Bores).