STATE OF NEW YORK

6725

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 15, 2017

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

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to the establishment of an inmate visitation program

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

Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 114 to read as follows:

§ 114. Inmate visitation program. 1. The department shall provide an inmate visitation program which gives inmates opportunities for personal contact with relatives, friends, clergy, volunteers and other persons to promote better institutional adjustment and better community adjustment upon release. Such program shall include, but not be limited to, (a) in-person visitation seven days a week in general confinement facilities, (b) visiting hours that are reasonably likely to accommodate persons traveling from within the state, (c) visits of sufficient duration so that visitors and inmates will be able to maintain relationship bonds, (d) designated areas arranged to provide sufficient space to accommodate the likely number of visits on weekends while maintaining appropriate security, and (e) a published overcrowding policy that is equitable with due consideration to the distance traveled by the visitor.

2. Areas shall be designated for confidential meetings which will ensure the privacy of conversations during professional visits of attorneys or their duly authorized representatives, representatives of the news media or visiting clergy.

3. The department shall promulgate rules to ensure the objective of this program including, but not limited to, the ability of superintendents to modify visiting rules to adjust to local conditions with the prior approval of the commissioner; however, the departmental overcrowding policy shall not be modified.

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

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4. No inmate is to be visited against his or her will by any person including attorneys or their duly authorized representatives, or representatives of the news media.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.