

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10919

## IN ASSEMBLY

August 17, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Epstein) --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and  
Protection

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to inmate labor

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 170 of the correction law, as  
2 added by chapter 256 of the laws of 2010, is amended and a new subdivi-  
3 sion 4 is added to read as follows:

4 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an inmate may be  
5 permitted to leave the institution under guard to voluntarily perform  
6 work for a nonprofit organization. As used in this section, the term  
7 "nonprofit organization" means an organization operated exclusively for  
8 religious, charitable, or educational purposes, no part of the net earn-  
9 ings of which inures to the benefit of the state of New York, the  
10 government of the United States or to any state of the United States, or  
11 political subdivision thereof, any public corporation or eleemosynary  
12 association or corporation funded in whole or in part by any federal,  
13 state or local funds or any private shareholder or individual.

14 4. (a) No inmate shall be compelled to provide labor against his or  
15 her will by actual force, threats of force, threats of punishment,  
16 threats of legal coercion or by any scheme, plan or pattern intended to  
17 cause the inmate to believe that, if the inmate did not provide such  
18 labor, that inmate or another person would suffer physical, emotional or  
19 mental harm.

20 (b) Any inmate alleging a violation of this subdivision shall, within  
21 ten years after the acts alleged to have violated this subdivision  
22 occurred, have a cause of action in any court of appropriate jurisdic-  
23 tion for damages, including punitive damages, and for injunctive relief  
24 and such other remedies as may be appropriate together with all reason-  
25 able attorney's fees and costs.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
27 have become a law.

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

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