

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3138

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 4, 2019

Introduced by Sen. MYRIE -- 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 enacting "the prison minimum wage act"

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "the prison  
2 minimum wage act".

3 § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 170 of the correction law, as added by  
4 chapter 256 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

5 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an inmate may be  
6 permitted to leave the institution under guard to voluntarily perform  
7 work for a nonprofit organization; provided that each inmate who volun-  
8 teers to perform work for a nonprofit organization shall be paid a mini-  
9 imum hourly wage of not less than three dollars. The department shall be  
10 entitled to charge the nonprofit organization a reasonable hourly rate  
11 for meals and housing of such prisoners, if any. As used in this  
12 section, the term "nonprofit organization" means an organization oper-  
13 ated exclusively for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, no  
14 part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private  
15 shareholder or individual.

16 § 3. Section 171 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
17 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

18 3. Any inmate performing labor as described in this section shall be  
19 compensated for his or her labor in accordance with the provisions of  
20 subdivision five of section one hundred eighty-seven of this article.

21 § 4. Subdivision 7 of section 177 of the correction law, as renumbered  
22 by chapter 256 of the laws of 2010, is renumbered subdivision 8 and a  
23 new subdivision 7 is added to read as follows:

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

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1 7. Any inmate performing labor as described in this section shall be  
2 compensated for his or her labor in accordance with the provisions of  
3 subdivision five of section one hundred eighty-seven of this article.

4 § 5. Section 178 of the correction law, as added by chapter 476 of the  
5 laws of 1970, is amended to read as follows:

6 § 178. Participation in work release and other community activities.  
7 1. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed or applied so as  
8 to prohibit private employment of inmates in the community under a work  
9 release program, or a residential treatment facility program formulated  
10 pursuant to any provision of this chapter.

11 2. Any inmate who is employed under a work release program or a resi-  
12 dential treatment facility program formulated pursuant to any provision  
13 of this chapter shall be compensated for his or her labor in accordance  
14 with the provisions of subdivision five of section one hundred eighty-  
15 seven of this article.

16 § 6. Section 184 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
17 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

18 3. Any inmate performing work as described in this section shall be  
19 compensated for his or her labor in accordance with the provisions of  
20 subdivision five of section one hundred eighty-seven of this article.

21 § 7. Section 186 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
22 subdivision 5 to read as follows:

23 5. Any service performed by an inmate as described in this section  
24 shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of subdivision  
25 five of section one hundred eighty-seven of this article.

26 § 8. Section 187 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
27 subdivision 5 to read as follows:

28 5. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule or regulation to the  
29 contrary, no inmate shall be compensated an amount that is less than  
30 three dollars an hour for work performed or work for which a wage is  
31 paid. As used in this subdivision, "work for which a wage is paid"  
32 includes any task assigned to an inmate for which a wage would have been  
33 due except for his or her status as an inmate.

34 § 9. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
35 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately the addition, amend-  
36 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
37 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
38 completed on or before such date.