

STATE OF NEW YORK

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IN ASSEMBLY

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Introduced by M. of A. AUBRY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABINANTI, ARROYO, BARRETT, BARRON, BENEDETTO, BICHOTTE, BLAKE, BRONSON, CAHILL, CARROLL, COOK, CRESPO, CUSICK, DAVILA, DE LA ROSA, DICKENS, DILAN, D'URSO, ENGLEBRIGHT, FAHY, GALEF, GLICK, GOTTFRIED, HEVESI, HUNTER, HYNDMAN, JAFFEE, JEAN-PIERRE, JOYNER, KIM, LAVINE, LENTOL, LIFTON, LUPARDO, MOSLEY, ORTIZ, OTIS, PEOPLES-STOKES, PERRY, PICHARDO, PRETLOW, QUART, RAMOS, RICHARDSON, RIVERA, RODRIGUEZ, L. ROSENTHAL, ROZIC, SEAWRIGHT, SIMON, SIMOTAS, SOLAGES, STECK, STIRPE, THIELE, TITUS, VANEL, WALKER, WEPRIN, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to restricting the use of segregated confinement and creating alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 23 of section 2 of the correction law, as added
2 by chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

3 23. "Segregated confinement" means the [~~disciplinary~~] confinement of
4 an inmate in [~~a special housing unit or in a separate keeplock housing~~
5 ~~unit. Special housing units and separate keeplock units are housing~~
6 ~~units that consist of cells grouped so as to provide separation from the~~
7 ~~general population, and may be used to house inmates confined pursuant~~
8 ~~to the disciplinary procedures described in regulations] any form of
9 cell confinement for more than seventeen hours a day other than in a
10 facility-wide emergency or for the purpose of providing medical or
11 mental health treatment. Cell confinement that is implemented due to
12 medical or mental health treatment shall be within a clinical area in
13 the correctional facility or in as close proximity to a medical or
14 mental health unit as possible.~~

15 § 2. Section 2 of the correction law is amended by adding two new
16 subdivisions 32 and 33 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 32. "Special populations" means any person: (a) twenty-one years of
2 age or younger; (b) fifty-five years of age or older; (c) with a disa-
3 bility as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision twenty-one of section
4 two hundred ninety-two of the executive law; or (d) who is pregnant, in
5 the first eight weeks of the post-partum recovery period after giving
6 birth, or caring for a child in a correctional institution pursuant to
7 subdivisions two or three of section six hundred eleven of this chapter.

8 33. "Residential rehabilitation unit" means a separate housing unit
9 used for therapy, treatment, and rehabilitative programming of incarcer-
10 ated people who have been determined to require more than fifteen days
11 of segregated confinement pursuant to department proceedings. Such units
12 shall be therapeutic and trauma-informed, and aim to address individual
13 treatment and rehabilitation needs and underlying causes of problematic
14 behaviors.

15 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction
16 law, as amended by chapter 490 of the laws of 1974, is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (a) The inmate shall be supplied with a sufficient quantity of whole-
19 some and nutritious food~~[-, provided, however, that such food need not be~~
20 ~~the same as the food supplied to inmates who are participating in~~
21 ~~programs of the facility];~~

22 § 4. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction
23 law, as added by chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 (d) (i) Except as set forth in clause (E) of subparagraph (ii) of this
26 paragraph, the department, in consultation with mental health clini-
27 cians, shall divert or remove inmates with serious mental illness, as
28 defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, from segregated confine-
29 ment or confinement in a residential rehabilitation unit, where such
30 confinement could potentially be for a period in excess of thirty days,
31 to a residential mental health treatment unit. Nothing in this para-
32 graph shall be deemed to prevent the disciplinary process from proceed-
33 ing in accordance with department rules and regulations for disciplinary
34 hearings.

35 (ii) (A) Upon placement of an inmate into segregated confinement or a
36 residential rehabilitation unit at a level one or level two facility, a
37 suicide prevention screening instrument shall be administered by staff
38 from the department or the office of mental health who has been trained
39 for that purpose. If such a screening instrument reveals that the inmate
40 is at risk of suicide, a mental health clinician shall be consulted and
41 appropriate safety precautions shall be taken. Additionally, within one
42 business day of the placement of such an inmate into segregated confine-
43 ment at a level one or level two facility, the inmate shall be assessed
44 by a mental health clinician.

