

STATE OF NEW YORK

10946

IN ASSEMBLY

May 29, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the penal law, in relation to authorizing early parole release for inmates where substance abuse was a significant contributing factor in the commission of the offense

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 259-i of the executive law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

3 9. Early release for certain inmates. (a) Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of law, where an inmate's record reveals that substance abuse
5 was a significant contributing factor in the commission of his or her
6 offense and where such inmate has successfully completed a program of
7 treatment within a correctional facility for alcohol or substance abuse
8 and has not been disciplined by the department for drug, marihuana or
9 alcohol use for a minimum period of two years prior to the application
10 for early release pursuant to this subdivision, such inmate shall be
11 eligible for early release to community supervision once he or she has
12 completed one-half of his or her minimum period of incarceration,
13 provided that he or she is not serving a sentence for an A-I felony,
14 other than an A-I felony pursuant to article two hundred twenty of the
15 penal law, or a violent felony offense pursuant to section 70.04 or
16 70.08 of the penal law. The department shall certify to the board that
17 an inmate is eligible for early release to community supervision when
18 such eligibility criteria are met.

19 (b) To determine whether substance abuse was a significant contribut-
20 ing factor in the commission of the offense, the board shall:

21 (i) rely on a finding that substance abuse was a significant contrib-
22 uting factor in the commission of the offense by the sentencing court;

23 (ii) rely on a determination by the department based on a record
24 review once an inmate is otherwise eligible for early release pursuant
25 to paragraph (a) of this subdivision that the inmate was abusing one or
26 more substances at the time of the commission of the crime and that such

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

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1 substance abuse appears to have been a significant contributing factor
2 in the commission of such offense; or

3 (iii) make a finding that substance use was a significant contributing
4 factor in the commission of the crime when the inmate is incarcerated
5 with a conviction for any crime in which drug or alcohol use or
6 possession was an element.

7 Evidence in support of the determination that substance abuse was a
8 significant contributing factor in the commission of the offense may
9 include, but shall not be limited to, a court record, pre-sentence
10 report, social services record, hospital record, sworn statement of a
11 witness other than the inmate, local and state correctional facility
12 records, law enforcement records, any documentation prepared at or near
13 the time of the commission of the offense, or verification of consulta-
14 tion with a licensed medical or mental health professional, social work-
15 er or employee of an agency that provided substance abuse treatment or
16 counseling to the inmate.

17 (c) In determining whether to release an inmate to early parole pursu-
18 ant to this subdivision, the board shall apply the factors listed in
19 paragraph (c) of subdivision two of this section and shall further
20 consider any facts or circumstances submitted by the applicant and may
21 take witness testimony.

22 § 2. Subdivision 6 of section 60.04 of the penal law, as amended by
23 section 120 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 6. Substance abuse treatment. When the court imposes a sentence of
26 imprisonment which requires a commitment to the state department of
27 corrections and community supervision upon a person who stands convicted
28 of a controlled substance or marihuana offense, the court may, upon
29 motion of the defendant in its discretion, make a finding that the
30 substance abuse was a significant contributing factor in the commission
31 of the offense and/or may issue an order directing that the department
32 of corrections and community supervision enroll the defendant in the
33 comprehensive alcohol and substance abuse treatment program in an alco-
34 hol and substance abuse correctional annex as defined in subdivision
35 eighteen of section two of the correction law, provided that the defend-
36 ant will satisfy the statutory eligibility criteria for participation in
37 such program. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subdivi-
38 sion, any defendant to be enrolled in such program pursuant to this
39 subdivision shall be governed by the same rules and regulations promul-
40 gated by the department of corrections and community supervision,
41 including without limitation those rules and regulations establishing
42 requirements for completion and those rules and regulations governing
43 discipline and removal from the program. No such period of court ordered
44 corrections based drug abuse treatment pursuant to this subdivision
45 shall be required to extend beyond the defendant's conditional release
46 date.

47 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
48 it shall have become a law.