

3056

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 2, 2015

Introduced by Sens. YOUNG, GALLIVAN, LARKIN, MARCHIONE, O'MARA, RANZEN-
HOFFER -- 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 authorizing employ-
ment 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 ASSEM-
BLY, 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 ceas-
13 es 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
20 for the purpose of education, on-the-job training or employment, INCLUD-
21 ING EMPLOYMENT BY A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A PUBLIC SERVICE
22 PROJECT.

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

LBD05953-01-5

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

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

12 S 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 6 of section 853 of the
13 correction law, as added by chapter 472 of the laws of 1969, is desig-
14 nated paragraph (a) and a new paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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