45 (B) Upon placement of an inmate into segregated confinement or a resi-
46 dential rehabilitation unit at a level three or level four facility, a
47 suicide prevention screening instrument shall be administered by staff
48 from the department or the office of mental health who has been trained
49 for that purpose. If such a screening instrument reveals that the inmate
50 is at risk of suicide, a mental health clinician shall be consulted and
51 appropriate safety precautions shall be taken. All inmates placed in
52 segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit at a level
53 three or level four facility shall be assessed by a mental health clini-
54 cian, within [~~fourteen~~ seven days of such placement into segregated
55 confinement.

1 (C) At the initial assessment, if the mental health clinician finds
2 that an inmate suffers from a serious mental illness, that person shall
3 be diverted or removed from segregated confinement or a residential
4 rehabilitation unit and a recommendation shall be made whether excep-
5 tional circumstances, as described in clause (E) of this subparagraph,
6 exist. In a facility with a joint case management committee, such recom-
7 mendation shall be made by such committee. In a facility without a joint
8 case management committee, the recommendation shall be made jointly by a
9 committee consisting of the facility's highest ranking mental health
10 clinician, the deputy superintendent for security, and the deputy super-
11 intendent for program services, or their equivalents. Any such recommen-
12 dation shall be reviewed by the joint central office review committee.
13 The administrative process described in this clause shall be completed
14 within [~~fourteen~~] seven days of the initial assessment, and if the
15 result of such process is that the inmate should be removed from segre-
16 gated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit, such removal
17 shall occur as soon as practicable, but in no event more than seventy-
18 two hours from the completion of the administrative process. Pursuant to
19 paragraph (g) of this subdivision, nothing in this section shall permit
20 the placement of an incarcerated person with serious mental illness into
21 segregated confinement at any time, even for the purposes of assessment.

22 (D) If an inmate with a serious mental illness is not diverted or
23 removed to a residential mental health treatment unit, such inmate shall
24 be diverted to a residential rehabilitation unit and reassessed by a
25 mental health clinician within fourteen days of the initial assessment
26 and at least once every fourteen days thereafter. After each such addi-
27 tional assessment, a recommendation as to whether such inmate should be
28 removed from [~~segregated confinement~~] a residential rehabilitation unit
29 shall be made and reviewed according to the process set forth in clause
30 (C) of this subparagraph.

31 (E) A recommendation or determination whether to remove an inmate from
32 segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit shall take
33 into account the assessing mental health clinicians' opinions as to the
34 inmate's mental condition and treatment needs, and shall also take into
35 account any safety and security concerns that would be posed by the
36 inmate's removal, even if additional restrictions were placed on the
37 inmate's access to treatment, property, services or privileges in a
38 residential mental health treatment unit. A recommendation or determi-
39 nation shall direct the inmate's removal from segregated confinement or
40 a residential rehabilitation unit except in the following exceptional
41 circumstances: (1) when the reviewer finds that removal would pose a
42 substantial risk to the safety of the inmate or other persons, or a
43 substantial threat to the security of the facility, even if additional
44 restrictions were placed on the inmate's access to treatment, property,
45 services or privileges in a residential mental health treatment unit; or
46 (2) when the assessing mental health clinician determines that such
47 placement is in the inmate's best interests based on his or her mental
48 condition and that removing such inmate to a residential mental health
49 treatment unit would be detrimental to his or her mental condition. Any
50 determination not to remove an inmate with serious mental illness from
51 segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit shall be
52 documented in writing and include the reasons for the determination.

53 (iii) Inmates with serious mental illness who are not diverted or
54 removed from [~~segregated confinement~~] a residential rehabilitation unit
55 shall be offered a heightened level of mental health care, involving a
56 minimum of [~~two~~] three hours [~~each day, five days a week,~~] daily of

1 out-of-cell therapeutic treatment and programming. This heightened level
2 of care shall not be offered only in the following circumstances:

3 (A) The heightened level of care shall not apply when an inmate with
4 serious mental illness does not, in the reasonable judgment of a mental
5 health clinician, require the heightened level of care. Such determi-
6 nation shall be documented with a written statement of the basis of such
7 determination and shall be reviewed by the Central New York Psychiatric
8 Center clinical director or his or her designee. Such a determination is
9 subject to change should the inmate's clinical status change. Such
10 determination shall be reviewed and documented by a mental health clini-
11 cian every thirty days, and in consultation with the Central New York
12 Psychiatric Center clinical director or his or her designee not less
13 than every ninety days.

