

# STATE OF NEW YORK

818

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. BIAGGI, COMRIE, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KRUEGER, LIU, MYRIE, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR -- 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 and the penal law, in relation to imposing criminal liability for the failure to obtain medical care for a person in custody displaying medical distress

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "Andrew Kearsse act".

3 § 2. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 47 of the correction  
4 law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (iii) to read as follows:

5 (iii) The board shall require any police officer, peace officer,  
6 correction officer or other employee of a correctional facility to  
7 provide immediate medical attention when an inmate or person in custody  
8 displays medical distress. The board shall require state and local  
9 correctional facilities and law enforcement agencies to conduct training  
10 on assisting a person displaying medical distress. The board shall  
11 investigate all alleged failures of any police officer, peace officer,  
12 correction officer or other employee of a correctional facility to  
13 provide medical care to an inmate or person in custody displaying  
14 medical distress or a need for immediate medical care. If the board  
15 discovers any police officer, peace officer, correction officer, or  
16 other employee of a correctional facility failed to make reasonable  
17 effort to provide medical care or denies access to care to an inmate or  
18 person in custody displaying medical distress or a need for immediate  
19 medical care, the board shall refer such case to prosecutors as a  
20 violation of section 125.09 of the penal law.

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

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1 § 3. The penal law is amended by adding two new sections 125.08 and  
2 125.09 to read as follows:

3 § 125.08 Criminally negligent failure to obtain medical care resulting  
4 in injury.

5 A person is guilty of criminally negligent failure to obtain medical  
6 care resulting in injury when such person, acting as a police officer,  
7 peace officer or correction officer: (a) with criminal negligence, fails  
8 to make a good faith effort to obtain medical care for any person in  
9 custody, including an inmate, displaying medical distress, including but  
10 not limited to breathing difficulties, migraines and muscle pains, or a  
11 need for immediate medical care in the presence of such officer; and (b)  
12 such person in custody suffers from an injury resulting from such fail-  
13 ure to obtain medical care.

14 Criminally negligent failure to obtain medical care resulting in inju-  
15 ry is a class E felony.

16 § 125.09 Criminally negligent failure to obtain medical care resulting  
17 in death.

18 A person is guilty of criminally negligent failure to obtain medical  
19 care resulting in death when such person, acting as a police officer,  
20 peace officer or correction officer: (a) with criminal negligence, fails  
21 to make a good faith effort to obtain medical care for any person in  
22 custody, including an inmate, displaying medical distress, including but  
23 not limited to breathing difficulties, migraines and muscle pains, or a  
24 need for immediate medical care in the presence of such officer; and (b)  
25 such person in custody dies as a result of such failure to obtain  
26 medical care.

27 Criminally negligent failure to obtain medical care resulting in death  
28 is a class E felony.

29 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.