AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated persons on parole

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

Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 259-i of the executive law, as amended by chapter 130 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

(A) Discretionary release on parole shall [not] be granted [merely as a reward for good conduct or efficient performance of duties while confined but after considering if there is a reasonable probability that, if such inmate is released, he will live and remain at liberty without violating the law, and that his release is not incompatible with the welfare of society and will not so deprecate the seriousness of his crime as to undermine respect for law] to any incarcerated person appearing before the board who is eligible for release on parole, unless the parole case record demonstrates there is a current and unreasonable risk the person will violate the law if released and such risk cannot be mitigated by parole supervision. In making the parole release decision, the procedures adopted pursuant to subdivision four of section two hundred fifty-nine-c of this article shall require that the following be considered: (i) the institutional record including program goals and accomplishments, academic achievements, vocational education, training or work assignments, therapy and interactions with staff and inmates

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [−] is old law to be omitted.
incarcerated persons; (ii) performance, if any, as a participant in a
temporary release program; (iii) release plans including community
resources, employment, education and training and support services
available to the [inmate] incarcerated person; (iv) any deportation
order issued by the federal government against the [inmate] incarcerated
person while in the custody of the department and any recommendation
regarding deportation made by the commissioner of the department pursu-
ant to section one hundred forty-seven of the correction law; (v) any
current or prior statement made to the board by the crime victim or the
victim's representative, where the crime victim is deceased or is
mentally or physically incapacitated; (vi) the length of the determinate
sentence to which the [inmate] incarcerated person would be subject had
he or she received a sentence pursuant to section 70.70 or section 70.71
of the penal law for a felony defined in article two hundred twenty or
article two hundred twenty-one of the penal law; (vii) the seriousness
of the offense with due consideration to the type of sentence, length of
sentence and recommendations of the sentencing court, the district
attorney, the attorney for the [inmate] incarcerated person, the pre-
sentence probation report as well as consideration of any mitigating and
aggravating factors, and activities following arrest prior to confine-
ment; [and] (viii) prior criminal record, including the nature and
pattern of offenses, adjustment to any previous probation or parole
supervision and institutional confinement; and (ix) all evidence of
rehabilitation and reform. The board shall provide toll free telephone
access for crime victims. In the case of an oral statement made in
accordance with subdivision one of section 440.50 of the criminal proce-
dure law, the parole board member shall present a written report of the
statement to the parole board. A crime victim's representative shall
mean the crime victim's closest surviving relative, the committee or
guardian of such person, or the legal representative of any such person.
Such statement submitted by the victim or victim's representative may
include information concerning threatening or intimidating conduct
made by the person sentenced and occurring after the sentencing. Such
information may include, but need not be limited to, the threatening or
intimidating conduct of any other person who or which is directed by the
person sentenced. Any statement by a victim or the victim's represen-
tative made to the board shall be maintained by the department in the
file provided to the board when interviewing the [inmate] incarcerated
person in consideration of release. A victim or victim's representative
who has submitted a written request to the department for the transcript
of such interview shall be provided such transcript as soon as it
becomes available.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.