

STATE OF NEW YORK

5511

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON, L. ROSENTHAL, HYNDMAN, EPSTEIN,
SAYEGH, SIMON, BARRON, GOTTFRIED, WEPRIN, CRUZ -- Multi-Sponsored by
-- M. of A. PERRY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to a judicial
diversion program for certain felony offenders

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

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 and subdivision 2 of
2 section 216.00 of the criminal procedure law, the opening paragraph of
3 subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 90 of the laws of 2014 and subdivi-
4 sion 2 as added by section 4 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of
5 2009, are amended to read as follows:

6 "Eligible defendant" means any person who stands charged in an indict-
7 ment or a superior court information with a class B, C, D or E felony
8 offense defined in article one hundred seventy-nine, two hundred twenty
9 or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law, an offense defined in
10 sections 105.10 and 105.13 of the penal law provided that the underlying
11 crime for the conspiracy charge is a class B, C, D or E felony offense
12 defined in article one hundred seventy-nine, two hundred twenty or two
13 hundred twenty-one of the penal law, auto stripping in the second degree
14 as defined in section 165.10 of the penal law, auto stripping in the
15 first degree as defined in section 165.11 of the penal law, identity
16 theft in the second degree as defined in section 190.79 of the penal
17 law, identity theft in the first degree as defined in section 190.80 of
18 the penal law, or any other specified offense as defined in subdivision
19 [~~four~~ five] of section 410.91 of this chapter, provided, however, a
20 defendant is not an "eligible defendant" if he or she:

21 2. "Alcohol and substance [~~abuse~~ use evaluation" means a written
22 assessment and report by a court-approved entity or licensed health care
23 professional experienced in the treatment of alcohol and substance
24 [~~abuse~~ use disorder, or by an addiction and substance abuse counselor

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

LBD04697-01-1

1 credentialed by the office of [~~alcoholism and substance abuse services~~]
2 addiction services and supports pursuant to section 19.07 of the mental
3 hygiene law, which shall include:

4 (a) an evaluation as to whether the defendant has a history of alcohol
5 or substance [~~abuse or alcohol or substance dependence~~] use disorder, as
6 such terms are defined in the diagnostic and statistical manual of
7 mental disorders, [~~fourth~~] fifth edition, and a co-occurring mental
8 disorder or mental illness and the relationship between such [~~abuse or~~
9 ~~dependence~~] use and mental disorder or mental illness, if any;

10 (b) a recommendation as to whether the defendant's alcohol or
11 substance [~~abuse or dependence~~] use, if any, could be effectively
12 addressed by judicial diversion in accordance with this article;

13 (c) a recommendation as to the treatment modality, level of care and
14 length of any proposed treatment to effectively address the defendant's
15 alcohol or substance [~~abuse or dependence~~] use and any co-occurring
16 mental disorder or illness; and

17 (d) any other information, factor, circumstance, or recommendation
18 deemed relevant by the assessing entity or specifically requested by the
19 court.

20 § 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 216.00 of the
21 criminal procedure law, as added by section 4 of part AAA of chapter 56
22 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

23 "Eligible defendant" means any person who stands charged in an indict-
24 ment or a superior court information with a class B, C, D or E felony
25 offense defined in article two hundred twenty or two hundred twenty-one
26 of the penal law, an offense defined in sections 105.10 and 105.13 of
27 the penal law provided that the underlying crime for the conspiracy
28 charge is a class B, C, D or E felony offense defined in article two
29 hundred twenty or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law, auto strip-
30 ping in the second degree as defined in section 165.10 of the penal law,
31 auto stripping in the first degree as defined in section 165.11 of the
32 penal law, identity theft in the second degree as defined in section
33 190.79 of the penal law, identity theft in the first degree as defined
34 in section 190.80 of the penal law, or any other specified offense as
35 defined in subdivision [~~four~~] five of section 410.91 of this chapter,
36 provided, however, a defendant is not an "eligible defendant" if he or
37 she:

38 § 3. Section 216.05 of the criminal procedure law, as added by section
39 4 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, subdivision 5 as
40 amended by chapter 67 of the laws of 2016, subdivision 8 as amended by
41 chapter 315 of the laws of 2016, and paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 as
42 amended by section 21 of part JJJ of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, is
43 amended to read as follows:

44 § 216.05 Judicial diversion program; court procedures.

