STATE OF NEW YORK

6274

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 4, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. WALKER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT directing the department of corrections and community supervision to test a program of supplying inmates with tablets for educational and recreational means

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

Section 1. Legislative finding. The bureau of prisons offers secure email service to all federal inmates nationwide. County jails in numerous states have found that granting inmates access to tablets with educational and recreational programs including secure email reduces idle time, improves morale and increases inmate productivity. Therefore, the legislature finds that it would be beneficial for the department of corrections and community supervision operate a pilot program to test the benefit of providing secure email and other electronic programs to inmates.

§ 2. The department of corrections and community supervision shall develop and implement a pilot program to test the benefit of a tablet-based portfolio of educational and recreation programs, including a secured email program, to improve inmate communication with his or her family, attorney, community members and organizations, and with the department itself. Such pilot program shall include no fewer than thirty non-internet based tablet devices providing a secure email communication program in addition to educational and recreational programs which consider the unique needs and circumstances of the inmate population including factors related to health, age, education, religion, vocational training and other determining characteristics as the department may deem appropriate. One year after the department shall have commenced the pilot program the department shall issue a report to the governor and the legislature on the impact of the pilot program on facility safe-

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

LBD05896-01-9

ty, inmate behavior and performance, and other indicators of the value of providing such tablet-based devices in the correctional setting.

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