

744--A

Cal. No. 527

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

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Introduced by Sens. YOUNG, LARKIN, MAZIARZ, O'MARA, RANZENHOFER, SALAND, SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to authorizing employment by not-for-profit organizations and public service projects under the work release program

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 851 of the correction law, as  
2     amended by chapter 60 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     3. "Work release program" means a program under which eligible inmates  
5     may be granted the privilege of leaving the premises of an institution  
6     for a period not exceeding fourteen hours in any day for the purpose of  
7     on-the-job training or employment, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT BY A  
8     NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT, or for any  
9     matter necessary to the furtherance of any such purposes. No person  
10    shall be released into a work release program unless prior to release  
11    such person has a reasonable assurance of a job training program or  
12    employment. If after release, such person ceases to be employed or ceases  
13    to participate in the training program, the inmate's privilege to  
14    participate in such work release program may be revoked in accordance  
15    with rules and regulations promulgated by the commissioner.  
16    S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 851 of the correction law, as added by  
17    chapter 472 of the laws of 1969, is amended to read as follows:  
18    3. "Work release program" means a program under which eligible inmates  
19    may be granted the privilege of leaving the premises of an institution

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

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1 for the purpose of education, on-the-job training or employment, INCLUD-  
2 ING EMPLOYMENT BY A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A PUBLIC SERVICE  
3 PROJECT.

4 S 3. The opening paragraph of subdivision 9 of section 855 of the  
5 correction law is designated paragraph (a) and a new paragraph (b) is  
6 added to read as follows:

7 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVI-  
8 SION, AN INMATE MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT A PROGRAM OF TEMPORARY RELEASE  
9 WHICH IS A WORK RELEASE PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT BY A  
10 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHEN EMPLOYMENT BY SUCH ORGANIZATION IS  
11 CONTRARY TO THE INMATE'S RELIGIOUS OR IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS. NO SUCH  
12 REFUSAL SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN ANY DETERMINATION OF SUCH INMATE'S RIGHT  
13 TO PARTICIPATE OR TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A TEMPORARY RELEASE  
14 PROGRAM.

15 S 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 6 of section 855 of the  
16 correction law is designated paragraph (a) and a new paragraph (b) is  
17 added to read as follows:

18 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVI-  
19 SION, AN INMATE MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT A WORK RELEASE PROGRAM WHICH  
20 INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT BY A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT  
21 BY SUCH ORGANIZATION IS CONTRARY TO THE INMATE'S RELIGIOUS OR IDEOLOG-  
22 ICAL BELIEFS. NO SUCH REFUSAL SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN ANY DETERMINATION  
23 OF SUCH INMATE'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE OR TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A  
24 WORK RELEASE PROGRAM.

25 S 5. Section 870 of the correction law, as amended by chapter 71 of  
26 the laws of 1976, is amended to read as follows:

27 S 870. Establishment of program. The sheriff, upon approval of the  
28 legislative body of the county, may establish a work release program  
29 pursuant to which prisoners, sentenced to and confined in any county  
30 jail under his jurisdiction, may be granted the privilege of leaving  
31 confinement for the purpose of working at gainful employment (INCLUDING  
32 EMPLOYMENT BY A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A PUBLIC SERVICE  
33 PROJECT), participating in a privately or publicly sponsored program of  
34 vocational training, with or without compensation, or attending an  
35 educational institution. The work release program may also include the  
36 release from confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the  
37 purpose of caring for the prisoner's family.

38 S 6. Section 871 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
39 subdivision (e) to read as follows:

40 (E) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A PRISONER  
41 MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT A WORK RELEASE PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT BY  
42 A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHEN EMPLOYMENT BY SUCH ORGANIZATION IS  
43 CONTRARY TO THE PRISONER'S RELIGIOUS OR IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS. NO SUCH  
44 REFUSAL SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN ANY DETERMINATION OF SUCH PRISONER'S  
45 RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE OR TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORK RELEASE  
46 PROGRAM.

47 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the amend-  
48 ments to subdivision 3 of section 851 of the correction law, made by  
49 section one of this act, shall not affect the expiration and reversion  
50 of such section pursuant to chapter 339 of the laws of 1972, as amended,  
51 and shall expire therewith, when upon such date section two of this act  
52 shall take effect; and provided, further, that the amendments to section  
53 855 of the correction law, made by section three of this act, shall not  
54 affect the expiration and reversion of such section pursuant to chapter  
55 339 of the laws of 1972, as amended, and shall expire therewith, when  
56 upon such date section four of this act shall take effect.