

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 7, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABINAN-  
TI, RAIA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the criminal procedure law, in  
relation to criminalizing acting as a runner or soliciting or employ-  
ing a runner to procure patients or clients

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

1 Section 1. Section 176.00 of the penal law is amended by adding four  
2 new subdivisions 6, 7, 8 and 9 to read as follows:

3 6. "PROVIDER" MEANS AN ATTORNEY, A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, AN OWNER  
4 OR OPERATOR OF A HEALTH CARE PRACTICE OR FACILITY, ANY PERSON WHO  
5 CREATES THE IMPRESSION THAT HE OR SHE, OR HIS OR HER PRACTICE CAN  
6 PROVIDE LEGAL OR HEALTH CARE SERVICES, ANY PERSON EMPLOYED OR ACTING ON  
7 BEHALF OF ANY SUCH PERSON, OR ANY PERSON PROVIDING MANAGEMENT OR  
8 CONSULTING SERVICES TO ANY SUCH PERSON.

9 7. "PUBLIC MEDIA" MEANS TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, PROFESSIONAL DIRECTO-  
10 RIES, NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PERIODICALS, RADIO AND TELEVISION, BILL-  
11 BOARDS, AND MAILED OR ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS  
12 THAT DO NOT INVOLVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH A SPECIFIC PROSPECTIVE CLIENT,  
13 PATIENT, OR CUSTOMER.

14 8. "RUNNER" MEANS A PERSON WHO, FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT, PROCURES OR  
15 ATTEMPTS TO PROCURE A CLIENT, PATIENT OR CUSTOMER AT THE DIRECTION OF,  
16 REQUEST OF OR IN COOPERATION WITH A PROVIDER WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO SEEK TO  
17 OBTAIN BENEFITS UNDER A CONTRACT OF INSURANCE OR ASSERT A CLAIM AGAINST  
18 AN INSURED OR AN INSURANCE CARRIER FOR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE CLIENT,  
19 PATIENT OR CUSTOMER, OR TO OBTAIN BENEFITS UNDER OR ASSERT A CLAIM  
20 AGAINST A STATE OR FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS PROGRAM OR PRESCRIPTION  
21 DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. "RUNNER" SHALL NOT INCLUDE (A) A PERSON WHO  
22 PROCURES OR ATTEMPTS TO PROCURE CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS FOR A  
23 PROVIDER THROUGH PUBLIC MEDIA; (B) A PERSON WHO REFERS CLIENTS, PATIENTS  
24 OR CUSTOMERS AS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW; OR (C) A PERSON WHO, AS AN

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

1 AGENT, BROKER OR EMPLOYEE OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION AS  
2 DEFINED IN SECTION FORTY-FOUR HUNDRED ONE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW,  
3 SEEKS TO SELL HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION COVERAGE OR HEALTH INSUR-  
4 ANCE COVERAGE TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP.

5 9. "PECUNIARY BENEFIT" MEANS GOODS, MONEY, PROPERTY, SERVICES OR  
6 ANYTHING OF VALUE, OR AN AGREEMENT TO CONFER OR RECEIVE ANY SUCH GOODS,  
7 MONEY, PROPERTY, SERVICES, OR THING OF VALUE.

8 S 2. The penal law is amended by adding three new sections 176.75,  
9 176.80 and 176.85 to read as follows:

10 S 176.75 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE  
11 THIRD DEGREE.

12 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR  
13 CUSTOMERS IN THE THIRD DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE KNOWINGLY:

14 1. ACTS AS A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS; OR

15 2. USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS, HIRES OR EMPLOYS ANOTHER PERSON TO ACT AS  
16 A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS.

17 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE THIRD  
18 DEGREE IS A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR.

