

3694

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 2, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. ADAMS -- 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 establishing a general equivalency program and a higher education program for inmates

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

1     Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 136-a  
2     to read as follows:

3     S 136-A. GENERAL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM AND HIGHER EDUCATION OF PERSONS  
4     IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. 1. ALL INMATES ADMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
5     SERVING A DETERMINATE TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, OR AN INDETERMINATE SENTENCE  
6     OF IMPRISONMENT OTHER THAN A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT  
7     PAROLE, WHO HAVE BEEN EVALUATED UPON ADMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION  
8     ONE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE AND ARE DETER-  
9     MINED TO BE CAPABLE OF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE ACADEMIC COURSE WORK  
10    REQUIRED FOR A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA OR COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES,  
11    SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE SUCH COURSE WORK.  
12    UPON ADMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT, SUCH INMATES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH  
13    WRITTEN NOTICE THAT GENERAL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS AND COLLEGE CREDIT  
14    PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL INMATES WHO SO APPLY.

15    2. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT ACADEMIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHICH  
16    PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM AND CERTIFIED ACADEMIC STAFF FOR  
17    GENERAL EQUIVALENCY AND COLLEGE CREDIT INSTRUCTION ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL  
18    CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES HOUSING INMATES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE. THE DEPARTMENT  
19    SHALL PROVIDE ACADEMIC STAFF WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE SUCH INSTRU-  
20    CTION AND WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMPETITIVE CLASS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE  
21    OF NEW YORK STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT STAFF AT EACH  
22    CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WHERE ELIGIBLE INMATES ARE CONFINED TO ENSURE A  
23    CLASSROOM RATIO OF TWENTY INMATES FOR EACH INSTRUCTOR. THE COMMISSIONER,  
24    IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, SHALL SET UP THE

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

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1 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS IN ALL SUCH  
2 CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
3 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, SHALL DEVELOP A CURRICULA AND A PLAN FOR  
4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL EQUIVALENCY AND COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAMS  
5 AND SHALL ISSUE A REPORT WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
6 OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

7 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
8 it shall have become a law.