

STATE OF NEW YORK

7899

IN SENATE

March 7, 2018

Introduced by Sen. MONTGOMERY -- 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 creating the office of the correctional ombudsman; to amend the county law, in relation to reports by coroners; to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to designating investigators of the office of the correctional ombudsman as peace officers; to amend the education law, in relation to the certification of inmate populations; to amend the executive law, in relation to authorizing the attorney general to investigate the alleged commission of any criminal offense committed by an employee of the department of corrections and community supervision in connection with his or her official duties; to amend the executive law, in relation to the division of criminal justice services; to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to clinical records; to amend the public health law, in relation to the confidentiality of certain records; to amend the public officers law, in relation to including the office of the correctional ombudsman records within the definition of public safety agency records; and to amend the social services law, in relation to inspection and supervision

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

1 Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new article 3-A
2 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3-A

OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN

Section 50. Definitions.

6 51. Office of the correctional ombudsman; organization.

7 52. Correctional oversight board.

8 53. Powers of the ombudsman.

9 54. Additional functions, powers and duties of the office of the
10 ombudsman.

11 55. Additional duties of the department.

12 56. Obstructing an investigation by the correctional ombudsman.

13 § 50. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following
14 terms shall have the following meanings:

15 1. "Office" refers to the office of the correctional ombudsman.

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

LBD04193-03-8

1 2. "Ombudsman" refers to the commissioner of the office of the correc-
2 tional ombudsman.

3 § 51. Office of the correctional ombudsman; organization. 1. In order
4 to achieve transparency, fairness, impartiality and accountability in
5 our state correctional facilities, there shall be an independent office
6 of the correctional ombudsman within the executive department. The
7 ombudsman shall report to the correctional oversight board established
8 pursuant to section fifty-two of this article, provided, however, that
9 administrative matters of general application within the executive
10 department shall be also applicable to the office.

11 (a) Following the initial appointment of the members of the correc-
12 tional oversight board established pursuant to section fifty-two of this
13 article, such board shall promptly nominate a full-time ombudsman and
14 notify the governor of such nomination. Nothing in this paragraph shall
15 prohibit the board from appointing an interim ombudsman if there is a
16 vacancy.

17 (b) The governor, within thirty days after receiving written notice of
18 any nomination of an ombudsman made pursuant to paragraph (a) of this
19 subdivision, may approve or disapprove such nomination. If the governor
20 approves such nomination, or fails to act on such nomination within such
21 thirty day period, the nominee shall thereupon commence his or her term
22 as ombudsman. If, within such thirty day period, the governor serves
23 upon the chair of such board a written notice disapproving such nomi-
24 nation, the nominee shall not be authorized to serve as ombudsman
25 provided, however, that such board may authorize an interim ombudsman
26 appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision to serve or
27 continue to serve as interim ombudsman until such time as an ombudsman
28 is approved, or not timely disapproved, by the governor. Following any
29 disapproval, the board shall have sixty days to submit another nominee,
30 although such period may be extended, upon request of the board, by the
31 governor. A person appointed as interim ombudsman may exercise all of
32 the powers available to the ombudsman.

33 (c) The ombudsman may not have worked for the department within the
34 last ten years and may not hold any public office or other employment.
35 The ombudsman shall serve a six-year term and may only be removed for
36 good cause shown, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, by a vote
37 of two-thirds or more of the twelve members of the board.

38 § 52. Correctional oversight board. 1. There is hereby created the
39 correctional oversight board hereinafter referred to in this section as
40 the "board". The purpose of such board shall be to monitor, study and
41 make efforts to improve the transparency, fairness, impartiality and
42 accountability in state correctional facilities and to appoint the
43 ombudsman. No current employee of the department shall be appointed to
44 or serve on such board. The board shall consist of twelve members who
45 shall be appointed as follows:

46 (a) one shall be the state inspector general;

47 (b) two shall be appointed by the governor on the recommendation of
48 the senate;

49 (c) two shall be appointed by the governor on the recommendation of
50 the assembly;

51 (d) two shall be appointed by the governor from a list of at least six
52 nominees submitted by non-profit agencies working in the fields of
53 re-entry or prisoner advocacy;

54 (e) one shall be appointed by the governor and shall be a former state
55 inmate;

1 (f) one shall be appointed by the governor and shall be a former
2 employee of the department who is no longer in state service;

3 (g) one shall be an attorney appointed by the governor from a list of
4 at least four nominees submitted by the state bar association;

5 (h) one shall be a medical professional appointed by the governor; and

6 (i) one shall be a mental health professional who works with the
7 Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs appointed
8 by the governor.

9 2. All members of the board shall be appointed for terms of three
10 years with such terms to commence on August first, and expire July thir-
11 ty-first, provided, however, that the inspector general shall serve ex
12 officio. Initial appointments must be made within sixty days of the
13 effective date of this subdivision. Any member chosen to fill a vacancy
14 created otherwise than by expiration of term shall be appointed for the
15 unexpired term of the member whom he or she is to succeed. Vacancies
16 caused by expiration of a term or otherwise shall be filled promptly and
17 in the same manner as original appointments. Any member may be reap-
18 pointed for additional terms. A member of the board shall continue in
19 such position upon the expiration of his or her term until such time as
20 he or she is reappointed or his or her successor is appointed, as the
21 case may be.

22 3. Membership on the board shall not constitute the holding of an
23 office, and members of the board shall not be required to take and file
24 oaths of office before serving on the board. The board shall not have
25 the right to exercise any portion of the sovereign power of the state.

26 4. The board shall meet at least two times in each year. The first
27 meeting of the board shall be held within thirty days of the appointment
28 of the full board or within sixty days after the effective date of this
29 subdivision, whichever occurs earlier. Special meetings may be called by
30 the chair and shall be called by the chair upon the request of at least
31 five members of the board. The board may establish its own procedures
32 with respect to the conduct of its meetings and other affairs; provided,
33 however, that the quorum and majority provisions of section forty-one of
34 the general construction law shall govern all actions taken by the
35 board.

36 5. The members of the board shall receive no compensation for their
37 services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses
38 incurred in the performance of their functions hereunder.

