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I N S E N A T E

January 6, 2012

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the social services law, in relation to requiring the division of criminal justice services to check the wanted felon status and other information of people applying for public assistance

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 845-c
2 to read as follows:
3 S 845-C. REQUESTS FOR WANTED FELON INFORMATION. 1. DEFINITIONS. AS
4 USED IN THIS SECTION:
5 (A) "AUTHORIZED PERSON" MEANS A COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, AS
6 DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TEN OF SECTION TWO OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW, OR
7 ANY ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY SUCH COMMISSIONER AS AUTHOR-
8 IZED TO REQUEST, RECEIVE AND REVIEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE WANTED
9 FELON PORTION OF THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER AND/OR, IF APPLI-
10 CABLE, INFORMATION REGARDING AN INDIVIDUAL'S VIOLATION OF HIS OR HER
11 PROBATION OR PAROLE CONDITIONS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. A COMMISSIONER
12 OF SOCIAL SERVICES MAY DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL PERSONS AS
13 NECESSARY TO SERVE AS AUTHORIZED PERSONS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
14 (B) "SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS APPLYING FOR PUBLIC
15 ASSISTANCE WHOSE WANTED FELON STATUS OR PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR
16 STATUS HAS BEEN REQUESTED PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO OF
17 THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW.
18 (C) "WANTED FELON" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS FLEEING OR HAS FLED TO AVOID
19 PROSECUTION, OR CUSTODY OR CONFINEMENT AFTER CONVICTION, UNDER THE LAWS
20 OF THE PLACE FROM WHICH THE PERSON FLEES, FOR A CRIME, OR AN ATTEMPT TO
21 COMMIT A CRIME, WHICH IS A FELONY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE PLACE FROM WHICH
22 THE PERSON FLEES.
23 (D) "PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS VIOLATING A
24 CONDITION OF PROBATION OR PAROLE AND THAT PERSON IS CURRENTLY AN ABSCON-
25 DER FROM PROBATION OR PAROLE SUPERVISION AND A WARRANT ALLEGING SUCH A
26 VIOLATION IS OUTSTANDING, OR THE PERSON HAS BEEN FOUND BY JUDICIAL

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

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1 DETERMINATION TO HAVE VIOLATED PROBATION OR BY ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDI-
2 CATION BY THE DIVISION OF PAROLE TO HAVE VIOLATED PAROLE, OR THE PERSON
3 IS VIOLATING A CONDITION OF PROBATION OR PAROLE IMPOSED UNDER FEDERAL
4 LAW.

5 2. WHERE AN AUTHORIZED PERSON REQUESTS INFORMATION REGARDING THE WANT-
6 ED FELON STATUS OR THE PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR STATUS, OF A SUBJECT
7 INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW, SUCH PERSON SHALL
9 PROCEED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

10 3. AN AUTHORIZED PERSON REQUESTING THE WANTED FELON STATUS OR
11 PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR STATUS, PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL DO
12 SO BY COMPLETING A FORM ESTABLISHED FOR SUCH PURPOSE BY THE DIVISION.
13 SUCH FORM SHALL INCLUDE A SWORN STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON
14 CERTIFYING THAT:

15 (A) THE PERSON FOR WHOSE INFORMATION IS REQUESTED IS A SUBJECT INDI-
16 VIDUAL FOR WHOM INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE BY LAW;

17 (B) THE RESULTS OF REQUEST WILL BE USED BY THE AUTHORIZED PERSON SOLE-
18 LY FOR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW; AND

19 (C) THE AUTHORIZED PERSON AND HIS OR HER AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES ARE
20 AWARE OF AND WILL ABIDE BY THE CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS AND ALL
21 OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

