

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4599

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the criminal procedure law, in relation to criminalizing acting as a runner or soliciting or employing a runner to procure patients or clients

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

1 Section 1. Section 176.00 of the penal law is amended by adding four  
2 new subdivisions 6, 7, 8 and 9 to read as follows:

3 6. "Provider" means an attorney, a health care professional, an owner  
4 or operator of a health care practice or facility, any person who  
5 creates the impression that he or she, or his or her practice can  
6 provide legal or health care services, any person employed or acting on  
7 behalf of any such person, or any person providing management or  
8 consulting services to any such person.

9 7. "Public media" means telephone directories, professional directo-  
10 ries, newspapers and other periodicals, radio and television, bill-  
11 boards, and mailed or electronically transmitted written communications  
12 that do not involve direct contact with a specific prospective client,  
13 patient, or customer.

14 8. "Runner" means a person who, for a pecuniary benefit, procures or  
15 attempts to procure a client, patient or customer at the direction of,  
16 request of or in cooperation with a provider whose purpose is to seek to  
17 obtain benefits under a contract of insurance or assert a claim against  
18 an insured or an insurance carrier for providing services to the client,  
19 patient or customer, or to obtain benefits under or assert a claim  
20 against a state or federal health care benefits program or prescription  
21 drug assistance program. "Runner" shall not include (a) a person who  
22 procures or attempts to procure clients, patients or customers for a  
23 provider through public media; (b) a person who refers clients, patients  
24 or customers as otherwise authorized by law; or (c) a person who, as an

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

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agent, broker or employee of a health maintenance organization as defined in section forty-four hundred one of the public health law, seeks to sell health maintenance organization coverage or health insurance coverage to an individual or group.

9. "Pecuniary benefit" means goods, money, property, services or anything of value, or an agreement to confer or receive any such goods, money, property, services, or thing of value.

§ 2. The penal law is amended by adding three new sections 176.75, 176.80 and 176.85 to read as follows:

§ 176.75 Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the third degree.

A person is guilty of unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the third degree when he or she knowingly:

1. acts as a runner on one or more occasions; or

2. uses, solicits, directs, hires or employs another person to act as a runner on one or more occasions.

Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

§ 176.80 Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the second degree.

A person is guilty of unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the second degree when he or she knowingly:

1. acts as a runner on one or more occasions for a pecuniary benefit that in the aggregate exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars in value or acts as a runner on five or more occasions; or

2. uses, solicits, directs, hires or employs one or more persons to act as a runner on one or more occasions for a pecuniary benefit that in the aggregate exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars in value or uses, solicits, directs, hires or employs one or more persons to act as a runner on five or more occasions.

Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the second degree is a class E felony.

§ 176.85 Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the first degree.

A person is guilty of unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the first degree when he or she knowingly:

1. acts as a runner on one or more occasions for a pecuniary benefit that in the aggregate exceeds five thousand dollars in value or acts as a runner on ten or more occasions; or

2. uses, solicits, directs, hires or employs one or more persons to act as a runner on one or more occasions for a pecuniary benefit that in the aggregate exceeds five thousand dollars or uses, solicits, directs, hires or employs one or more persons to act as a runner on ten or more occasions.

Unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the first degree is a class D felony.

§ 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 460.10 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Any of the felonies set forth in this chapter: sections 120.05, 120.10 and 120.11 relating to assault; sections 121.12 and 121.13 relating to strangulation; sections 125.10 to 125.27 relating to homicide; sections 130.25, 130.30 and 130.35 relating to rape; sections 135.20 and 135.25 relating to kidnapping; sections 135.35 and 135.37 relating to labor trafficking; section 135.65 relating to coercion; sections 140.20, 140.25 and 140.30 relating to burglary; sections 145.05, 145.10 and

