S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4367

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 22, 2009

Introduced by Sen. 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 increasing access to substance abuse programming for prisoners whose first language is not English

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 624 to read as follows:

S 624. ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMMING FOR CERTAIN PRISONERS. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT PRISONERS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH ARE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, PARTICIPATE AND COMPLETE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS PROVIDED IN THE PRISONS. SUCH STEPS MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OF BILINGUAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS AND PROGRAM STAFF, TRANSLATION OF PROGRAM CONTENT AND MATERIALS, TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PRISONERS AND OTHER STRATEGIES DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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