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Contact:

[Press@legal-aid.org](mailto:Press@legal-aid.org)

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## ***Legal Aid Statement on Passage of 730 Reform Legislation***

### ***Legislation Addresses New York’s Competency-to-Stand-Trial Process and Reduces Barriers to Community-Based Restoration***

(ALBANY, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement on the New York State Legislature passing [S1004B/A5567B](#), legislation that amends New York’s competency-to-stand-trial laws:

“For too long, New York’s competency restoration system, often associated with so-called ‘730 exams,’ has subjected people with serious mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries to prolonged and often unnecessary confinement.

“This legislation is a first step toward creating a more rational, humane, and constitutionally sound framework for New Yorkers who need services but are languishing in our jails.

“People in need of care should not remain trapped in a dangerous, costly, and ineffective carceral system. We look forward to continued reforms that move New York away from relying on jails and prisons as the default response to behavioral health needs that are best addressed through community-based services.

“We thank the bill sponsors and the Legislature for advancing this important first step and for their commitment to protecting the rights, dignity, and due process interests of New Yorkers living with mental illness and developmental disabilities.

“The Legal Aid Society urges Governor Hochul to sign this legislation as soon as it reaches her desk.”

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*The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of the people we serve and helps improve our communities.*

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