39 6. No member of the board shall be disqualified from holding any
40 public office or employment outside of the department, nor shall he or
41 she forfeit any such office or employment, by reason of his or her
42 appointment pursuant to this section, notwithstanding the provisions of
43 any other general, special or local law, ordinance or city charter.

44 7. The board shall make recommendations to the ombudsman for the
45 improvement of the department's policies and consult with and advise the
46 office of the correctional ombudsman in carrying out the duties and
47 responsibilities of such office. The ombudsman shall report to the
48 board fully on the activities of the office and shall seek board
49 approval on all major decisions or policy changes, including any stand-
50 ards or protocols adopted by the ombudsman for the inspection and moni-
51 toring of correctional facilities or the resolution of complaints
52 received by the office.

53 8. Each member of the board shall tour a correctional facility with
54 the ombudsman at least annually.

55 § 53. Powers of the ombudsman. 1. The ombudsman shall have the
56 authority to hire and retain counsel to provide confidential advice or

1 to represent the ombudsman if the attorney general has a conflict in
2 representing the ombudsman in any litigation.

3 2. The office of the ombudsman shall not be located in the same build-
4 ing or buildings as the department but shall be wholly independent of
5 the department except that the department shall provide it with office
6 space, equipment and furnishings within any department facility as need-
7 ed to carry out its functions and duties.

8 3. The ombudsman may appoint such assistants, officers, investigators,
9 monitors, employees and consultants as he or she shall determine neces-
10 sary, prescribe their duties and powers, provide them with appropriate
11 training, fix their compensation and provide for reimbursement of their
12 expenses within the amounts appropriated therefor except that the
13 ombudsman shall not hire any person known to be directly or indirectly
14 involved in an open internal affairs investigation conducted by any
15 federal, state or local agency or who is a named defendant in a pending
16 federal or state lawsuit or criminal proceeding relating to his or her
17 prior work for a state, local or federal correctional or law enforcement
18 agency. The ombudsman may appoint a representative to carry out any of
19 his or her duties under this article except that the ombudsman must
20 attend meetings with the correctional oversight board.

21 4. The ombudsman may create, abolish, transfer and consolidate bureaus
22 and other units within the office as he or she may determine necessary
23 for the efficient operation of the office, subject to the approval of
24 the director of the budget.

25 5. The ombudsman may request and shall receive from any department,
26 division, bureau, commission or any other agency of the state or poli-
27 tical subdivision thereof or any public authority such assistance,
28 information and data as will enable the office to carry out its func-
29 tions, powers and duties.

30 6. The ombudsman shall be responsible for the contemporaneous public
31 oversight of internal affairs and the disciplinary process of the
32 department of corrections and community supervision. The ombudsman
33 shall have discretion to provide oversight of any department investi-
34 gation relating to the well-being, treatment, discipline, safety or any
35 other matter concerning inmates or persons under community supervision
36 as needed, including personnel investigations.

37 7. The ombudsman may review specific policies, practices, programs and
38 procedures of the department that raise a significant correctional issue
39 relevant to the well-being, treatment, discipline, safety, rehabili-
40 tation or any other matter concerning inmates or persons under community
41 supervision. The ombudsman is authorized to inspect, investigate or
42 examine all aspects of the department's operations and conditions,
43 including, but not limited to, staff recruitment, training, supervision,
44 discipline, inmate deaths, medical and mental health care, use of force,
45 inmate violence, conditions of confinement, inmate disciplinary process,
46 inmate grievance process, substance-abuse treatment, educational, voca-
47 tional and other programming and re-entry planning. During the course of
48 a review the ombudsman shall identify areas of full and partial compli-
49 ance or noncompliance with departmental policies and procedures, specify
50 deficiencies in the completion and documentation of processes and recom-
51 mend corrective actions, including, but not limited to, additional
52 training, additional policies or changes in policies, as well as any
53 other findings or recommendations he or she deems appropriate.

54 8. The ombudsman may place such members of his or her staff as he or
55 she deems appropriate as monitors in any correctional facility which, in
56 the judgment of the ombudsman, presents an imminent danger to the health

1 safety or security of inmates or employees of such correctional facility
2 or the public.

3 9. The ombudsman shall accept, with the approval of the governor, as
4 agent of the state any grant, including federal grants, or any gift for
5 any of the purposes of this article. Any moneys so received may be
6 expended by the ombudsman to effectuate any purpose of this article,
7 subject to the same limitations as to approval of expenditures and audit
8 as are prescribed for state moneys appropriated for the purposes of this
9 article.

10 10. The ombudsman may enter into contracts with any person, firm,
11 corporation, municipality, or governmental agency.

12 11. The ombudsman shall adopt, amend or rescind such rules and regu-
13 lations, in accordance with applicable state law, as may be necessary or
14 convenient to the performance of the functions, powers and duties of the
15 office.

16 12. The ombudsman shall do all other things necessary or convenient to
17 carry out its functions, powers and duties expressly set forth in this
18 article.

19 13. When exigent circumstances of unsafe or life threatening situ-
20 ations arise involving inmates, staff, people on community supervision
21 or other individuals, the ombudsman shall notify the governor, temporary
22 president of the senate and speaker of the assembly and commence an
23 immediate review of such circumstances. Upon completion of a review, the
24 ombudsman shall prepare a complete written report which shall be
25 disclosed with the underlying materials that the ombudsman deems appro-
26 priate to the commissioner, the requesting entity and any appropriate
27 law enforcement agency.

28 14. (a) The ombudsman shall interview and review all candidates for
29 appointment to serve as the superintendent of any state correctional
30 facility. The commissioner shall submit the names of such candidates to
31 the ombudsman who shall review such candidates' qualifications and
32 employ confidential procedures to evaluate the qualifications of each
33 candidate with regard to his or her ability to discharge the duties of
34 the office to which he or she is being appointed. Within ninety days of
35 the submission of a candidate's name, the ombudsman shall confidentially
36 advise the commissioner as to whether such candidate is well-qualified,
37 qualified or not qualified and the reasons therefore and may report, in
38 confidence, any other information that the ombudsman deems pertinent to
39 the qualification of the candidate. The ombudsman shall establish and
40 adopt rules and procedures regarding the review of candidates for the
41 position of superintendent and for maintaining the confidentiality of
42 any interviews, documents or other information relied upon in his or her
43 review. All such information shall be privileged and not subject to
44 disclosure.