1 145.12 relating to criminal mischief; article one hundred fifty relating  
2 to arson; sections 155.30, 155.35, 155.40 and 155.42 relating to grand  
3 larceny; sections 177.10, 177.15, 177.20 and 177.25 relating to health  
4 care fraud; article one hundred sixty relating to robbery; sections  
5 165.45, 165.50, 165.52 and 165.54 relating to criminal possession of  
6 stolen property; sections 165.72 and 165.73 relating to trademark coun-  
7 terfeiting; sections 170.10, 170.15, 170.25, 170.30, 170.40, 170.65 and  
8 170.70 relating to forgery; sections 175.10, 175.25, 175.35, 175.40 and  
9 210.40 relating to false statements; sections 176.15, 176.20, 176.25 and  
10 176.30 relating to insurance fraud; sections 176.80 and 176.85 relating  
11 to unlawful procurement of clients, patients and customers; sections  
12 178.20 and 178.25 relating to criminal diversion of prescription medica-  
13 tions and prescriptions; sections 180.03, 180.08, 180.15, 180.25,  
14 180.40, 180.45, 200.00, 200.03, 200.04, 200.10, 200.11, 200.12, 200.20,  
15 200.22, 200.25, 200.27, 200.56, 215.00, 215.05 and 215.19; sections  
16 187.10, 187.15, 187.20 and 187.25 relating to residential mortgage  
17 fraud, sections 190.40 and 190.42 relating to criminal usury; section  
18 190.65 relating to schemes to defraud; any felony defined in article  
19 four hundred ninety-six; sections 205.60 and 205.65 relating to hinder-  
20 ing prosecution; sections 210.10, 210.15, and 215.51 relating to perjury  
21 and contempt; section 215.40 relating to tampering with physical  
22 evidence; sections 220.06, 220.09, 220.16, 220.18, 220.21, 220.31,  
23 220.34, 220.39, 220.41, 220.43, 220.46, 220.55, 220.60, 220.65 and  
24 220.77 relating to controlled substances; sections 225.10 and 225.20  
25 relating to gambling; sections 230.25, 230.30, and 230.32 relating to  
26 promoting prostitution; section 230.34 relating to sex trafficking;  
27 section 230.34-a relating to sex trafficking of a child; sections  
28 235.06, 235.07, 235.21 and 235.22 relating to obscenity; sections 263.10  
29 and 263.15 relating to promoting a sexual performance by a child;  
30 sections 265.02, 265.03, 265.04, 265.11, 265.12, 265.13 and the  
31 provisions of section 265.10 which constitute a felony relating to  
32 firearms and other dangerous weapons; sections 265.14 and 265.16 relat-  
33 ing to criminal sale of a firearm; section 275.10, 275.20, 275.30, or  
34 275.40 relating to unauthorized recordings; and sections 470.05, 470.10,  
35 470.15 and 470.20 relating to money laundering; or

36 § 4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 8 of section 700.05 of the criminal  
37 procedure law, as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2018, is amended  
38 to read as follows:

39 (b) Any of the following felonies: assault in the second degree as  
40 defined in section 120.05 of the penal law, assault in the first degree  
41 as defined in section 120.10 of the penal law, reckless endangerment in  
42 the first degree as defined in section 120.25 of the penal law, promot-  
43 ing a suicide attempt as defined in section 120.30 of the penal law,  
44 strangulation in the second degree as defined in section 121.12 of the  
45 penal law, strangulation in the first degree as defined in section  
46 121.13 of the penal law, criminally negligent homicide as defined in  
47 section 125.10 of the penal law, manslaughter in the second degree as  
48 defined in section 125.15 of the penal law, manslaughter in the first  
49 degree as defined in section 125.20 of the penal law, murder in the  
50 second degree as defined in section 125.25 of the penal law, murder in  
51 the first degree as defined in section 125.27 of the penal law, abortion  
52 in the second degree as defined in section 125.40 of the penal law,  
53 abortion in the first degree as defined in section 125.45 of the penal  
54 law, rape in the third degree as defined in section 130.25 of the penal  
55 law, rape in the second degree as defined in section 130.30 of the penal  
56 law, rape in the first degree as defined in section 130.35 of the penal

