

STATE OF NEW YORK

7352

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 10, 2025

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to non-support of a child

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

1 Section 1. Section 260.05 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 397
2 of the laws of 1997, the opening paragraph and subdivision 1 as amended
3 and subdivision 2 as added by chapter 70 of the laws of 2008, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 § 260.05 Non-support of a child in the second degree.

6 A person is guilty of non-support of a child when:

7 1. being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with the
8 care or custody of a child less than sixteen years old, [~~he or she~~] such
9 person fails or refuses without lawful excuse to provide support for
10 such child [~~when he or she is able to do so, or becomes unable to do so,~~
11 ~~when, though employable, he or she voluntarily terminates his or her~~
12 ~~employment, voluntarily reduces his or her earning capacity, or fails to~~
13 ~~diligently seek employment~~]; or

14 2. being a parent, guardian or other person obligated to make child
15 support payments by an order of child support entered by a court of
16 competent jurisdiction for a child less than eighteen years old, [~~he or~~
17 ~~she~~] such person knowingly fails or refuses without lawful excuse to
18 provide support for such child [~~when he or she is able to do so, or~~
19 ~~becomes unable to do so, when, though employable, he or she voluntarily~~
20 ~~terminates his or her employment, voluntarily reduces his or her earning~~
21 ~~capacity, or fails to diligently seek employment~~].

22 In any prosecution under this section, it is an affirmative defense
23 that the defendant is unable to provide support for the child. Provided
24 that nothing in this paragraph shall constitute a defense to a prose-
25 cution for or preclude conviction of the offense defined in this section
26 where the defendant becomes unable to provide support when, though

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

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1 employable, such defendant voluntarily terminates their employment,
2 voluntarily reduces their earning capacity, or fails to diligently seek
3 employment.

4 Non-support of a child in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

5 § 2. Section 260.06 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 70 of the
6 laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

7 § 260.06 Non-support of a child in the first degree.

8 A person is guilty of non-support of a child in the first degree when:

9 1. (a) being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with
10 the care or custody of a child less than sixteen years old, [~~he or she~~]
11 such person fails or refuses without lawful excuse to provide support
12 for such child [~~when he or she is able to do so~~]; or

13 (b) being a parent, guardian or other person obligated to make child
14 support payments by an order of child support entered by a court of
15 competent jurisdiction for a child less than eighteen years old, [~~he or~~
16 ~~she~~] fails or refuses without lawful excuse to provide support for such
17 child [~~when he or she is able to do so~~]; and

18 2. [~~he or she~~] such person has previously been convicted in the
19 preceding five years of a [~~crime defined in~~] violation of section 260.05
20 of this article or [~~a crime defined by the provisions~~] of this section.

21 In any prosecution under this section, it is an affirmative defense
22 that the defendant is unable to provide support for the child. Provided
23 that nothing in this paragraph shall constitute a defense to a prose-
24 cution for or preclude conviction of the offense defined in this section
25 where the defendant becomes unable to provide support when, though
26 employable, such defendant voluntarily terminates their employment,
27 voluntarily reduces their earning capacity, or fails to diligently seek
28 employment.

29 Non-support of a child in the first degree is a class E felony.

30 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-
31 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.