14 (B) The heightened level of care shall not apply in exceptional
15 circumstances when providing such care would create an unacceptable risk
16 to the safety and security of inmates or staff. Such determination shall
17 be documented by security personnel together with the basis of such
18 determination and shall be reviewed by the facility superintendent, in
19 consultation with a mental health clinician, not less than every seven
20 days for as long as the inmate remains in [~~segregated confinement~~] a
21 residential rehabilitation unit. The facility shall attempt to resolve
22 such exceptional circumstances so that the heightened level of care may
23 be provided. If such exceptional circumstances remain unresolved for
24 thirty days, the matter shall be referred to the joint central office
25 review committee for review.

26 (iv) [~~Inmates with serious mental illness who are not diverted or~~
27 ~~removed from segregated confinement shall not be placed on a restricted~~
28 ~~diet, unless there has been a written determination that the restricted~~
29 ~~diet is necessary for reasons of safety and security. If a restricted~~
30 ~~diet is imposed, it shall be limited to seven days, except in the excep-~~
31 ~~tional circumstances where the joint case management committee deter-~~
32 ~~mines that limiting the restricted diet to seven days would pose an~~
33 ~~unacceptable risk to the safety and security of inmates or staff. In~~
34 ~~such case, the need for a restricted diet shall be reassessed by the~~
35 ~~joint case management committee every seven days.~~

36 (v) All inmates in segregated confinement in a level one or level two
37 facility who are not assessed with a serious mental illness at the
38 initial assessment shall be offered at least one interview with a mental
39 health clinician within [~~fourteen~~] seven days of their initial mental
40 health assessment, [~~and additional interviews at least every thirty days~~
41 ~~thereafter,~~] unless the mental health clinician at the most recent
42 interview recommends an earlier interview or assessment. All inmates in
43 [~~segregated confinement~~] a residential rehabilitation unit in a level
44 three or level four facility who are not assessed with a serious mental
45 illness at the initial assessment shall be offered at least one inter-
46 view with a mental health clinician within thirty days of their initial
47 mental health assessment, and additional interviews at least every nine-
48 ty days thereafter, unless the mental health clinician at the most
49 recent interview recommends an earlier interview or assessment.

50 § 5. Subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction law is amended by
51 adding eight new paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n) to
52 read as follows:

53 (g) Persons in a special population as defined in subdivision thirty-
54 two of section two of this chapter shall not be placed in segregated
55 confinement for any length of time, except in keeplock for a period
56 prior to a disciplinary hearing pursuant to paragraph (k) of this subdi-

1 vision. Individuals in a special population who are in keeplock prior
2 to a disciplinary hearing shall be given seven hours a day out-of-cell
3 time or shall be transferred to a residential rehabilitation unit or
4 residential mental health treatment unit as expeditiously as possible,
5 but in no case longer than forty-eight hours from the time an individual
6 is admitted to keeplock.

7 (h) No person may be placed in segregated confinement for longer than
8 necessary and no more than fifteen consecutive days or twenty total days
9 within any sixty day period. At these limits, he or she must be
10 released from segregated confinement or diverted to a separate residen-
11 tial rehabilitation unit. If placement of such person in segregated
12 confinement would exceed the twenty-day limit and the department estab-
13 lishes that the person committed an act defined in subparagraph (ii) of
14 paragraph (j) of this subdivision, the department may place the person
15 in segregated confinement until admission to a residential rehabili-
16 tation unit can be effectuated. Such admission to a residential rehabil-
17 itation unit shall occur as expeditiously as possible and in no case
18 take longer than forty-eight hours from the time such person is placed
19 in segregated confinement.

20 (i) (i) All segregated confinement and residential rehabilitation
21 units shall create the least restrictive environment necessary for the
22 safety of incarcerated persons, staff, and the security of the facility.