19 S 176.80 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE  
20 SECOND DEGREE.

21 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR  
22 CUSTOMERS IN THE SECOND DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE KNOWINGLY:

23 1. ACTS AS A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT  
24 THAT IN THE AGGREGATE EXCEEDS TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN VALUE  
25 OR ACTS AS A RUNNER ON FIVE OR MORE OCCASIONS; OR

26 2. USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS, HIRES OR EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO  
27 ACT AS A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT THAT IN  
28 THE AGGREGATE EXCEEDS TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN VALUE OR  
29 USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS, HIRES OR EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO ACT AS  
30 A RUNNER ON FIVE OR MORE OCCASIONS.

31 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE SECOND  
32 DEGREE IS A CLASS E FELONY.

33 S 176.85 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE  
34 FIRST DEGREE.

35 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR  
36 CUSTOMERS IN THE FIRST DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE KNOWINGLY:

37 1. ACTS AS A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT  
38 THAT IN THE AGGREGATE EXCEEDS FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN VALUE OR ACTS AS  
39 A RUNNER ON TEN OR MORE OCCASIONS; OR

40 2. USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS, HIRES OR EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO  
41 ACT AS A RUNNER ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT THAT IN  
42 THE AGGREGATE EXCEEDS FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS,  
43 HIRES OR EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO ACT AS A RUNNER ON TEN OR MORE  
44 OCCASIONS.

45 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE FIRST  
46 DEGREE IS A CLASS D FELONY.

47 S 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 460.10 of the penal  
48 law, as amended by chapter 37 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as  
49 follows:

50 (a) Any of the felonies set forth in this chapter: sections 120.05,  
51 120.10 and 120.11 relating to assault; sections 121.12 and 121.13 relat-  
52 ing to strangulation; sections 125.10 to 125.27 relating to homicide;  
53 sections 130.25, 130.30 and 130.35 relating to rape; sections 135.20 and  
54 135.25 relating to kidnapping; section 135.35 relating to labor traf-  
55 ficking; section 135.65 relating to coercion; sections 140.20, 140.25  
56 and 140.30 relating to burglary; sections 145.05, 145.10 and 145.12

1 relating to criminal mischief; article one hundred fifty relating to  
2 arson; sections 155.30, 155.35, 155.40 and 155.42 relating to grand  
3 larceny; sections 177.10, 177.15, 177.20 and 177.25 relating to health  
4 care fraud; article one hundred sixty relating to robbery; sections  
5 165.45, 165.50, 165.52 and 165.54 relating to criminal possession of  
6 stolen property; sections 165.72 and 165.73 relating to trademark coun-  
7 terfeiting; sections 170.10, 170.15, 170.25, 170.30, 170.40, 170.65 and  
8 170.70 relating to forgery; sections 175.10, 175.25, 175.35, 175.40 and  
9 210.40 relating to false statements; sections 176.15, 176.20, 176.25 and  
10 176.30 relating to insurance fraud; SECTIONS 176.80 AND 176.85 RELATING  
11 TO UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS AND CUSTOMERS; sections  
12 178.20 and 178.25 relating to criminal diversion of prescription medica-  
13 tions and prescriptions; sections 180.03, 180.08, 180.15, 180.25,  
14 180.40, 180.45, 200.00, 200.03, 200.04, 200.10, 200.11, 200.12, 200.20,  
15 200.22, 200.25, 200.27, 200.56, 215.00, 215.05 and 215.19; sections  
16 187.10, 187.15, 187.20 and 187.25 relating to residential mortgage  
17 fraud, sections 190.40 and 190.42 relating to criminal usury; section  
18 190.65 relating to schemes to defraud; any felony defined in article  
19 four hundred ninety-six; sections 205.60 and 205.65 relating to hinder-  
20 ing prosecution; sections 210.10, 210.15, and 215.51 relating to perjury  
21 and contempt; section 215.40 relating to tampering with physical  
22 evidence; sections 220.06, 220.09, 220.16, 220.18, 220.21, 220.31,  
23 220.34, 220.39, 220.41, 220.43, 220.46, 220.55, 220.60, 220.65 and  
24 220.77 relating to controlled substances; sections 225.10 and 225.20  
25 relating to gambling; sections 230.25, 230.30, and 230.32 relating to  
26 promoting prostitution; section 230.34 relating to sex trafficking;  
27 sections 235.06, 235.07, 235.21 and 235.22 relating to obscenity;  
28 sections 263.10 and 263.15 relating to promoting a sexual performance by  
29 a child; sections 265.02, 265.03, 265.04, 265.11, 265.12, 265.13 and the  
30 provisions of section 265.10 which constitute a felony relating to  
31 firearms and other dangerous weapons; sections 265.14 and 265.16 relat-  
32 ing to criminal sale of a firearm; section 275.10, 275.20, 275.30, or  
33 275.40 relating to unauthorized recordings; and sections 470.05, 470.10,  
34 470.15 and 470.20 relating to money laundering; or

