

STATE OF NEW YORK

8286

IN SENATE

May 6, 2020

Introduced by Sen. GAUGHRAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to establishing crimes against essential workers during a declared state disaster emergency

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

Section 1. Part 4 of the penal law is amended by adding a new title Y-3 to read as follows:

TITLE Y-3

CRIMES AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING A DECLARED STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY

ARTICLE 497

CRIMES AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING A DECLARED STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY

Section 497.00 Definitions.

497.05 Crimes against essential workers during a declared state disaster emergency.

497.10 Sentencing.

§ 497.00 Definitions.

As used in this title:

1. "Declared state disaster emergency" shall mean a period of time beginning with the declaration of a disaster pursuant to an executive order and in conformance with article two-B of the executive law. The declared state disaster emergency shall end upon termination of the executive order.

2. "Employee" shall mean a paid worker or volunteer worker providing work and/or services for their employer during the period of the emergency.

3. "Essential worker" shall mean an employee of an essential business or an employee of the state, local government, a school district, a municipality or an authority working within the affected area as defined by the executive order.

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

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1 4. "Essential business" shall have the same meaning as is defined by
2 the applicable executive order.

3 § 497.05 Crimes against essential workers during a declared state disas-
4 ter emergency.

5 1. A person commits a crime against an essential worker during a
6 declared state disaster emergency when during the pendency of a declared
7 state of emergency he or she commits a specified offense against an
8 essential worker in the declared disaster area and such crime is commit-
9 ted against such worker while the worker is in the course of their
10 duties or while such worker is in uniform or clothing.

11 2. Proof of status as an essential worker does not, by itself, consti-
12 tute legally sufficient evidence satisfying the people's burden under
13 this title.

14 3. A "specified offense" for purposes of this title is any offense
15 contained in this article with the exclusion of those crimes enumerated
16 in section 120.08, 120.09, 120.11, 120.18 or 125.27 of this chapter.

17 § 497.10 Sentencing.

18 1. When a person is convicted of a crime against an essential worker
19 during a declared state disaster emergency pursuant to this title, and
20 the specified offense is a violent felony offense, as defined in section
21 70.02 of this chapter, the crime against an essential worker during a
22 declared state disaster emergency shall be deemed a violent felony
23 offense.

24 2. When a person is convicted of a crime against an essential worker
25 during a declared state disaster emergency pursuant to this title, and
26 the specified offense is a misdemeanor or a class C, D, or E felony, the
27 crime against the essential worker during a declared state disaster
28 emergency shall be deemed to be one category higher than the specified
29 offense the defendant committed, or one category higher than the offense
30 level applicable to the defendant's conviction for an attempt or
31 conspiracy to commit a specified offense, whichever is applicable.

32 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when a person is
33 convicted of a crime against an essential worker during a declared state
34 disaster emergency pursuant to this title and the specified offense is a
35 class B felony:

36 a. The maximum term of the indeterminate sentence must be at least six
37 years if the defendant is sentenced pursuant to section 70.00 of this
38 chapter;

39 b. The term of the determinate sentence must be at least eight years
40 if the defendant is sentenced pursuant to section 70.02 of this chapter;

41 c. The term of the determinate sentence must be at least twelve years
42 if the defendant is sentenced pursuant to section 70.04 of this chapter;

43 d. The maximum term of the indeterminate sentence must be at least
44 four years if the defendant is sentenced pursuant to section 70.05 of
45 this chapter; and

46 e. The maximum term of the indeterminate sentence or the term of the
47 determinate sentence must be at least ten years if the defendant is
48 sentenced pursuant to section 70.06 of this chapter.

49 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when a person is
50 convicted of a crime against an essential worker during a declared state
51 disaster emergency pursuant to this title and the specified offense is a
52 class A-1 felony, the minimum period of the indeterminate sentence shall
53 not be less than twenty years.

54 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to crimes
55 committed on or after such date.