23 (ii) Persons in segregated confinement shall be offered out-of-cell
24 programming at least four hours per day, including at least one hour for
25 recreation. Persons admitted to residential rehabilitation units shall
26 be offered at least six hours of daily out-of-cell congregate program-
27 ming, services, treatment, and/or meals, with an additional minimum of
28 one hour for recreation. Recreation in all residential rehabilitation
29 units shall take place in a congregate setting, unless exceptional
30 circumstances mean doing so would create a significant and unreasonable
31 risk to the safety and security of other incarcerated persons, staff, or
32 the facility.

33 (iii) No limitation on services, treatment, or basic needs such as
34 clothing, food and bedding shall be imposed as a form of punishment. If
35 provision of any such services, treatment or basic needs to an individ-
36 ual would create a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety and
37 security of incarcerated persons, staff, or the facility, such services,
38 treatment or basic needs may be withheld until it reasonably appears
39 that the risk has ended. The department shall not impose restricted
40 diets or any other change in diet as a form of punishment. Persons in a
41 residential rehabilitation unit shall have access to all of their
42 personal property unless an individual determination is made that having
43 a specific item would pose a significant and unreasonable risk to the
44 safety of incarcerated persons or staff or the security of the unit.

45 (iv) Upon admission to a residential rehabilitation unit, program and
46 mental health staff shall administer assessments and develop an individ-
47 ual rehabilitation plan in consultation with the resident, based upon
48 his or her medical, mental health, and programming needs. Such plan
49 shall identify specific goals and programs, treatment, and services to
50 be offered, with projected time frames for completion and discharge from
51 the residential rehabilitation unit.

52 (v) An incarcerated person in a residential rehabilitation unit shall
53 have access to programs and work assignments comparable to core programs
54 and work assignments in general population. Such incarcerated persons
55 shall also have access to additional out-of-cell, trauma-informed thera-
56 peutic programming aimed at promoting personal development, addressing

1 underlying causes of problematic behavior resulting in placement in a
2 residential rehabilitation unit, and helping prepare for discharge from
3 the unit and to the community.

4 (vi) If the department establishes that a person committed an act
5 defined in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision while
6 in segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit and poses
7 a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety and security of other
8 incarcerated persons or staff, the department may restrict such person's
9 participation in programming and out-of-cell activities as necessary for
10 the safety of other incarcerated persons and staff. If such restrictions
11 are imposed, the department must provide at least four hours out-of-cell
12 time daily, including at least two hours of therapeutic programming and
13 two hours of recreation, and must make reasonable efforts to reinstate
14 access to programming as soon as possible. In no case may such
15 restrictions extend beyond fifteen days unless the person commits a new
16 act defined herein justifying restrictions on program access, or if the
17 commissioner and, when appropriate, the commissioner of mental health
18 personally reasonably determine that the person poses an extraordinary
19 and unacceptable risk of imminent harm to the safety or security of
20 incarcerated persons or staff. Any extension of program restrictions
21 beyond fifteen days must be meaningfully reviewed and approved at least
22 every fifteen days by the commissioner and, when appropriate, by the
23 commissioner of mental health. Each review must consider the impact of
24 therapeutic programming provided during the fifteen-day period on the
25 person's risk of imminent harm and the commissioner must articulate in
26 writing, with a copy provided to the incarcerated person, the specific
27 reason why the person currently poses an extraordinary and unacceptable
28 risk of imminent harm to the safety or security of incarcerated persons
29 or staff. In no case may restrictions imposed by the commissioner extend
30 beyond ninety days unless the person commits a new act defined herein
31 justifying restrictions on program access.

32 (vii) Restraints shall not be used when incarcerated persons are
33 participating in out-of-cell activities within a residential rehabili-
34 tation unit unless an individual assessment is made that restraints are
35 required because of a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety
36 and security of other incarcerated persons or staff.

37 (j) (i) The department may place a person in segregated confinement
38 for up to three consecutive days and no longer than six days in any
39 thirty day period if, pursuant to an evidentiary hearing, it determines
40 that the person violated department rules which permit a penalty of
41 segregated confinement. The department may not place a person in segre-
42 gated confinement for longer than three consecutive days or six days
43 total in a thirty day period unless the provisions of subparagraph (ii)
44 of this paragraph are met.