35 S 4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 8 of section 700.05 of the criminal  
36 procedure law, as amended by chapter 405 of the laws of 2010, is amended  
37 to read as follows:

38 (b) Any of the following felonies: assault in the second degree as  
39 defined in section 120.05 of the penal law, assault in the first degree  
40 as defined in section 120.10 of the penal law, reckless endangerment in  
41 the first degree as defined in section 120.25 of the penal law, promot-  
42 ing a suicide attempt as defined in section 120.30 of the penal law,  
43 strangulation in the second degree as defined in section 121.12 of the  
44 penal law, strangulation in the first degree as defined in section  
45 121.13 of the penal law, criminally negligent homicide as defined in  
46 section 125.10 of the penal law, manslaughter in the second degree as  
47 defined in section 125.15 of the penal law, manslaughter in the first  
48 degree as defined in section 125.20 of the penal law, murder in the  
49 second degree as defined in section 125.25 of the penal law, murder in  
50 the first degree as defined in section 125.27 of the penal law, abortion  
51 in the second degree as defined in section 125.40 of the penal law,  
52 abortion in the first degree as defined in section 125.45 of the penal  
53 law, rape in the third degree as defined in section 130.25 of the penal  
54 law, rape in the second degree as defined in section 130.30 of the penal  
55 law, rape in the first degree as defined in section 130.35 of the penal  
56 law, criminal sexual act in the third degree as defined in section

1 130.40 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the second degree as  
2 defined in section 130.45 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the  
3 first degree as defined in section 130.50 of the penal law, sexual abuse  
4 in the first degree as defined in section 130.65 of the penal law,  
5 unlawful imprisonment in the first degree as defined in section 135.10  
6 of the penal law, kidnapping in the second degree as defined in section  
7 135.20 of the penal law, kidnapping in the first degree as defined in  
8 section 135.25 of the penal law, labor trafficking as defined in section  
9 135.35 of the penal law, custodial interference in the first degree as  
10 defined in section 135.50 of the penal law, coercion in the first degree  
11 as defined in section 135.65 of the penal law, criminal trespass in the  
12 first degree as defined in section 140.17 of the penal law, burglary in  
13 the third degree as defined in section 140.20 of the penal law, burglary  
14 in the second degree as defined in section 140.25 of the penal law,  
15 burglary in the first degree as defined in section 140.30 of the penal  
16 law, criminal mischief in the third degree as defined in section 145.05  
17 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the second degree as defined in  
18 section 145.10 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the first degree  
19 as defined in section 145.12 of the penal law, criminal tampering in the  
20 first degree as defined in section 145.20 of the penal law, arson in the  
21 fourth degree as defined in section 150.05 of the penal law, arson in  
22 the third degree as defined in section 150.10 of the penal law, arson in  
23 the second degree as defined in section 150.15 of the penal law, arson  
24 in the first degree as defined in section 150.20 of the penal law, grand  
25 larceny in the fourth degree as defined in section 155.30 of the penal  
26 law, grand larceny in the third degree as defined in section 155.35 of  
27 the penal law, grand larceny in the second degree as defined in section  
28 155.40 of the penal law, grand larceny in the first degree as defined in  
29 section 155.42 of the penal law, health care fraud in the fourth degree  
30 as defined in section 177.10 of the penal law, health care fraud in the  
31 third degree as defined in section 177.15 of the penal law, health care  
32 fraud in the second degree as defined in section 177.20 of the penal  
33 law, health care fraud in the first degree as defined in section 177.25  
34 of the penal law, robbery in the third degree as defined in section  
35 160.05 of the penal law, robbery in the second degree as defined in  
36 section 160.10 of the penal law, robbery in the first degree as defined  
37 in section 160.15 of the penal law, unlawful use of secret scientific  
38 material as defined in section 165.07 of the penal law, criminal  
39 possession of stolen property in the fourth degree as defined in section  
40 165.45 of the penal law, criminal possession of stolen property in the  
41 third degree as defined in section 165.50 of the penal law, criminal  
42 possession of stolen property in the second degree as defined by section  
43 165.52 of the penal law, criminal possession of stolen property in the  
44 first degree as defined by section 165.54 of the penal law, trademark  
45 counterfeiting in the second degree as defined in section 165.72 of the  
46 penal law, trademark counterfeiting in the first degree as defined in  
47 section 165.73 of the penal law, forgery in the second degree as defined  
48 in section 170.10 of the penal law, forgery in the first degree as  
49 defined in section 170.15 of the penal law, criminal possession of a  
50 forged instrument in the second degree as defined in section 170.25 of  
51 the penal law, criminal possession of a forged instrument in the first  
52 degree as defined in section 170.30 of the penal law, criminal  
53 possession of forgery devices as defined in section 170.40 of the penal  
54 law, falsifying business records in the first degree as defined in  
55 section 175.10 of the penal law, tampering with public records in the  
56 first degree as defined in section 175.25 of the penal law, offering a

