**Plain Language Summary**

**Current Introduction Number:**

Int. No. 1085-A

**Prime Sponsors:**

By Council Members Treyger, Cumbo, Richards, Ampry-Samuel, Koslowitz, Holden, Adams, Ayala, Brannan, Gibson, Rose, Maisel, Rivera, Rosenthal, Kallos, Chin, Yeger, D. Diaz, Gennaro and Cabán

**Bill Title:**

A Local Law In relation to civil legal services for domestic violence survivors who are a party to a divorce proceeding

**Bill Summary:**

**This plain language summary is for informational purposes only and does not substitute for legal counsel. For more information, you should review the full text of the bill, which is available online at legistar.council.nyc.gov.**

This bill would require the Office of the Civil Justice Coordinator (“Coordinator”) to establish a two-year-long pilot program to provide brief legal assistance and free legal representation to domestic violence survivors in divorce proceedings. In establishing the program, the Coordinator would convene a working group by April 24, 2020—consisting of representatives from the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA)—which would consult with service providers and produce a report with recommendations for the pilot program by October 1, 2020. The Coordinator would then be required to identify designated organizations to provide legal representation and establish the pilot program by February 1, 2021, ensuring that such pilot would cover all associated filing fees. The working group would then produce two subsequent reports: (1) a progress report on the number and types of cases and fees, to be submitted after the first year of the pilot program, or by April 1, 2022, and (2) a final report with additional assessments of the pilot and recommendations for potentially expanding the pilot, to be completed six months after the completion of the pilot program, or by October 1, 2023. Finally, ENDGBV would also be required to work with the Coordinator to offer trauma-informed training and create outreach related to the availability of the program, as well as interpretation services, by February 1, 2021.

**Effective Date:**

Immediately

**Legislative Impact:**

**☐ Agency Rulemaking Required**: Is City agency rulemaking required?

**☒ Report Required**: Is a report due to Council required?

**☐ Sunset Date Included**: Does the legislation have a sunset date?

**☐ Council Appointment Required**: Is an appointment by the Council required?

**☐ Other Appointment Required**: Are other appointments not by the Council required?

**Note:** In the full bill text online at legistar.council.nyc.gov, language in proposed consolidated laws that is enclosed by [brackets] would be deleted, and language that is underlined would be new. Language in proposed unconsolidated laws, in contrast, will not have brackets or underlining because it would be entirely new. Consolidation means that the law is placed in the New York City Charter or Administrative Code.

MKW / JG / BM

LS #6955

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