45 (ii) The department may place a person in segregated confinement
46 beyond the limits of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph or in a residen-
47 tial rehabilitation unit only if, pursuant to an evidentiary hearing, it
48 determines by written decision that the person committed one of the
49 following acts and if the commissioner or his or her designee determines
50 in writing based on specific objective criteria the acts were so heinous
51 or destructive that placement of the individual in general population
52 housing creates a significant risk of imminent serious physical injury
53 to staff or other incarcerated persons, and creates an unreasonable risk
54 to the security of the facility:

55 (A) causing or attempting to cause serious physical injury or death to
56 another person or making an imminent threat of such serious physical

1 injury or death if the person has a history of causing such physical
2 injury or death and the commissioner and, when appropriate, the commis-
3 sioner of mental health or their designees reasonably determine that
4 there is a strong likelihood that the person will carry out such threat.
5 The commissioner of mental health or his or her designee shall be
6 involved in such determination if the person is or has been on the
7 mental health caseload or appears to require psychiatric attention. The
8 department and the office of mental health shall promulgate rules and
9 regulations pertaining to this clause;

10 (B) compelling or attempting to compel another person, by force or
11 threat of force, to engage in a sexual act;

12 (C) extorting another, by force or threat of force, for property or
13 money;

14 (D) coercing another, by force or threat of force, to violate any
15 rule;

16 (E) leading, organizing, inciting, or attempting to cause a riot,
17 insurrection, or other similarly serious disturbance that results in the
18 taking of a hostage, major property damage, or physical harm to another
19 person;

20 (F) procuring deadly weapons or other dangerous contraband that poses
21 a serious threat to the security of the institution; or

22 (G) escaping, attempting to escape or facilitating an escape from a
23 facility or escaping or attempting to escape while under supervision
24 outside such facility.

25 For purposes of this section, attempting to cause a serious disturb-
26 ance or to escape shall only be determined to have occurred if there is
27 a clear finding that the inmate had the intent to cause a serious
28 disturbance or the intent to escape and had completed significant acts
29 in the advancement of the attempt to create a serious disturbance or
30 escape. Evidence of withdrawal or abandonment of a plan to cause a seri-
31 ous disturbance or to escape shall negate a finding of intent.

32 (iii) No person may be placed in segregated confinement or a residen-
33 tial rehabilitation unit based on the same act or incident that was
34 previously used as the basis for such placement.

35 (iv) No person may be held in segregated confinement for protective
36 custody. Any unit used for protective custody must, at a minimum,
37 conform to requirements governing residential rehabilitation units.

38 (k) All hearings to determine if a person may be placed in segregated
39 confinement shall occur prior to placement in segregated confinement
40 unless a security supervisor, with written approval of a facility super-
41 intendent or designee, reasonably believes the person fits the specified
42 criteria for segregated confinement in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph
43 (j) of this subdivision. If a hearing does not take place prior to
44 placement, it shall occur as soon as reasonably practicable and at most
45 within five days of such placement unless the charged person seeks a
46 postponement of the hearing. Persons at such hearings shall be permitted
47 to be represented by any attorney or law student, or by any paralegal or
48 incarcerated person unless the department reasonably disapproves of such
49 paralegal or incarcerated person based upon objective written criteria
50 developed by the department.

51 (l) (i) Any sanction imposed on an incarcerated person requiring
52 segregated confinement shall run while the person is in a residential
53 rehabilitation unit and the person shall be discharged from the unit
54 before or at the time such sanction expires. If a person successfully
55 completes his or her rehabilitation plan before the sanction expires,

1 the person shall have a right to be discharged from the unit upon such
2 completion.

3 (ii) If an incarcerated person has not been discharged from a residen-
4 tial rehabilitation unit within one year of initial admission to such a
5 unit or is within sixty days of a fixed or tentatively approved date for
6 release from a correctional facility, he or she shall have a right to be
7 discharged from the unit unless he or she committed an act listed in
8 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision within the prior
9 one hundred eighty days and he or she poses a significant and unreason-
10 able risk to the safety or security of incarcerated persons or staff. In
11 any such case the decision not to discharge such person shall be imme-
12 diately and automatically subjected to an independent review by the
13 commissioner and the commissioner of mental health or their designees. A
14 person may remain in a residential rehabilitation unit beyond the time
15 limits provided in this section if both commissioners or both of their
16 designees approve this decision. In extraordinary circumstances, a
17 person who has not committed an act listed in subparagraph (ii) of para-
18 graph (j) of this subdivision within the prior one hundred eighty days,
19 may remain in a residential rehabilitation unit beyond the time limits
20 provided in this section if both the commissioner and the commissioner
21 of mental health personally determine that such individual poses an
22 extraordinary and unacceptable risk of imminent harm to the safety or
23 security of incarcerated persons or staff.