1 false instrument for filing in the first degree as defined in section  
2 175.35 of the penal law, issuing a false certificate as defined in  
3 section 175.40 of the penal law, UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS,  
4 PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 176.80  
5 OF THE PENAL LAW, UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS  
6 IN THE FIRST DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 176.85 OF THE PENAL LAW, crim-  
7 inal diversion of prescription medications and prescriptions in the  
8 second degree as defined in section 178.20 of the penal law, criminal  
9 diversion of prescription medications and prescriptions in the first  
10 degree as defined in section 178.25 of the penal law, residential mort-  
11 gage fraud in the fourth degree as defined in section 187.10 of the  
12 penal law, residential mortgage fraud in the third degree as defined in  
13 section 187.15 of the penal law, residential mortgage fraud in the  
14 second degree as defined in section 187.20 of the penal law, residential  
15 mortgage fraud in the first degree as defined in section 187.25 of the  
16 penal law, escape in the second degree as defined in section 205.10 of  
17 the penal law, escape in the first degree as defined in section 205.15  
18 of the penal law, absconding from temporary release in the first degree  
19 as defined in section 205.17 of the penal law, promoting prison contra-  
20 band in the first degree as defined in section 205.25 of the penal law,  
21 hindering prosecution in the second degree as defined in section 205.60  
22 of the penal law, hindering prosecution in the first degree as defined  
23 in section 205.65 of the penal law, sex trafficking as defined in  
24 section 230.34 of the penal law, criminal possession of a weapon in the  
25 third degree as defined in subdivisions two, three and five of section  
26 265.02 of the penal law, criminal possession of a weapon in the second  
27 degree as defined in section 265.03 of the penal law, criminal  
28 possession of a weapon in the first degree as defined in section 265.04  
29 of the penal law, manufacture, transport, disposition and defacement of  
30 weapons and dangerous instruments and appliances defined as felonies in  
31 subdivisions one, two, and three of section 265.10 of the penal law,  
32 sections 265.11, 265.12 and 265.13 of the penal law, or prohibited use  
33 of weapons as defined in subdivision two of section 265.35 of the penal  
34 law, relating to firearms and other dangerous weapons, or failure to  
35 disclose the origin of a recording in the first degree as defined in  
36 section 275.40 of the penal law;

37 S 5. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-  
38 ing the date upon which it shall have become a law.