45 (b) If the commissioner appoints a superintendent who the ombudsman
46 found was not qualified, the ombudsman shall make public that finding
47 after due notice to the appointee. Any candidate found to be not quali-
48 fied by the ombudsman shall have the right to withdraw from consider-
49 ation before the ombudsman makes such public finding and in that case
50 the finding shall not be published. Such notice and public finding
51 shall not constitute a waiver of privilege or breach of confidentiality
52 concerning the ombudsman's review of the appointee's qualifications
53 pursuant to this section.

54 15. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the ombudsman shall
55 periodically, but not less than every three years, conduct inspections
56 of each correctional facility and shall periodically review delivery of

1 medical and mental health care at each correctional facility. The
2 ombudsman shall issue a public report on each correctional facility at
3 least every three years. The ombudsman need not notify the department
4 before commencing such inspection or review.

5 16. All records, correspondence, videotapes, audiotapes, photographs,
6 notes, electronic communications, books, memoranda, papers or other
7 documents or objects used as evidence to support a completed review or
8 investigation must be retained for three years after a report is issued
9 unless handed over to a law enforcement agency for criminal investi-
10 gation. No such documents or evidence shall be destroyed pending the
11 completion of an investigation or review. Such documents or evidence
12 shall be publicly available unless confidential and not subject to
13 disclosure under the freedom of information law or by court order.

14 17. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law the ombudsman shall
15 have complete access and authority to examine and reproduce any and all
16 past and current books, accounts, reports, medical and mental health
17 records, vouchers, correspondence files, computer files, computer data
18 bases, documents, video and audio tape recordings, statistics and
19 performance based outcome measures and any and all other past and
20 current records and to examine the bank accounts, money or property of
21 the department. Any state office or agency of a political subdivision
22 of the state or other public entity or employee or officer thereof
23 possessing such records or property shall permit access to, and examina-
24 tion and reproduction thereof, consistent with the provisions of this
25 article, upon the request the ombudsman or his or her designee. Access,
26 examination and reproduction consistent with the provision of this
27 section shall not result in the waiver of any confidentiality or privi-
28 lege regarding any records or property.

29 18. The ombudsman may require any state employee to be interviewed on
30 a confidential basis. Such employee must comply with the request to be
31 interviewed and must be given time off from his or her employment for
32 the purposes of attending such an interview and may be accompanied by
33 counsel acting on his or her behalf. The ombudsman may also conduct a
34 confidential interview of any inmate or other person upon consent.

35 19. The ombudsman may enter anywhere on the grounds of any department
36 facility or office for the purposes of observation, inspection and
37 investigation and shall have unfettered access to all areas of the
38 department and any facility at any time.

39 20. The ombudsman may cause the body of a deceased inmate to undergo
40 such examinations, including an autopsy, as he or she deems necessary to
41 determine the cause of death, irrespective of whether any such examina-
42 tion or autopsy shall have been previously performed.

43 21. (a) In the exercise of its functions, powers and duties, the
44 ombudsman and any attorney employed by the office is authorized to issue
45 and enforce a subpoena and a subpoena duces tecum, administer oaths and
46 examine persons under oath, in accordance with and pursuant to civil
47 practice law and rules. A person examined under oath pursuant to this
48 subdivision shall have the right to be accompanied by counsel who shall
49 advise the person of his or her rights subject to reasonable limitations
50 to prevent obstruction of, or interference with, the orderly conduct of
51 the examination. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a subpoena
52 may be issued and enforced pursuant to this subdivision for the medical
53 records of an inmate of a correctional facility, regardless of whether
54 such medical records were made during the course of the inmate's incar-
55 ceration.

(b) In any case where a person in charge or control of a correctional facility or an officer or employee thereof shall fail to comply with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, or in any case where a coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner shall fail to comply with the provisions of subdivision six of section six hundred seventy-seven of the county law, the ombudsman may apply to the supreme court for an order directed to such person requiring compliance therewith. Upon such application the court may issue such order as may be just and a failure to comply with the order of the court shall be a contempt of court and punishable as such.

22. The ombudsman shall not be compelled to testify or release records without a court order that are otherwise exempt from public disclosure, including documents pertaining to any investigation that has not been completed or any identifying information, personal papers or correspondence with any person who has requested assistance from the office unless that person consents in writing to the release of such information, papers or correspondence.

23. The ombudsman may hold public hearings.

§ 54. Additional functions, powers and duties of the office of the ombudsman. 1. The office may receive communications from any individual who believes he or she may have information that may describe improper governmental activities or wrongdoing within the department. Inmate mail to and from the ombudsman shall be treated in the same manner as legal mail and may not be restricted by the department, the office of mental health or any other entity.

(a) The ombudsman shall establish a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of identifying any alleged wrongdoing by an employee of the department. This telephone number shall be posted by the department in clear view of employees, inmates and the public, and inmates shall be permitted to call such number during normal hours for telephone usage or within twenty-four hours of admission to a special housing unit or other unit with restricted telephone access. Telephone calls made to such toll-free number from a correctional facility shall not be recorded by the department and are protected confidential communications. The ombudsman shall also maintain a website with a complaint form that may be filled out online and shall also accept complaints by mail or other means alleging wrongdoing by an employee of the department. When requested, the ombudsman shall initiate a review of any such alleged wrongdoing which may result in an investigation of the alleged wrongdoing at the ombudsman's discretion.

(b) At the conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, the ombudsman shall report his or her findings to the complainant and any person designated to receive such findings by the complainant. If the ombudsman does not investigate a complaint, he or she shall notify the complainant and such other person of the decision not to investigate and the reasons for the decision. If the complainant is deceased at the time of the completion of an investigation, the ombudsman shall report his or her findings to the complainant's next of kin when such person is known to the ombudsman or to the department.