1 law, criminal sexual act in the third degree as defined in section  
2 130.40 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the second degree as  
3 defined in section 130.45 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the  
4 first degree as defined in section 130.50 of the penal law, sexual abuse  
5 in the first degree as defined in section 130.65 of the penal law,  
6 unlawful imprisonment in the first degree as defined in section 135.10  
7 of the penal law, kidnapping in the second degree as defined in section  
8 135.20 of the penal law, kidnapping in the first degree as defined in  
9 section 135.25 of the penal law, labor trafficking as defined in section  
10 135.35 of the penal law, aggravated labor trafficking as defined in  
11 section 135.37 of the penal law, custodial interference in the first  
12 degree as defined in section 135.50 of the penal law, coercion in the  
13 first degree as defined in section 135.65 of the penal law, criminal  
14 trespass in the first degree as defined in section 140.17 of the penal  
15 law, burglary in the third degree as defined in section 140.20 of the  
16 penal law, burglary in the second degree as defined in section 140.25 of  
17 the penal law, burglary in the first degree as defined in section 140.30  
18 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the third degree as defined in  
19 section 145.05 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the second degree  
20 as defined in section 145.10 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the  
21 first degree as defined in section 145.12 of the penal law, criminal  
22 tampering in the first degree as defined in section 145.20 of the penal  
23 law, arson in the fourth degree as defined in section 150.05 of the  
24 penal law, arson in the third degree as defined in section 150.10 of the  
25 penal law, arson in the second degree as defined in section 150.15 of  
26 the penal law, arson in the first degree as defined in section 150.20 of  
27 the penal law, grand larceny in the fourth degree as defined in section  
28 155.30 of the penal law, grand larceny in the third degree as defined in  
29 section 155.35 of the penal law, grand larceny in the second degree as  
30 defined in section 155.40 of the penal law, grand larceny in the first  
31 degree as defined in section 155.42 of the penal law, unlawful procure-  
32 ment of clients, patients or customers in the second degree as defined  
33 in section 176.80 of the penal law, unlawful procurement of clients,  
34 patients or customers in the first degree as defined in section 176.85  
35 of the penal law, health care fraud in the fourth degree as defined in  
36 section 177.10 of the penal law, health care fraud in the third degree  
37 as defined in section 177.15 of the penal law, health care fraud in the  
38 second degree as defined in section 177.20 of the penal law, health care  
39 fraud in the first degree as defined in section 177.25 of the penal law,  
40 robbery in the third degree as defined in section 160.05 of the penal  
41 law, robbery in the second degree as defined in section 160.10 of the  
42 penal law, robbery in the first degree as defined in section 160.15 of  
43 the penal law, unlawful use of secret scientific material as defined in  
44 section 165.07 of the penal law, criminal possession of stolen property  
45 in the fourth degree as defined in section 165.45 of the penal law,  
46 criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree as defined in  
47 section 165.50 of the penal law, criminal possession of stolen property  
48 in the second degree as defined by section 165.52 of the penal law,  
49 criminal possession of stolen property in the first degree as defined by  
50 section 165.54 of the penal law, trademark counterfeiting in the second  
51 degree as defined in section 165.72 of the penal law, trademark counter-  
52 feiting in the first degree as defined in section 165.73 of the penal  
53 law, forgery in the second degree as defined in section 170.10 of the  
54 penal law, forgery in the first degree as defined in section 170.15 of  
55 the penal law, criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second  
56 degree as defined in section 170.25 of the penal law, criminal

1 possession of a forged instrument in the first degree as defined in  
2 section 170.30 of the penal law, criminal possession of forgery devices  
3 as defined in section 170.40 of the penal law, falsifying business  
4 records in the first degree as defined in section 175.10 of the penal  
5 law, tampering with public records in the first degree as defined in  
6 section 175.25 of the penal law, offering a false instrument for filing  
7 in the first degree as defined in section 175.35 of the penal law, issu-  
8 ing a false certificate as defined in section 175.40 of the penal law,  
9 unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers in the second  
10 degree as defined in section 176.80 of the penal law, unlawful procure-  
11 ment of clients, patients or customers in the first degree as defined in  
12 section 176.85 of the penal law, criminal diversion of prescription  
13 medications and prescriptions in the second degree as defined in section  
14 178.20 of the penal law, criminal diversion of prescription medications  
15 and prescriptions in the first degree as defined in section 178.25 of  
16 the penal law, residential mortgage fraud in the fourth degree as  
17 defined in section 187.10 of the penal law, residential mortgage fraud  
18 in the third degree as defined in section 187.15 of the penal law, resi-  
19 dential mortgage fraud in the second degree as defined in section 187.20  
20 of the penal law, residential mortgage fraud in the first degree as  
21 defined in section 187.25 of the penal law, escape in the second degree  
22 as defined in section 205.10 of the penal law, escape in the first  
23 degree as defined in section 205.15 of the penal law, absconding from  
24 temporary release in the first degree as defined in section 205.17 of  
25 the penal law, promoting prison contraband in the first degree as  
26 defined in section 205.25 of the penal law, hindering prosecution in the  
27 second degree as defined in section 205.60 of the penal law, hindering  
28 prosecution in the first degree as defined in section 205.65 of the  
29 penal law, sex trafficking as defined in section 230.34 of the penal  
30 law, sex trafficking of a child as defined in section 230.34-a of the  
31 penal law, criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree as  
32 defined in subdivisions two, three and five of section 265.02 of the  
33 penal law, criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree as  
34 defined in section 265.03 of the penal law, criminal possession of a  
35 weapon in the first degree as defined in section 265.04 of the penal  
36 law, manufacture, transport, disposition and defacement of weapons and  
37 dangerous instruments and appliances defined as felonies in subdivisions  
38 one, two, and three of section 265.10 of the penal law, sections 265.11,  
39 265.12 and 265.13 of the penal law, or prohibited use of weapons as  
40 defined in subdivision two of section 265.35 of the penal law, relating  
41 to firearms and other dangerous weapons, or failure to disclose the  
42 origin of a recording in the first degree as defined in section 275.40  
43 of the penal law;

44 § 5. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-  
45 ing the date upon which it shall have become a law.