24 (iii) There shall be a meaningful periodic review of the status of
25 each incarcerated person in a residential rehabilitation unit at least
26 every sixty days to assess the person's progress and determine if the
27 person should be discharged from the unit. Following such periodic
28 review, if the person is not discharged from the unit, program and
29 mental health staff shall specify in writing the reasons for the deter-
30 mination and the program, treatment, service, and/or corrective action
31 required before discharge. The incarcerated person shall be given access
32 to the programs, treatment and services specified, and shall have a
33 right to be discharged from the residential rehabilitation unit upon the
34 successful fulfillment of such requirements.

35 (iv) When an incarcerated person is discharged from a residential
36 rehabilitation unit, any remaining time to serve on any underlying
37 disciplinary sanction shall be dismissed. If an incarcerated person
38 substantially completes his or her rehabilitation plan, he or she shall
39 have any associated loss of good time restored upon discharge from the
40 unit.

41 (m) All special housing unit, keeplock unit and residential rehabili-
42 tation unit staff and their supervisors shall undergo a minimum of thir-
43 ty-seven hours and thirty minutes of training prior to assignment to
44 such unit, and twenty-one hours of additional training annually there-
45 after, on substantive content developed in consultation with relevant
46 experts, on topics including, but not limited to, the purpose and goals
47 of the non-punitive therapeutic environment, trauma-informed care,
48 restorative justice, and dispute resolution methods. Prior to presiding
49 over any hearings, all hearing officers shall undergo a minimum of thir-
50 ty-seven hours and thirty minutes of training, with one additional day
51 of training annually thereafter, on relevant topics, including but not
52 limited to, the physical and psychological effects of segregated
53 confinement, procedural and due process rights of the accused, and
54 restorative justice remedies.

55 (n) The department shall publish monthly reports on its website, with
56 semi-annual and annual cumulative reports, of the total number of people

1 who are in segregated confinement and the total number of people who are
2 in residential rehabilitation units on the first day of each month. The
3 reports shall provide a breakdown of the number of people in segregated
4 confinement and in residential rehabilitation units by: (i) age; (ii)
5 race; (iii) gender; (iv) mental health treatment level; (v) special
6 health accommodations or needs; (vi) need for and participation in
7 substance abuse programs; (vii) pregnancy status; (viii) continuous
8 length of stay in residential treatment units as well as length of stay
9 in the past sixty days; (ix) number of days in segregated confinement;
10 (x) a list of all incidents resulting in sanctions of segregated
11 confinement by facility and date of occurrence; (xi) the number of
12 incarcerated persons in segregated confinement by facility; and (xii)
13 the number of incarcerated persons in residential rehabilitation units
14 by facility.

15 § 6. Section 138 of the correction law is amended by adding a new
16 subdivision 7 to read as follows:

17 7. De-escalation, intervention, informational reports, and the with-
18 drawal of incentives shall be the preferred methods of responding to
19 misbehavior unless the department determines that non-disciplinary
20 interventions have failed, or that non-disciplinary interventions would
21 not succeed and the misbehavior involved an act listed in subparagraph
22 (ii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision six of section one hundred thirty-
23 seven of this article, in which case, as a last resort, the department
24 shall have the authority to issue misbehavior reports, pursue discipli-
25 nary charges, or impose new or additional segregated confinement sanc-
26 tions.

27 § 7. Subdivision 1 of section 401 of the correction law, as amended by
28 chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

29 1. The commissioner, in cooperation with the commissioner of mental
30 health, shall establish programs, including but not limited to residen-
31 tial mental health treatment units, in such correctional facilities as
32 he or she may deem appropriate for the treatment of mentally ill inmates
33 confined in state correctional facilities who are in need of psychiatric
34 services but who do not require hospitalization for the treatment of
35 mental illness. Inmates with serious mental illness shall receive thera-
36 py and programming in settings that are appropriate to their clinical
37 needs while maintaining the safety and security of the facility.

