

STATE OF NEW YORK

2419

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BARRON, COOK, HYNDMAN, J. RIVERA, TAYLOR, EPSTEIN
-- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. SIMON -- read once and referred to
the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to authorizing certain inmates serving indeterminate sentences to receive good time allowances against the minimum terms of their sentences not to exceed one third of the actual minimum term imposed

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

1 Section 1. Section 803 of the correction law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

3 1-a. Every person confined in an institution of the department or a
4 facility in the department of mental hygiene serving an indeterminate
5 sentence of imprisonment, for an offense contained in article two
6 hundred twenty or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law, may receive
7 time allowance against the minimum term or period of his or her sentence
8 not to exceed in the aggregate one-third of the term or period imposed
9 by the court. Such allowances may be granted for good behavior and effi-
10 cient and willing performance of duties assigned or progress and
11 achievement in an assigned treatment program, and may be withheld,
12 forfeited or canceled in whole or in part for bad behavior, violation of
13 institutional rules or failure to perform properly in the duties or
14 program assigned.

15 § 2. Section 803 of the correction law is amended by adding a new
16 subdivision 1-b to read as follows:

17 1-b. Every person confined in an institution of the department or a
18 facility in the department of mental hygiene serving an indeterminate
19 sentence of imprisonment, for an offense contained in article two
20 hundred twenty or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law, may receive
21 time allowance against the minimum term or period of his or her sentence
22 not to exceed in the aggregate one-third of the term or period imposed

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

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1 by the court. Such allowances may be granted for good behavior and effi-
2 cient and willing performance of duties assigned or progress and
3 achievement in an assigned treatment program, and may be withheld,
4 forfeited or canceled in whole or in part for bad behavior, violation of
5 institutional rules or failure to perform properly in the duties or
6 program assigned.

7 § 3. The opening paragraph of subdivision 2 of section 803 of the
8 correction law, as amended by chapter 3 of the laws of 1995, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 If a person is serving more than one sentence, the authorized allow-
11 ances may be granted separately against the term or [~~maximum-term~~] terms
12 of each sentence or, where consecutive sentences are involved, against
13 the aggregate [~~maximum-term~~] terms. Such allowances shall be calculated
14 as follows:

15 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 803 of the correction law, as amended by
16 chapter 126 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

17 2. If a person is serving more than one sentence, the authorized
18 allowances may be granted separately against the [~~maximum-term~~] terms of
19 each sentence or, where consecutive sentences are involved, against the
20 aggregate [~~maximum-term~~] terms. In no case, however, shall the total of
21 all allowances granted to any such person under this section exceed
22 one-third of the time he would be required to serve, computed without
23 regard to this section.

24 § 5. Section 803 of the correction law is amended by adding a new
25 subdivision 7 to read as follows:

26 7. The expiration of the minimum period of imprisonment, as set forth
27 in paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section 70.40 of the penal law,
28 paragraph (a) of subdivision two of section two hundred fifty-nine-i of
29 the executive law, and section eight hundred five of this article, shall
30 be deemed to mean the minimum period of imprisonment reduced by any time
31 allowance granted pursuant to subdivision one-a of this section. The
32 eligibility of an inmate to receive any time allowance pursuant to
33 subdivision one-a of this section shall not otherwise affect such
34 inmate's eligibility to participate in any department program.

35 § 6. Subdivision 7 of section 803 of the correction law, as added by
36 section five of this act, is amended to read as follows:

37 7. The expiration of the minimum period of imprisonment, as set forth
38 in paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section 70.40 of the penal law,
39 paragraph (a) of subdivision two of section two hundred fifty-nine-i of
40 the executive law, and section eight hundred five of this article, shall
41 be deemed to mean the minimum period of imprisonment reduced by any time
42 allowance granted pursuant to subdivision [~~one-a~~] one-b of this section.
43 The eligibility of an inmate to receive any time allowance pursuant to
44 subdivision [~~one-a~~] one-b of this section shall not otherwise affect
45 such inmate's eligibility to participate in any department program.

46 § 7. Section 805 of the correction law, as amended by section 4 of
47 part E of chapter 62 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

48 § 805. Earned eligibility program. Persons committed to the custody of
49 the department under an indeterminate or determinate sentence of impri-
50 sonment shall be assigned a work and treatment program as soon as prac-
51 ticable. No earlier than two months prior to the inmate's eligibility to
52 be paroled pursuant to subdivision one of section 70.40 of the penal
53 law, the commissioner shall review the inmate's institutional record to
54 determine whether he or she has complied with the assigned program. If
55 the commissioner determines that the inmate has successfully partic-
56 ipated in the program he may issue the inmate a certificate of earned

1 eligibility. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an inmate who
2 is serving a sentence with a minimum term of not more than eight years
3 and who has been issued a certificate of earned eligibility, shall be
4 granted parole release at the expiration of his or her minimum term, or
5 where applicable, at the expiration of the minimum term reduced by any
6 time allowances, or as authorized by subdivision four of section eight
7 hundred sixty-seven of this chapter unless the board of parole deter-
8 mines that there is a reasonable probability that, if such inmate is
9 released, he or she will not live and remain at liberty without violat-
10 ing the law and that his release is not compatible with the welfare of
11 society. Any action by the commissioner pursuant to this section shall
12 be deemed a judicial function and shall not be reviewable if done in
13 accordance with law.

14 § 8. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-
15 ing the date on which it shall have become a law, provided that the
16 amendments to section 803 of the correction law made by sections one,
17 three and five of this act shall be subject to the expiration and rever-
18 sion of such section pursuant to section 74 of chapter 3 of the laws of
19 1995, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of sections two,
20 four and six of this act shall take effect; and provided, further, the
21 amendments to section 805 of the correction law made by section seven of
22 this act shall not affect the expiration of such section and shall be
23 deemed to expire therewith.