

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

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Introduced by Sens. MONTGOMERY, HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to providing inmates with the opportunity to obtain a general equivalency diploma

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 136 of the correction law, as amended by chapter 98  
2 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:  
3     S 136. Correctional education. 1. The objective of correctional educa-  
4 tion in its broadest sense should be the socialization of the inmates  
5 through varied impressional and expressional activities, with emphasis  
6 on individual inmate needs. The objective of this program shall be the  
7 return of these inmates to society with a more wholesome attitude toward  
8 living, with a desire to conduct themselves as good citizens, and with  
9 the skill and knowledge which will give them a reasonable chance to  
10 maintain themselves and their dependents through honest labor. To this  
11 end each inmate shall be given a program of education which, on the  
12 basis of available data, seems most likely to further the process of  
13 socialization and rehabilitation. Provided that, the commissioner, in  
14 consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop a curric-  
15 ula for and require provision of an education program to all inmates, on  
16 a periodic basis, on the consequences and prevention of shaken baby  
17 syndrome which may include the viewing of a video presentation thereon.  
18 The time daily devoted to such education shall be such as is required  
19 for meeting the above objectives. The director of education, subject to  
20 the direction of the commissioner and after consultation with the  
21 commissioner of education, shall develop the curricula and the education  
22 programs that are required to meet the special needs of each correction-  
23 al facility in the department. The commissioner of education, in [co-op-

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 eration] COOPERATION with the commissioner and the director of educa-  
2 tion, shall set up the educational requirements for the certification of  
3 teachers in all such correctional facilities. Such educational require-  
4 ments shall be sufficiently broad and comprehensive to include training  
5 in penology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, in the special subjects  
6 to be taught, and in any other professional courses as may be deemed  
7 necessary by the responsible officers, and shall include training relat-  
8 ing to the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome which may  
9 include the viewing of a video presentation thereon. No certificates for  
10 teaching service in the state institutions shall be issued unless a  
11 minimum of four years of training beyond the high school has been  
12 secured, or an acceptable equivalent. Existing requirements for the  
13 certification of teachers in the institutions shall continue in force  
14 until changed pursuant to the provisions of this section.

15 2. ALL INMATES ADMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SERVING A DETERMINATE TERM  
16 OF IMPRISONMENT, OR AN INDETERMINATE SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT OTHER THAN  
17 A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PAROLE, WHO HAVE BEEN EVALUATED  
18 UPON ADMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THIR-  
19 TY-SEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE AND ARE DETERMINED TO BE CAPABLE OF SUCCESSFUL-  
20 LY COMPLETING THE ACADEMIC COURSE WORK REQUIRED FOR A GENERAL EQUIVALEN-  
21 CY DIPLOMA, SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE SUCH  
22 COURSE WORK AT LEAST TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH INMATE  
23 MAY BE PAROLED, CONDITIONALLY RELEASED, RELEASED TO POST RELEASE SUPER-  
24 VISION PURSUANT TO SECTION 70.40 OF THE PENAL LAW, OR PRESUMPTIVELY  
25 RELEASED, PURSUANT TO SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED THREE OF THIS CHAPTER. UPON  
26 ADMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT, SUCH INMATES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH WRITTEN  
27 NOTICE THAT GENERAL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL INMATES  
28 WHO SO APPLY.

29 3. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT ACADEMIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHICH  
30 PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM AND CERTIFIED ACADEMIC STAFF FOR  
31 GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA INSTRUCTION ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL CORRECTION-  
32 AL FACILITIES HOUSING INMATES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AS SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVI-  
33 SION TWO OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ACADEMIC STAFF  
34 WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE SUCH INSTRUCTION AND WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE  
35 COMPETITIVE CLASS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF NEW YORK STATE. THE DEPARTMENT  
36 SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT STAFF AT EACH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WHERE  
37 ELIGIBLE INMATES ARE CONFINED TO ENSURE A CLASSROOM RATIO OF TWENTY  
38 INMATES FOR EACH GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA INSTRUCTOR. THE DEPARTMENT  
39 SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL EQUIVALENCY  
40 DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT WHICH SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE ASSEMBLY STANDING  
41 COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION AND THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIME  
42 VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION ON OR BEFORE APRIL FIRST, TWO THOUSAND  
43 THIRTEEN.

44 S 2. This act shall take effect three years after it shall have become  
45 a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition,  
46 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the  
47 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and  
48 directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.