38 The conditions and services provided in the residential mental health
39 treatment units shall be at least comparable to those in all residential
40 rehabilitation units, and all residential mental health treatment units
41 shall be in compliance with all provisions of paragraphs (h), (i), (j),
42 and (k) of subdivision six of section one hundred thirty-seven of this
43 chapter. Residential mental health treatment units that are either resi-
44 dential mental health unit models or behavioral health unit models shall
45 also be in compliance with all provisions of paragraph (l) of subdivi-
46 sion six of section one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter.

47 The residential mental health treatment units shall also provide the
48 additional mental health treatment, services, and programming delineated
49 in this section. The administration and operation of programs estab-
50 lished pursuant to this section shall be the joint responsibility of the
51 commissioner of mental health and the commissioner. The professional
52 mental health care personnel, and their administrative and support
53 staff, for such programs shall be employees of the office of mental
54 health. All other personnel shall be employees of the department.

1 § 8. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 401
2 of the correction law, as added by chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (i) In exceptional circumstances, a mental health clinician, or the
5 highest ranking facility security supervisor in consultation with a
6 mental health clinician who has interviewed the inmate, may determine
7 that an inmate's access to out-of-cell therapeutic programming and/or
8 mental health treatment in a residential mental health treatment unit
9 presents an unacceptable risk to the safety of inmates or staff. Such
10 determination shall be documented in writing and such inmate shall be
11 removed to a residential rehabilitation unit that is not a residential
12 mental health treatment unit where alternative mental health treatment
13 and/or other therapeutic programming, as determined by a mental health
14 clinician, shall be provided.

15 § 9. Subdivision 5 of section 401 of the correction law, as added by
16 chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

17 5. (a) An inmate in a residential mental health treatment unit shall
18 not be sanctioned with segregated confinement for misconduct on the
19 unit, or removed from the unit and placed in segregated confinement or a
20 residential rehabilitation unit, except in exceptional circumstances
21 where such inmate's conduct poses a significant and unreasonable risk to
22 the safety of inmates or staff, or to the security of the facility and
23 he or she has been found to have committed an act or acts defined in
24 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision six of section one
25 hundred thirty-seven of this chapter. Further, in the event that such a
26 sanction is imposed, an inmate shall not be required to begin serving
27 such sanction until the reviews required by paragraph (b) of this subdivi-
28 sion have been completed; provided, however that in extraordinary
29 circumstances where an inmate's conduct poses an immediate unacceptable
30 threat to the safety of inmates or staff, or to the security of the
31 facility an inmate may be immediately moved to [~~segregated confinement~~]
32 a residential rehabilitation unit. The determination that an immediate
33 transfer to [~~segregated confinement~~] a residential rehabilitation unit
34 is necessary shall be made by the highest ranking facility security
35 supervisor in consultation with a mental health clinician.

36 (b) The joint case management committee shall review any disciplinary
37 disposition imposing a sanction of segregated confinement at its next
38 scheduled meeting. Such review shall take into account the inmate's
39 mental condition and safety and security concerns. The joint case
40 management committee may only thereafter recommend the removal of the
41 inmate in exceptional circumstances where the inmate commits an act or
42 acts defined in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision six of
43 section one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter and poses a significant
44 and unreasonable risk to the safety of inmates or staff or to the secu-
45 rity of the facility. In the event that the inmate was immediately moved
46 to segregated confinement, the joint case management committee may
47 recommend that the inmate continue to serve such sanction only in excep-
48 tional circumstances where the inmate commits an act or acts defined in
49 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision six of section one
50 hundred thirty-seven of this chapter and poses a significant and unrea-
51 sonable risk to the safety of inmates or staff or to the security of the
52 facility. If a determination is made that the inmate shall not be
53 required to serve all or any part of the segregated confinement sanc-
54 tion, the joint case management committee may instead recommend that a
55 less restrictive sanction should be imposed. The recommendations made by
56 the joint case management committee under this paragraph shall be docu-

1 mented in writing and referred to the superintendent for review and if
2 the superintendent disagrees, the matter shall be referred to the joint
3 central office review committee for a final determination. The adminis-
4 trative process described in this paragraph shall be completed within
5 fourteen days. If the result of such process is that an inmate who was
6 immediately transferred to [~~segregated confinement~~] a residential reha-
7 bilitation unit should be removed from [~~segregated confinement~~] such
8 unit, such removal shall occur as soon as practicable, and in no event
9 longer than seventy-two hours from the completion of the administrative
10 process.