(c) The ombudsman may act informally to resolve a complaint including providing referrals or information to complainants, expediting individual matters, mediating or providing other assistance.

(d) All identifying information and any personal records or correspondence from any person who initiated the review of such alleged wrongdoing shall be confidential unless the person consents to disclosure in writing.

1 (e) Where the ombudsman believes that an allegation of criminal
2 misconduct has been made by a complainant, he or she shall report such
3 allegation to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

4 2. Upon receiving a complaint of retaliation for complaining to or
5 cooperating with the ombudsman, the ombudsman shall commence an inquiry
6 into the complaint and conduct a formal investigation. Should the
7 ombudsman find that a complaint of retaliation is founded as a result of
8 an investigation, he or she shall so notify the department and make
9 recommendations for corrective action to be taken by the department. The
10 ombudsman shall make the results and supporting evidence of its formal
11 investigation available to the division of human rights should an
12 employee file a retaliation complaint with such agency and consent to
13 such disclosure in writing.

14 3. To facilitate oversight, the office shall be immediately notified
15 by the department of all unusual and significant incidences including,
16 but not limited to, riots or fights involving multiple combatants, use
17 of force, inmate deaths, serious physical assaults on employees or
18 inmates, work stoppages and escapes and shall be given monthly aggre-
19 gated reports of unusual incidents and inmate grievances by the depart-
20 ment. Employees of the office shall be permitted to be present in any
21 department internal investigation or inquiry. The office shall be
22 responsible for reporting such unusual and significant incidents and the
23 outcome of its investigations into such incidents to the public no less
24 than quarterly.

25 4. (a) The ombudsman shall annually prepare a public report and summa-
26 ry of all investigations and reviews, including a list of significant
27 problems discovered by the office, whether or not the recommendations
28 made by the office have been implemented, and a list of the office's
29 high priorities for the following year. The ombudsman shall submit such
30 report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and
31 speaker of the assembly by December thirty-first of each year. Such
32 report shall be posted in electronic form on the office's public
33 website. The ombudsman shall be authorized to redact portions of such
34 report in a manner consistent with article six of the public officers
35 law or where disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

36 (b) Upon review of the cause of death and circumstances surrounding
37 the death of any inmate in a correctional facility, the ombudsman shall
38 submit its report thereon to the governor, the speaker of the assembly,
39 the temporary president of the senate, the chairperson of the assembly
40 correction committee, the chairperson of the senate crime and correction
41 committee, and the commissioner, and, where appropriate, make recommen-
42 dations to prevent the recurrence of such deaths. Such reports shall be
43 published on the office's website and shall otherwise be made available
44 to the public.

45 (c) The ombudsman shall make an annual report to the governor, the
46 speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the
47 chairperson of the assembly correction committee and the chairperson of
48 the senate crime and correction committee on the condition of systems
49 for the delivery of medical care to inmates of correctional facilities
50 and, where appropriate, recommend such changes as it shall deem neces-
51 sary and proper to improve the quality and availability of such medical
52 care. Such report shall be published on the office's website and shall
53 otherwise be made available to the public.

54 (d) All public reports by the ombudsman shall not disclose information
55 where prohibited by law.

1 § 55. Additional duties of the department. 1. State employees operating within a correctional facility must cooperate fully and promptly with the ombudsman.

2 2. The department shall respond in writing to any recommendations made by the ombudsman or his or her designee within forty-five days and shall state with specificity its reasons for failing to act on any such recommendation. Such writings shall be made public by the ombudsman except that information which would reveal confidential material that may not be released pursuant to federal or state law shall be reacted by the ombudsman from any such report or recommendation.

3 3. The commissioner shall immediately report to the ombudsman the death of an inmate of any such facility in such manner and form as the ombudsman shall prescribe and shall provide him or her with an autopsy report when available.

4 § 56. Obstructing an investigation by the correctional ombudsman. A person is guilty of obstructing an investigation by the correctional ombudsman when, with intent to obstruct or impede an inquiry or investigation by the correctional ombudsman appointed pursuant to sections fifty-three or fifty-four of this article, he or she knowingly destroys or knowingly fails to permit access to, examination of, or reproduction by the office of such correctional ombudsman, of any book, account, bank account information, report, voucher, correspondence or correspondence file, computer file, computer data base, document, video or audio recording, statistic or performance based outcome measure, money, property or any other record of the department of corrections and community supervision lawfully requested by such correctional ombudsman. Obstructing an investigation by the correctional ombudsman is a class A misdemeanor.

5 § 2. Section 2 of the correction law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 32 and 33 to read as follows:

6 32. "Office" means the office of the correctional ombudsman.

7 33. "Ombudsman" means the commissioner of the office of the correctional ombudsman.

8 § 3. Subdivision 3 of section 40 of the correction law, as amended by section 13 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

9 3. "Correctional facility" means [~~any institution operated by the state department of corrections and community supervision,~~] any local correctional facility, or any place, other than a state correctional facility operated by the department, used, pursuant to a contract with the state or a municipality, for the detention of persons charged with or convicted of a crime, or, for the purpose of this article only, a secure facility operated by the office of children and family services.

10 § 4. Paragraph 1 of subdivision (c) of section 42 of the correction law, as added by chapter 865 of the laws of 1975, is amended to read as follows:

11 1. Advise and assist the commission in developing policies, plans and programs for improving the commission's performance of its duties and for coordinating the efforts of the commission and of correctional officials to improve conditions of care, treatment, safety, supervision, rehabilitation, recreation, training and education in local correctional facilities;

12 § 5. Subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 of section 45 of the correction law, subdivisions 1 and 2 as added by chapter 865 of the laws of 1975, subdivision 3 as amended by section 1, subdivisions 6 and 10 as amended by section 7 of part Q of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, subdi-

vision 4 as amended by section 15 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, subdivision 8 as amended by section 2 of part D of chapter 63 of the laws of 2005, paragraph (b) of subdivision 8 as amended by section 4 of part H of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

1. Advise and assist the governor in developing policies, plans and programs for improving the administration of local correctional facilities and the delivery of services therein.

