



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Peter Oberacker

## Senator Peter Oberacker & Assemblyman Chris Tague Announce Signing of Electronic Appearance Bill

PETER OBERACKER September 4, 2024



**ONEONTA, 8/29/24** - Today, State Senator Peter Oberacker (R/C - Schenevus) and State Assemblyman Chris Tague (R/C - Schoharie) announced the signing of their electronic appearance bill (S6798A/A06738A) which expands the use of virtual arraignments to Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie counties.

Senator Peter Oberacker said, **“I am proud that we were able to pass this bill to make it easier for our district attorneys and law enforcement agencies to do their jobs. It’s a transformative step that addresses an important need in our rural communities while saving valuable time and resources. This new law also enhances the safety and security for our law enforcement and judicial system.**

**Thank you to Assemblyman Tague for your leadership in the Assembly, Governor Hochul for her decisive action on this bill, and to our local partners and advocates who were crucial in making this significant change a reality.”**

**Assemblyman Chris Tague said, “I’m incredibly proud to see this bill signed into law. Rural counties statewide, and my legislative colleagues on both sides of the aisle, have asked for further measures to utilize in saving time and resources for arraigning court cases, and this bill will do just that. I want to thank my partner Sen. Oberacker for carrying this bill in the Senate, I want to thank Gov. Hochul for signing it into law, and thank our local partners and advocates for using their voices to help pass this instrumental piece of legislation that will enhance safety and security, benefitting us all.”**

**Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond said, “Today marks a crucial victory for the law enforcement community in Delaware County. This bill empowers us to combat crime more effectively in an era where too many laws are tipping the scales in favor of criminals. Thank you to Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Tague for making it unequivocally clear that our allegiance is with the brave men and women who protect our communities, not with those who threaten them.”**

**Delaware County District Attorney Shawn Smith said, “We have reached a significant milestone today with the signing of Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Tague’s electronic appearance bill. This legislation is a triumph for the safety of our officers of the court and local law enforcement by reducing the massive risks associated with transporting criminals while also saving taxpayer dollars. I look forward to our continued partnership and dedication to protecting our communities.”**

**Otsego County Sheriff Richard Devlin said, “This bill marks, perhaps, the first time in recent memory that legislation has been signed that both benefits taxpayers while enhancing the safety of our communities. Electronic arraignments put the safety and security of law enforcement first, and it’s a huge step forward. Thank you to Assemblyman Tague and Senator Oberacker for their unyielding commitment to the Otsego Sheriff’s Office and the brave men and women in law enforcement.”**

**Otsego County District Attorney John Muehl said, “Virtual arraignment court is something we saw deployed temporarily during the height of the pandemic, and I’m happy to see Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Tague take the initiative to make this measure permanent in Otsego County. Our**

**courts are more secure, members of law enforcement are safer, and the taxpayers will see much-needed relief because of this vital change. I applaud Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Tague for their efforts.”**

Schoharie County Sheriff Ron Stevens said, **“I’m thankful for the partnership with Assemblyman Tague and Senator Oberacker to get this law established in New York. Courts in Schoharie County can now move more efficiently and operate with less overhead as a result of this change, and I know the local courts are grateful for the support. It’s a net benefit for all in the judicial system, and we’re immensely thankful that the state government passed it into law.”**

Schoharie County District Attorney Susan Mallery said, **“I would like to thank Assemblyman Tague, Senator Oberacker, the legislature, and Governor Hochul. New York State’s rural counties are struggling with staffing shortages. This law helps local governments run more efficiently with the staffing available, while protecting rights of the accused.”**

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## **2023-S6798A**

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- Introduced
  
- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Permits certain defendants in a criminal action in Delaware, Otsego or Schoharie county to appear electronically, with the approval of the court

May 10, 2023

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Peter Oberacker**

Do you support this bill?