

STATE OF NEW YORK

2949--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 18, 2017

Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, HELMING -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to adequate staffing at correctional facilities

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

1 Section 1. Section 112 of the correction law, as amended by section 19
2 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 § 112. Powers and duties of commissioner relating to correctional
5 facilities and community supervision. 1. The commissioner [~~of~~
6 ~~corrections and community supervision~~] shall have the superintendence,
7 management and control of the correctional facilities in the department
8 and of the inmates confined therein, and of all matters relating to the
9 government, discipline, policing, contracts and fiscal concerns thereof.

10 He or she shall have the responsibility to ensure that adequate staffing
11 exists at every correctional facility pursuant to subdivision three of
12 this section. He or she shall have the power and it shall be his or her
13 duty to inquire into all matters connected with said correctional facil-
14 ities. He or she shall make such rules and regulations, not in conflict
15 with the statutes of this state, for the government of the officers and
16 other employees of the department assigned to said facilities, and in
17 regard to the duties to be performed by them, and for the government and
18 discipline of each correctional facility, as he or she may deem proper,
19 and shall cause such rules and regulations to be recorded by the super-
20 intendent of the facility, and a copy thereof to be furnished to each
21 employee assigned to the facility. He or she shall also prescribe a
22 system of accounts and records to be kept at each correctional facility,
23 which system shall be uniform at all of said facilities, and he or she

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

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1 shall also make rules and regulations for a record of photographs and
2 other means of identifying each inmate received into said facilities. He
3 or she shall appoint and remove, subject to the civil service law and
4 rules, subordinate officers and other employees of the department who
5 are assigned to correctional facilities.

6 2. The commissioner shall have the management and control of persons
7 released on community supervision and of all matters relating to such
8 persons' effective reentry into the community, as well as all contracts
9 and fiscal concerns thereof. The commissioner shall have the power and
10 it shall be his or her duty to inquire into all matters connected with
11 said community supervision. The commissioner shall make such rules and
12 regulations, not in conflict with the statutes of this state, for the
13 governance of the officers and other employees of the department
14 assigned to said community supervision, and in regard to the duties to
15 be performed by them, as he or she deems proper and shall cause such
16 rules and regulations to be furnished to each employee assigned to
17 perform community supervision. The commissioner shall also prescribe a
18 system of accounts and records to be kept, which shall be uniform. The
19 commissioner shall also make rules and regulations for a record of
20 photographs and other means of identifying each inmate released to
21 community supervision. The commissioner shall appoint officers and other
22 employees of the department who are assigned to perform community super-
23 vision.

24 3. The commissioner shall establish a staffing plan for all uniformed
25 and non-uniformed employees. With regard to uniformed staff, the commis-
26 sioner shall establish a staffing plan which shall include, but not be
27 limited to, the following factors:

28 (a) The number of total security posts that must be staffed by
29 correction officers and correctional sergeants by correctional facility.
30 These posts shall be delineated by those that are necessary five days
31 per week and seven days per week.

32 (b) The staffing plan shall require that every post be staffed using a
33 ratio of at least 1.75 correction officers for every seven day post and
34 a ratio of at least 1.25 correction officers for each five day post.
35 Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize a reduction in
36 the ratio of officers in facilities which already maintain a ratio of at
37 least 1.75 officers and 1.25 officers for seven day posts and five days
38 posts, respectively.

39 (c) The commissioner shall provide a copy of such staffing plan to the
40 chairs of the senate finance, senate crime victims, crime and
41 correction, assembly ways and means and assembly correction committees
42 by December thirty-first of each year. Such report shall also provide
43 detailed information regarding how the staffing plan was implemented
44 during the current fiscal year. This information shall include:

45 (i) the number of correction officers and sergeants by correctional
46 facility that the staffing plan required as well as the actual number of
47 correction officers and sergeants that were available by correctional
48 facility during the current fiscal year. In the event the department
49 deviated from the staffing plan, the commissioner shall provide details
50 on why the staffing plan was not implemented as required pursuant to
51 this section;

52 (ii) the number of posts included in the staffing plan for each facil-
53 ity that have been closed on a daily basis, by correctional facility
54 security classification (minimum, medium and maximum);

1 (iii) the number of security positions not filled and those elimi-
2 nated, by correctional facility since two thousand one compared to the
3 number of inmates incarcerated in each such facility; and

4 (iv) a breakdown by correctional facility security classification
5 (minimum, medium, and maximum) of the staff hours of overtime worked, by
6 year since two thousand one and the annual aggregate costs related to
7 this overtime. In addition, such report shall be delineated by correc-
8 tional facility security classification, the annual number of security
9 positions eliminated, the number of closed posts and amount of staff
10 hours of overtime accrued as well as the overall overtime expenditures
11 that resulted.

12 4. The commissioner may require reports from the superintendent or any
13 other officer or employee of the department assigned to any correctional
14 facility or to perform community supervision in relation to his or her
15 conduct as such officer or employee, and shall have the power to inquire
16 into any improper conduct which may be alleged to have been committed by
17 any person at any correctional facility or in the course of his or her
18 performance of community supervision, and for that purpose to issue
19 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses, and the production
20 before him or her of books, writings and papers. A subpoena issued under
21 this section shall be regulated by the civil practice law and rules.

22 [~~4.~~] 5. The commissioner and the chair of the parole board shall work
23 jointly to develop and implement, as soon as practicable, a risk and
24 needs assessment instrument or instruments, which shall be empirically
25 validated, that would be administered to inmates upon reception into a
26 correctional facility, and throughout their incarceration and release to
27 community supervision, to facilitate appropriate programming both during
28 an inmate's incarceration and community supervision, and designed to
29 facilitate the successful integration of inmates into the community.

30 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
31 effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule
32 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-
33 tive date is authorized and directed to be made and completed on or
34 before such effective date.