2. Make recommendations to administrators of local correctional facilities for improving the administration of such correctional facilities and the delivery of services therein.

3. Except in circumstances involving health, safety or alleged violations of established standards of the commission, visit, and inspect local correctional facilities consistent with a schedule determined by the chairman of the commission, taking into consideration available resources, workload and staffing, and appraise the management of such correctional facilities with specific attention to matters such as safety, security, health of inmates, sanitary conditions, rehabilitative programs, disturbance and fire prevention and control preparedness, and adherence to laws and regulations governing the rights of inmates.

4. Establish procedures to assure effective investigation of grievances of, and conditions affecting, inmates of local correctional facilities. Such procedures shall include but not be limited to receipt of written complaints, interviews of persons, and on-site monitoring of conditions. ~~[In addition, the commission shall establish procedures for the speedy and impartial review of grievances referred to it by the commissioner of the department of corrections and community supervision.]~~

6. Promulgate rules and regulations establishing minimum standards for the review of the construction or improvement of local correctional facilities and the care, custody, correction, treatment, supervision, discipline, and other correctional programs for all persons confined in such correctional facilities. Such rules and regulations shall be forwarded to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than January first, nineteen hundred seventy-six and annually thereafter.

8. ~~(a)~~ Close any local correctional facility which is unsafe, unsanitary or inadequate to provide for the separation and classification of prisoners required by law or which has not adhered to or complied with the rules or regulations promulgated with respect to any such facility by the commission pursuant to the provisions of subdivision six of this section; provided, however, that before such facility may be closed due to conditions which are unsafe, unsanitary or inadequate to provide for the separation and classification of prisoners, the commission shall cause a citation to be mailed to the appropriate municipal or other official at least ten days before the return day thereof directing the responsible authorities designated to appear before such commission at the time and place set forth in the citation, and show cause why such correctional facility should not be closed. After a hearing thereon or upon the failure to appear, such commission is empowered to order such facility designated in the citation closed within twenty days, during which time the respondent authority may review such order in the manner provided in article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules, in the supreme court. Fifteen days after the order to close has been served by a registered letter upon the appropriate official if no court review has been taken, and fifteen days after the order of such commis-

1 sion has been confirmed by the court, in case of court review, such
2 facility designated in the order shall be closed, and it shall be unlaw-
3 ful to confine or detain any person therein and any officer confining or
4 detaining any person therein shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

5 ~~[(b) Before a correctional facility as defined in subdivision four of~~
6 ~~section two of this chapter, may be closed for a reason other than those~~
7 ~~set forth in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the provisions of~~
8 ~~section seventy-nine-a of this chapter shall be adhered to.]~~

9 10. Approve or reject plans and specifications for the construction or
10 improvement of local correctional facilities that directly affect the
11 health of inmates and staff, safety, or security.

12 § 6. Section 46 of the correction law, as added by chapter 865 of the
13 laws of 1975, subdivisions 1 and 2 as amended by chapter 232 of the laws
14 of 2012, and subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 490 of the laws of
15 2015, is amended to read as follows:

16 § 46. Additional functions, powers and duties of the commission. 1.
17 The commission, any member or any employee designated by the commission
18 must be granted access at any and all times to any local correctional
19 facility or part thereof and to all books, records, inmate medical
20 records and data pertaining to any correctional facility deemed neces-
21 sary for carrying out the commission's functions, powers and duties. The
22 commission, any member or any employee designated by the chairman may
23 require from the officers or employees of [~~a~~] such correctional facility
24 any information deemed necessary for the purpose of carrying out the
25 commission's functions, powers and duties.

26 2. In the exercise of its functions, powers and duties, the commis-
27 sion, any member, and any attorney employed by the commission is author-
28 ized to issue and enforce a subpoena and a subpoena duces tecum, admin-
29 ister oaths and examine persons under oath, in accordance with and
30 pursuant to civil practice law and rules. A person examined under oath
31 pursuant to this subdivision shall have the right to be accompanied by
32 counsel who shall advise the person of their rights subject to reason-
33 able limitations to prevent obstruction of, or interference with, the
34 orderly conduct of the examination. Notwithstanding any other provision
35 of law, a subpoena may be issued and enforced pursuant to this subdivi-
36 sion for the medical records of an inmate of a correctional facility,
37 regardless of whether such medical records were made during the course
38 of the inmate's incarceration.

39 3. In any case where a person in charge or control of a local correc-
40 tional facility or an officer or employee thereof shall fail to comply
41 with the provisions of subdivision one, or in any case where a coroner,
42 coroner's physician or medical examiner shall fail to comply with the
43 provisions of subdivision six of section six hundred seventy-seven of
44 the county law, the commission may apply to the supreme court for an
45 order directed to such person requiring compliance therewith. Upon such
46 application the court may issue such order as may be just and a failure
47 to comply with the order of the court shall be a contempt of court and
48 punishable as such.

49 4. In any case where any rule or regulation promulgated by the commis-
50 sion pursuant to subdivision six of section forty-five of this article
51 or the laws relating to the construction, management and affairs of
52 [~~any~~] a local correctional facility or the care, treatment and disci-
53 pline of its inmates, are being or are about to be violated, the commis-
54 sion shall notify the person in charge or control of the facility of
55 such violation, recommend remedial action, and direct such person to
56 comply with the rule, regulation or law, as the case may be. Upon the

1 failure of such person to comply with the rule, regulation or law the
2 commission may apply to the supreme court for an order directed to such
3 person requiring compliance with such rule, regulation or law. Upon such
4 application the court may issue such order as may be just and a failure
5 to comply with the order of the court shall be a contempt of court and
6 punishable as such.

7 § 7. Section 47 of the correction law, as added by chapter 865 of the
8 laws of 1975, paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 447
9 of the laws of 2016 and subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 491 of the
10 laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

11 § 47. Functions, powers and duties of the board. 1. The board shall
12 have the following functions, powers and duties:

13 (a) Investigate and review the cause and circumstances surrounding the
14 death of any inmate of a local correctional facility.

15 (b) Visit and inspect any local correctional facility wherein an
16 inmate has died.