11 § 10. Subdivision 6 of section 401 of the correction law, as amended
12 by chapter 20 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

13 6. The department shall ensure that the curriculum for new correction
14 officers, and other new department staff who will regularly work in
15 programs providing mental health treatment for inmates, shall include at
16 least eight hours of training about the types and symptoms of mental
17 illnesses, the goals of mental health treatment, the prevention of
18 suicide and training in how to effectively and safely manage inmates
19 with mental illness. Such training may be provided by the office of
20 mental health or the justice center for the protection of people with
21 special needs. All department staff who are transferring into a residen-
22 tial mental health treatment unit shall receive a minimum of eight addi-
23 tional hours of such training, and eight hours of annual training as
24 long as they work in such a unit. All security, program services, mental
25 health and medical staff with direct inmate contact shall receive train-
26 ing each year regarding identification of, and care for, inmates with
27 mental illnesses. The department shall provide additional training on
28 these topics on an ongoing basis as it deems appropriate. All staff
29 working in a residential mental health treatment unit shall also receive
30 all training mandated in paragraph (m) of subdivision six of section one
31 hundred thirty-seven of this chapter.

32 § 11. Section 401-a of the correction law is amended by adding a new
33 subdivision 4 to read as follows:

34 4. The justice center shall assess the department's compliance with
35 the provisions of sections two, one hundred thirty-seven, and one
36 hundred thirty-eight of this chapter relating to segregated confinement
37 and residential rehabilitation units and shall issue a public report, no
38 less than annually, with recommendations to the department and legisla-
39 ture, regarding all aspects of segregated confinement and residential
40 rehabilitation units in state correctional facilities including but not
41 limited to policies and practices concerning: (a) placement of persons
42 in segregated confinement and residential rehabilitation units; (b)
43 special populations; (c) length of time spent in such units; (d) hear-
44 ings and procedures; (e) programs, treatment and conditions of confine-
45 ment in such units; and (f) assessments and rehabilitation plans, proce-
46 dures and discharge determinations.

47 § 12. Section 45 of the correction law is amended by adding a new
48 subdivision 18 to read as follows:

49 18. Assess compliance of local correctional facilities with the terms
50 of paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n) of subdivision
51 six of section one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter. The commission
52 shall issue a public report regarding all aspects of segregated confine-
53 ment and residential rehabilitation units at least annually with recom-
54 mendations to local correctional facilities, the governor, the legisla-
55 ture, including but not limited to policies and practices regarding: (a)
56 placement of persons; (b) special populations; (c) length of time spent

1 in segregated confinement and residential treatment units; (d) hearings
2 and procedures; (e) conditions, programs, services, care, and treatment;
3 and (f) assessments, rehabilitation plans, and discharge procedures.

4 § 13. Section 500-k of the correction law, as amended by chapter 2 of
5 the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

6 § 500-k. Treatment of inmates. 1. Subdivisions five and six of section
7 one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter, except paragraphs (d) and (e)
8 of subdivision six of such section, relating to the treatment of inmates
9 in state correctional facilities are applicable to inmates confined in
10 county jails; except that the report required by paragraph (f) of subdi-
11 vision six of such section shall be made to a person designated to
12 receive such report in the rules and regulations of the state commission
13 of correction, or in any county or city where there is a department of
14 correction, to the head of such department.

15 2. Notwithstanding any other section of law to the contrary, subdivi-
16 sion thirty-three of section two of this chapter, and subparagraphs (i),
17 (iv) and (v) of paragraph (i) and subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (1) of
18 subdivision six of section one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter
19 shall not apply to local correctional facilities with a total combined
20 capacity of five hundred inmates or fewer.

21 § 14. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
22 law.