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 T H E C O U N C I L

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

JEFF BAKER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

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COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

#### Hon. Andrew Cohen, Chair

 June 13, 2019

 **By: Council Member Cohen**

**Preconsidered SLR 8: S.6178 (Liu)**

 **A.7776 (DenDekker)**

**TITLE:** AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law, in relation to the designation of persons who may perform marriage ceremonies in certain cities.

**BACKGROUND:**

 Under current law, the City Clerk may only designate up to four permanent members of their staff to perform marriage ceremonies. Given the overwhelming demand to officiate weddings, the City Clerk’s office is not able to officiate all weddings in a timely manner. Limiting the clerk’s appointments to four creates an undue burden to the City Clerk’s office and the people seeking to be married. This legislation will provide the clerk with discretion to designate additional staff members as they deem necessary to officiate weddings.

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

 Section one of the legislation amends paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 11-a of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 321 of the laws of 1971 to state that the city clerk may designate in writing any or all of the deputy city clerks or any additional staff members as the clerk deems necessary to perform marriage ceremonies.

 Section two is the effective date.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

See Council Finance Division fiscal impact statement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Immediately.