17 (c) Cause the body of the deceased to undergo such examinations,
18 including an autopsy, as in the opinion of the board, are necessary to
19 determine the cause of death, irrespective of whether any such examina-
20 tion or autopsy shall have previously been performed.

21 (d) Upon review of the cause of death and circumstances surrounding
22 the death of any inmate in a local correctional facility, the board
23 shall submit its report thereon to the commission, the governor, the
24 speaker of the assembly and temporary president of the senate, the
25 chairperson of the assembly correction committee and the chairperson of
26 the senate crime and correction committee, and, where appropriate, make
27 recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such deaths to the commis-
28 sion and the administrator of the appropriate correctional facility.

29 (e) (i) Investigate and report to the commission on the condition of
30 systems for the delivery of medical care to inmates of local correction-
31 al facilities and where appropriate recommend such changes as it shall
32 deem necessary and proper to improve the quality and availability of
33 such medical care.

34 (ii) The board shall be responsive to inquiries from the next of kin
35 and other person designated as a representative of any inmate whose
36 death takes place during custody in a state correctional facility
37 regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of such inmate.
38 Contact information for the next of kin and designated representative
39 shall be provided by the department to the board from the emergency
40 contact information previously provided by the inmate to the department.

41 2. Every administrator of a local correctional facility shall imme-
42 diately report to the board the death of an inmate of any such facility
43 in such manner and form as the board shall prescribe, together with an
44 autopsy report.

45 § 8. Section 89-a of the correction law, as amended by chapter 409 of
46 the laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

47 § 89-a. ~~[1-]~~ Management of alternate correctional facilities. 1.
48 Superintendence, management and control of alternate correctional facil-
49 ities and the eligible inmates housed therein shall be as directed by
50 the commissioner consistent with the following: an alternate correction-
51 al facility shall be operated pursuant to rules and regulations promul-
52 gated for such facilities by the commissioner in consultation with the
53 ~~[state commission of correction]~~ office of the correctional ombudsman
54 and the provisions of the operation agreement. The commissioner shall
55 operate such facility insofar as practicable in the same manner as a
56 general confinement facility which houses medium security state inmates.

Nothing herein, however, shall preclude the commissioner from enhancing staffing or programming to accommodate the particular needs of eligible inmates pursuant to the operation agreement. No inmate shall be housed in any alternate correctional facility until such facility has been established in accordance with the provisions of section eighty-nine of this article. The population in an alternate correctional facility shall not exceed its design capacity of approximately seven hundred eligible inmates except pursuant to variances permitted by law, rule or regulation or court order.

2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no variance authorizing an alternate correctional facility to exceed its design capacity shall be granted after March fifteenth, nineteen hundred ninety-two unless the mayor of the city of New York submits, together with the variance request, a certificate of emergency demonstrating the need for such variance and that reasonable alternatives to the granting of the variance do not exist, and containing a detailed summary of measures that will be taken to restore compliance with such design capacity. The ~~chairman of the state commission of correction~~ commissioner of the office of the correctional ombudsman shall transmit, in a timely manner, notice of such request to the chairmen of the senate crime and correction committee and the assembly correction committee.

§ 9. Subdivision 1 of section 89-e of the correction law, as amended by section 47 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1. The alternate correctional facility review panel is hereby established and shall consist of the commissioner, ~~the chairman of the state commission of correction~~ the commissioner of the office of the correctional ombudsman, the chairman of the board of parole, the director of the office of probation and correctional alternatives, the commissioner of correction of the city of New York, the president of the New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute, Inc., and the president of the Correctional Association of New York or their designees. The governor shall appoint a chairman and vice-chairman from among the members.

§ 10. Section 89-f of the correction law, as added by chapter 549 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

§ 89-f. Oversight. The ~~state commission of correction~~ office of the correctional ombudsman shall exercise the same powers and duties concerning each alternate correctional facility as the ~~commission~~ office is required to exercise concerning a New York state correctional facility. The ~~commission~~ office shall prepare an annual report on each alternate correctional facility which shall evaluate and assess the department's compliance with all rules and regulations applicable to that facility and the operation agreement and which shall include an analysis of the frequency and severity of all unusual incidents and assaults occurring in that facility. The annual reports shall be filed with the governor, the mayor of the city of New York, the chairman of the senate crime and correction committee, and the chairman of the assembly committee on correction no later than the first day of June of each year.

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

1. The commissioner of corrections and community supervision shall have the superintendence, management and control of the correctional facilities in the department and of the inmates confined therein, and of all matters relating to the government, discipline, policing, contracts

1 and fiscal concerns thereof. He or she shall have the power and it shall
2 be his or her duty to inquire into all matters connected with said
3 correctional facilities and to report any allegations of corruption,
4 fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest or abuse to the office
5 of the correctional ombudsman for investigation, as well as report to
6 such office on other correctional issues, including, but not limited to,
7 staff recruitment, training, supervision, discipline, inmate deaths,
8 medical and mental health care, use of force, inmate violence, condi-
9 tions of confinement, inmate disciplinary process, inmate grievance
10 process, substance-abuse treatment, educational, vocational and other
11 programming and re-entry planning. He or she shall make such rules and
12 regulations, not in conflict with the statutes of this state, for the
13 government of the officers and other employees of the department
14 assigned to said facilities, and in regard to the duties to be performed
15 by them, and for the government and discipline of each correctional
16 facility, as he or she may deem proper, and shall cause such rules and
17 regulations to be recorded by the superintendent of the facility, and a
18 copy thereof to be furnished to each employee assigned to the facility.
19 He or she shall also prescribe a system of accounts and records to be
20 kept at each correctional facility, which system shall be uniform at all
21 of said facilities, and he or she shall also make rules and regulations
22 for a record of photographs and other means of identifying each inmate
23 received into said facilities. He or she shall appoint and remove,
24 subject to the civil service law and rules, subordinate officers and
25 other employees of the department who are assigned to correctional
26 facilities.

