STATE OF NEW YORK

3953

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. VANEL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to surveillance dead zones in correctional facilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 12 to read as follows:

§ 12. Surveillance dead zones. 1. No later than ninety days after the effective date of this section, the commissioner shall:

(a) Evaluate the security camera systems of each correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the department;

(b) Conduct a comprehensive survey of each correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the department to identify all blind spots in each correctional facility. For purposes of this section, a "blind spot" shall mean an area, irrespective of size, that does not receive twenty-four-hour surveillance by a security camera, including security cameras whose field of surveillance can be manually or automatically repositioned to create an unsurveilled area, a camera which has such poor quality video that surveillance footage would not be adequate to identify an act of violence or sexual assault taking place, a camera that is obstructed or blinded by an object or light source, or a camera that cannot adequately identify an act of violence or sexual assault taking place in darkness; and

(c) Submit a plan to the governor, attorney general, and the legislature related to curing such blind spots in each correctional facility.

2. The plan required under subdivision one of this section shall:

(a) Identify and include plans to address any deficiencies in the security camera system in use at each correctional facility, including those related to:

(i) an insufficient number of cameras;

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

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(ii) inoperable or malfunctioning cameras;
(iii) blind spots;
(iv) poor quality video; and
(v) any other deficits in the security camera system.
(b) Identify and include plans to adopt and maintain any security camera system upgrades needed to achieve the purposes described in subdivision one of this section, including:
(i) conversion of all analog cameras to digital surveillance systems, with corresponding infrastructure and equipment upgrade requirements;
(ii) upgrades to ensure the secure storage, logging, preservation, and accessibility of recordings such that the recordings are available to investigators or courts at such time as may be reasonably required; and
(iii) additional enterprise-wide camera system capabilities needed to enhance the safety and security of incarcerated persons and staff.
(c) Include an assessment of operational and logistical considerations in implementing the plan required under subdivision one of this section, including:
(i) a prioritization of facilities for needed upgrades, beginning with high security institutions;
(ii) the personnel and training necessary to implement the changes;
(iii) ongoing repair and maintenance requirements; and
(iv) a three-year strategic plan and cost projection for implementing the changes and upgrades to the security camera systems.
3. Not later than three years after the date on which a plan is submitted pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision one of this section, and subject to appropriations, the commissioner shall complete implementation of the submitted plan.
4. Beginning one year after the date on which a plan is submitted pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision one of this section, and each year thereafter until the end of the three-year period described in subdivision three of this section, the commissioner shall submit to the governor, attorney general, and legislature a report on the progress of the implementation of the submitted plan.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.