22 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 132 of the social services law, as
23 amended by section 22 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 1. (A) When an application for assistance or care is received, or a
26 social services official is informed that a person is in need of public
27 assistance and care, an investigation and record shall be made of the
28 circumstances of such person. The object of such investigations shall be
29 to secure the facts necessary to determine whether such person is in
30 need of public assistance or care and what form thereof and service he
31 or she should receive AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH PERSON IS A WANTED
32 FELON AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED
33 FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW OR A PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR AS
34 DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE
35 EXECUTIVE LAW AND IF SUCH WARRANT OR VIOLATION EXISTS, WHETHER SUCH
36 PERSON WAS AWARE OR SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF SUCH WARRANT OR VIOLATION.
37 Information shall be sought as to the residence of such person, the
38 name, age, religious faith, physical condition, earnings or other
39 income, and ability to work of all members of the family, the cause of
40 the person's condition, the ability and willingness of the family, rela-
41 tives, friends and church to assist, and such other facts as may be
42 useful in determining the treatment which will be helpful to such
43 person. However, nothing in this subdivision or elsewhere in this chap-
44 ter contained shall be construed to require a social services official
45 to communicate with or require assistance from any person or persons
46 liable by law to contribute to the support of a woman pregnant with, or
47 the mother of, an out of wedlock child, in need of care away from home
48 during pregnancy and during and after delivery, in the case where the
49 surrender of the child to the social services official is under consid-
50 eration, for such period as may be necessary for such mother and offi-
51 cial to decide whether the child will be surrendered for adoption to
52 such official, which period shall not extend beyond ninety days after
53 birth of the child. Except where the welfare official is in possession
54 of positive proof that the applicant is receiving or is eligible to
55 receive unemployment insurance benefits and the amount thereof such
56 investigations shall include written request to the commissioner of

1 labor or his or her duly authorized officer charged with administration
2 of the unemployment insurance law for information as to the status of
3 such person in respect to unemployment insurance benefits.

4 (B) THE COMMISSIONER OF A SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT OR ANY AUTHORIZED
5 PERSON, AS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECU-
6 TIVE LAW, SHALL REQUEST INFORMATION FOR EACH APPLICANT FROM THE DIVISION
7 OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH APPLICANT IS A
8 WANTED FELON AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED
9 FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW OR PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR AS
10 DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE
11 EXECUTIVE LAW.

12 (C) UPON BEING INFORMED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
13 THAT AN APPLICANT IS A WANTED FELON OR A PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR,
14 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE
15 EXECUTIVE LAW, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL INVESTIGATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER
16 THE APPLICANT IS AWARE OF HIS OR HER STATUS AND TO DETERMINE WHEN THE
17 APPLICANT BECAME, OR SHOULD HAVE BECOME AWARE OF HIS OR HER STATUS.

18 (D) WHERE AN APPLICANT HAS NOT INITIALLY BEEN DETERMINED TO BE INELI-
19 GIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS BECAUSE OF A RELIANCE ON A FALSE
20 STATEMENT PROVIDED IN THE APPLICATION, HOWEVER IS SUBSEQUENTLY DETER-
21 MINED TO BE INELIGIBLE FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE, THE COMMISSIONER, ON BEHALF
22 OF THE STATE AND THE LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT SHALL HAVE THE
23 AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FROM THE INDIVIDUAL THE SUMS EXPENDED FOR SUCH
24 ASSISTANCE DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT SUCH PERSON RECEIVED BENEFITS
25 AND KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THEIR STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THEY
26 ARE NEITHER A WANTED FELON OR PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR STATUS WAS
27 FALSE.

28 (E) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IDENTIFIED, AND KNOWS SO OR IS NOTIFIED THER-
29 EOF, AS BEING A PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION
30 ONE OF SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW, IS NOT
31 ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE UNTIL HE OR SHE VERIFIES THAT HE OR SHE
32 HAS BEEN RESTORED TO PROBATION OR PAROLE SUPERVISION, RELEASED FROM
33 CUSTODY, OR UNTIL THE PERSON'S MAXIMUM PERIOD OF IMPRISONMENT OR SUPER-
34 VISION HAS EXPIRED.

35 S 3. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 145-b of the social
36 services law, as added by chapter 2 of the laws of 1998, is amended to
37 read as follows:

38 (b) For purposes of this section, "statement or representation"
39 includes, but is not limited to:

40 (I) a claim for payment made to the state, a political subdivision of
41 the state, or an entity performing services under contract to the state
42 or a political subdivision of the state;

43 (II) an acknowledgment, certification, claim, ratification or report
44 of data which serves as the basis for a claim or a rate of payment,
45 financial information whether in a cost report or otherwise, health care
46 services available or rendered, and the qualifications of a person that
47 is or has rendered health care services;

48 (III) AN INTENTIONAL INCORRECT ANSWER, MADE BY THE APPLICANT, TO A
49 QUESTION ON AN APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE WANTED
50 FELON AS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECUTIVE
51 LAW STATUS OR PROBATION OR PAROLE VIOLATOR AS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHT
52 HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE-C OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW STATUS OF AN APPLICANT OR A
53 MEMBER OF HIS OR HER FAMILY.

54 S 4. The state commissioner of social services, in consultation with
55 the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, is hereby

1 authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations necessary
2 for the implementation of this act.

3 S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
4 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-
5 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
6 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
7 authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such
8 effective date.