27 § 12. Subdivision 1 of section 146 of the correction law, as amended
28 by chapter 234 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

29 1. The following persons shall be authorized to visit at pleasure all
30 correctional facilities: The governor and lieutenant-governor, commis-
31 sioner of general services, secretary of state, comptroller and attor-
32 ney-general, members of the commission of correction, any employee of,
33 or person under contract to, the office of the correctional ombudsman,
34 members of the correctional oversight board, members of the legislature
35 and any employee of the department as requested by the member of the
36 legislature if the member requests to be so accompanied, provided that
37 such request does not impact upon the department's ability to supervise,
38 manage and control its facilities as determined by the commissioner,
39 judges of the court of appeals, supreme court and county judges,
40 district attorneys and every clergyman or minister, as such terms are
41 defined in section two of the religious corporations law, having charge
42 of a congregation in the county wherein any such facility is situated.
43 No other person not otherwise authorized by law shall be permitted to
44 enter a correctional facility except by authority of the commissioner of
45 correction under such regulations as the commissioner shall prescribe.
46 The provisions of this section shall not apply to such portion of a
47 correctional facility in which inmates under sentence of death are
48 confined.

49 § 13. Section 853 of the correction law, as amended by chapter 757 of
50 the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

51 § 853. Reporting and information. To ensure the accurate maintenance
52 and availability of statistics and records with respect to participation
53 in temporary release programs, the department shall maintain the follow-
54 ing information relative to the operation of temporary release programs:

- 55 (a) number of inmate participants in each temporary release program;

(b) number of inmates participating in temporary release for whom written approval of the commissioner was required pursuant to subdivision two of section eight hundred fifty-one of this chapter;

(c) number and type of individual programs approved for each participant;

(d) approved participating employers and educational institutions;

(e) number of inmates arrested;

(f) inmates involuntarily returned for violations by institution;

(g) absconders still at large;

(h) number of disciplinary proceedings initiated and the results thereof;

(i) number of temporary release committee decisions appealed and the results thereof by institution;

(j) reports or information made available to the department with respect to the participation of individuals in such programs, including any incidents of absconding or re-arrest.

The department shall also forward to the ~~[state commission of correction]~~ office of the correctional ombudsman quarterly reports including, but not limited to, the information identified in subdivisions (a), (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of this section and such other information requested by the ~~[commission]~~ office or available to the department with respect to such programs.

§ 14. Section 854 of the correction law, as added by chapter 691 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

§ 854. Evaluation and recommendation. In recognition of the need for an independent evaluation of, and recommendations with respect to, temporary release, the ~~[commission of correction]~~ office of the correctional ombudsman shall evaluate and assess the administration and operation of all temporary release programs conducted pursuant to this article and shall submit to the governor and the legislature by March first, ~~[nineteen hundred seventy-eight]~~ two thousand twenty, its findings together with any recommendations with respect to the proper operation or the improvement of such temporary release programs.

§ 15. Section 857 of the correction law, as added by chapter 691 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

§ 857. Complaint and abuse review. Any person may submit to the ~~[commission of correction]~~ office of the correctional ombudsman any complaint he or she may have concerning programmatic abuses. The ~~[commission of correction]~~ office shall evaluate such complaints and, where indicated, conduct any needed investigation. If the ~~[commission]~~ office concludes that a complaint is valid, the ~~[commission]~~ ombudsman shall make recommendations to the department for corrective action. Where the ~~[commission]~~ office believes sufficient evidence exists to support a criminal charge, the ~~[commission]~~ office shall report such evidence to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

§ 16. Subdivision 6 of section 677 of the county law, as amended by chapter 490 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

6. Notwithstanding section six hundred seventy of this article or any other provision of law, the coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner shall promptly provide the chairman of the correction medical review board or the commissioner of the office of the correctional ombudsman and the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, as appropriate, with copies of any autopsy report, toxicological report or any report of any examination or inquiry prepared with respect to any death occurring to an inmate of a correctional facility as defined by subdivision three of section forty of the correction law within his or

1 her county; and shall promptly provide the executive director of the
2 justice center for the protection of people with special needs with
3 copies of any autopsy report, toxicology report or any report of any
4 examination or inquiry prepared with respect to the death of any service
5 recipient occurring while he or she was a resident in any facility oper-
6 ated, licensed or certified by any agency within the department of
7 mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the depart-
8 ment of health or the state education department. If the toxicological
9 report is prepared pursuant to any agreement or contract with any
10 person, partnership, corporation or governmental agency with the coroner
11 or medical examiner, such report shall be promptly provided to the
12 chairman of the correction medical review board, the commissioner of the
13 office of the correctional ombudsman, the commissioner of corrections
14 and community supervision or the executive director of the justice
15 center for people with special needs, as appropriate, by such person,
16 partnership, corporation or governmental agency.

17 § 17. Section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding
18 a new subdivision 85 to read as follows:

19 85. Investigators of the office of the correctional ombudsman.

20 § 18. Subdivision 2 of section 285 of the education law, as added by
21 section 6 of part 0 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2005, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 2. The commissioner is authorized to expend up to one hundred seven-
24 ty-five thousand dollars annually to provide grants to public library
25 systems operating under an approved plan of service for provision of
26 services to county jail facilities. Such formula grants shall assist the
27 library system in making available to the inmate population of such
28 facility or facilities the library resources of such system. Such grants
29 shall be available to each public library system in such manner as to
30 insure that the ratio of the amount each system is eligible to receive
31 equals the ratio of the number of inmates served by the county jail
32 facility to the total number of inmates served by county jail facilities
33 in the state as of July first of the year preceding the calendar year in
34 which the state aid to public library systems is to be paid. Inmate
35 populations shall be certified by the [~~New York state commission of~~
36 ~~correction~~] office of the correctional ombudsman. The commissioner
37 shall adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the purposes and
38 provisions of this subdivision.

