STATE OF NEW YORK

2698

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2019

Introduced by Sen. SEPULVEDA -- 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 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 138-b to read as follows:

§ 138-b. Inmate visitation program. State and local correctional facilities shall provide inmate visitation programs which give 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) visiting hours that are reasonably likely to accommodate persons traveling from within the state, (b) visits of sufficient duration so that visitors and inmates will be able to maintain relationship bonds, and (c) a published overcrowding policy that is equitable with due consideration to the distance traveled by the visitor. Video visitation may supplement, but shall not take the place of, in-person visitation. No inmate is to be visited against his or her will by any person.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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