

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4250

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 1, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN, BARRON, WALKER, DE LA ROSA, GOTTFRIED, FERNANDEZ, EPSTEIN, REYES, CRUZ, AUBRY, HUNTER, TAYLOR -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to the establishment of an inmate visitation program

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

1 Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 138-b  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 138-b. Inmate visitation program. State and local correctional  
4 facilities shall provide inmate visitation programs which give inmates  
5 opportunities for personal contact with relatives, friends, clergy,  
6 volunteers and other persons to promote better institutional adjustment  
7 and better community adjustment upon release. Such program shall  
8 include, but not be limited to, (a) visiting hours that are reasonably  
9 likely to accommodate persons traveling from within the state, (b)  
10 visits of sufficient duration so that visitors and inmates will be able  
11 to maintain relationship bonds, and (c) a published overcrowding policy  
12 that is equitable with due consideration to the distance traveled by the  
13 visitor. Video visitation may supplement, but shall not take the place  
14 of, in-person visitation. No inmate is to be visited against his or her  
15 will by any person.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
17 it shall have become a law.

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

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