39 § 19. Section 63 of the executive law is amended by adding a new
40 subdivision 17 to read as follows:

41 17. Investigate the alleged commission of any criminal offense or
42 offenses committed by an employee of the department of corrections and
43 community supervision in connection with the performance of his or her
44 official duties, and prosecute any such person or persons believed to
45 have committed such criminal offense or offenses in connection with the
46 performance of his or her official duties. The attorney general may only
47 exercise the jurisdiction provided by this subdivision upon a written
48 finding that such jurisdiction is necessary because: (a) of a lack of
49 alternative prosecutorial resources to adequately investigate and prose-
50 cute such criminal offense or offenses or, (b) the exercise of such
51 jurisdiction is necessary to ensure the confidence of the public in the
52 judicial system. In all such proceedings, the attorney general may
53 appear in person or by his or her deputy or assistant before any court
54 or grand jury and exercise all of the powers and perform all of the
55 duties with respect to such actions or proceedings which the district

1 attorney would otherwise be authorized or required to exercise or
2 perform.

3 § 20. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 169 of the executive
4 law, as amended by section 9 of part A of chapter 60 of the laws of
5 2012, is amended to read as follows:

6 (a) commissioner of corrections and community supervision, commission-
7 er of the office of the correctional ombudsman, commissioner of educa-
8 tion, commissioner of health, commissioner of mental health, commission-
9 er of developmental disabilities, commissioner of children and family
10 services, commissioner of temporary and disability assistance, chancel-
11 lor of the state university of New York, commissioner of transportation,
12 commissioner of environmental conservation, superintendent of state
13 police, commissioner of general services, commissioner of the division
14 of homeland security and emergency services and the executive director
15 of the state gaming commission;

16 § 21. Subdivision 9 of section 837-a of the executive law, as added by
17 section 4 of part Q of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 9. In consultation with the state commission of correction, the office
20 of the correctional ombudsman and the municipal police training council,
21 establish and maintain basic and other correctional training programs
22 for such personnel employed by correctional facilities as the commis-
23 sioner shall deem necessary. Such basic correctional training program
24 shall be satisfactorily completed by such personnel prior to their
25 undertaking their duties or within one year following the date of their
26 appointment or at such times as the commissioner may prescribe.
27 Provided, however, the commissioner may, after consultation with the
28 state commission of correction or the office of correctional ombudsman,
29 exempt from such requirement personnel employed by any correctional
30 facility which, in the opinion of the commissioner, maintains a basic
31 correctional training program of a standard equal to or higher than that
32 established and maintained by the division; or revoke in whole or in
33 part such exemption, if in his or her opinion the standards of the basic
34 correctional training program maintained by such facility are lower than
35 those established pursuant to this article.

36 § 22. Subdivision (c) of section 33.13 of the mental hygiene law is
37 amended by adding a new paragraph 18 to read as follows:

38 18. to the office of the correctional ombudsman.

39 § 23. Subdivision 1 of section 2782 of the public health law is
40 amended by adding a new paragraph (s) to read as follows:

41 (s) an employee or agent of the office of the correctional ombudsman
42 in order to carry out the office's functions, powers and duties with
43 respect to the protected individual, pursuant to article three-A of the
44 correction law.

45 § 24. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 2786 of the public
46 health law, as added by chapter 584 of the laws of 1988, is amended to
47 read as follows:

48 (a) Each state agency authorized pursuant to this article to obtain
49 confidential HIV related information shall, in consultation with the
50 department of health, promulgate regulations: (1) to provide [~~safe-~~
51 ~~guards~~] safeguards to prevent discrimination, abuse or other adverse
52 actions directed toward protected individuals; (2) to prohibit the
53 disclosure of such information except in accordance with this article;
54 (3) to seek to protect individuals in contact with the protected indi-
55 vidual when such contact creates a significant risk of contracting or
56 transmitting HIV infection through the exchange of body fluids[~~r~~]; and

(4) to establish criteria for determining when it is reasonably necessary for a provider of a health or social service or the state agency or a local government agency to have or to use confidential HIV related information for supervision, monitoring, investigation, or administration and for determining which employees and agents may, in the ordinary course of business of the agency or provider, be authorized to access confidential HIV related information pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs (l) and (m) of subdivision one and subdivision six of section twenty-seven hundred eighty-two of this article; and provided further that such regulations shall be promulgated by the chairperson of the commission of correction or the office of the correctional ombudsman where disclosure is made pursuant to paragraphs (n) [~~and~~], (o), or (r) of subdivision one of section twenty-seven hundred eighty-two of this article.

§ 25. Subdivision 8 of section 92 of the public officers law, as amended by section 135 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(8) Public safety agency record. The term "public safety agency record" means a record of the state commission of correction, the office of the correctional ombudsman, the temporary state commission of investigation, the department of corrections and community supervision, the office of children and family services, the office of victim services, the office of probation and correctional alternatives or the division of state police or of any agency or component thereof whose primary function is the enforcement of civil or criminal statutes if such record pertains to investigation, law enforcement, confinement of persons in correctional facilities or supervision of persons pursuant to criminal conviction or court order, and any records maintained by the division of criminal justice services pursuant to sections eight hundred thirty-seven, eight hundred thirty-seven-a, eight hundred thirty-seven-b, eight hundred thirty-seven-c, eight hundred thirty-eight, eight hundred thirty-nine, and eight hundred forty-five of the executive law and by the department of state pursuant to section ninety-nine of the executive law.

§ 26. Subdivision 1 of section 460-c of the social services law, as amended by chapter 838 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

1. Excepting state institutions for the education and support of the blind, the deaf and the dumb, facilities subject to the approval, visitation and inspection of the state department of mental hygiene, the office of the correctional ombudsman or the state commission of correction, facilities operated by or under the supervision of the division for youth and facilities subject to the supervision of the department of health pursuant to article twenty-eight of the public health law, the department shall inspect and maintain supervision over all public and private facilities or agencies whether state, county, municipal, incorporated or not incorporated which are in receipt of public funds, which are of a charitable, eleemosynary, correctional or reformatory character, including facilities or agencies exercising custody of dependent, neglected, abused, maltreated, abandoned or delinquent children, agencies engaged in the placing-out or boarding-out of children as defined in section three hundred seventy-one of this chapter, homes or shelters for unmarried mothers, residential programs for victims of domestic violence as defined in subdivision [~~five~~] four of section four hundred fifty-nine-a of this chapter and adult care facilities.

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