45 1. At any time after the arraignment of an eligible defendant, but
46 prior to the entry of a plea of guilty or the commencement of trial, the
47 court at the request of the eligible defendant, may order an alcohol and
48 substance [~~abuse~~] use evaluation. An eligible defendant may decline to
49 participate in such an evaluation at any time. The defendant shall
50 provide a written authorization, in compliance with the requirements of
51 any applicable state or federal laws, rules or regulations authorizing
52 disclosure of the results of the assessment to the defendant's attorney,
53 the prosecutor, the local probation department, the court, authorized
54 court personnel and other individuals specified in such authorization
55 for the sole purpose of determining whether the defendant should be
56 offered judicial diversion for treatment for substance [~~abuse or depend-~~

1 ~~ence~~ use, alcohol [~~abuse or dependence~~] use and any co-occurring mental
2 disorder or mental illness.

3 2. Upon receipt of the completed alcohol and substance [~~abuse~~] use
4 evaluation report, the court shall provide a copy of the report to the
5 eligible defendant and the prosecutor.

6 3. (a) Upon receipt of the evaluation report either party may request
7 a hearing on the issue of whether the eligible defendant should be
8 offered alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment pursuant to this
9 article. At such a proceeding, which shall be held as soon as practica-
10 ble so as to facilitate early intervention in the event that the defend-
11 ant is found to need alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment, the
12 court may consider oral and written arguments, may take testimony from
13 witnesses offered by either party, and may consider any relevant
14 evidence including, but not limited to, evidence that:

15 (i) the defendant had within the preceding ten years (excluding any
16 time during which the offender was incarcerated for any reason between
17 the time of the acts that led to the youthful offender adjudication and
18 the time of commission of the present offense) been adjudicated a youth-
19 ful offender for: (A) a violent felony offense as defined in section
20 70.02 of the penal law; or (B) any offense for which a merit time allow-
21 ance is not available pursuant to subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of
22 subdivision one of section eight hundred three of the correction law;
23 and

24 (ii) in the case of a felony offense defined in subdivision [~~four~~]
25 five of section 410.91 of this chapter, or section 165.10, 165.11,
26 190.79 or 190.80 of the penal law, any statement of or submitted by the
27 victim, as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision two of section 380.50
28 of this chapter.

29 (b) Upon completion of such a proceeding, the court shall consider and
30 make findings of fact with respect to whether:

31 (i) the defendant is an eligible defendant as defined in subdivision
32 one of section 216.00 of this article;

33 (ii) the defendant has a history of alcohol or substance [~~abuse or~~
34 ~~dependence~~] use;

35 (iii) such alcohol or substance [~~abuse or dependence~~] use is a
36 contributing factor to the defendant's criminal behavior;

37 (iv) the defendant's participation in judicial diversion could effec-
38 tively address such [~~abuse or dependence~~] use; and

39 (v) institutional confinement of the defendant is or may not be neces-
40 sary for the protection of the public.

41 4. When an authorized court determines, pursuant to paragraph (b) of
42 subdivision three of this section, that an eligible defendant should be
43 offered alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment, or when the parties
44 and the court agree to an eligible defendant's participation in alcohol
45 or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment, an eligible defendant may be allowed
46 to participate in the judicial diversion program offered by this arti-
47 cle. Prior to the court's issuing an order granting judicial diversion,
48 the eligible defendant shall be required to enter a plea of guilty to
49 the charge or charges; provided, however, that no such guilty plea shall
50 be required when:

51 (a) the people and the court consent to the entry of such an order
52 without a plea of guilty; or

53 (b) based on a finding of exceptional circumstances, the court deter-
54 mines that a plea of guilty shall not be required. For purposes of this
55 subdivision, exceptional circumstances exist when, regardless of the

1 ultimate disposition of the case, the entry of a plea of guilty is like-
2 ly to result in severe collateral consequences.

3 5. The defendant shall agree on the record or in writing to abide by
4 the release conditions set by the court, which, shall include: partic-
5 ipation in a specified period of alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treat-
6 ment at a specified program or programs identified by the court, which
7 may include periods of detoxification, residential or outpatient treat-
8 ment, or both, as determined after taking into account the views of the
9 health care professional who conducted the alcohol and substance [~~abuse~~]
10 use evaluation and any health care professionals responsible for provid-
11 ing such treatment or monitoring the defendant's progress in such treat-
12 ment; and may include: (i) periodic court appearances, which may include
13 periodic urinalysis; (ii) a requirement that the defendant refrain from
14 engaging in criminal behaviors; (iii) if the defendant needs treatment
15 for opioid [~~abuse or dependence~~] use, that he or she may participate in
16 and receive medically prescribed drug treatments under the care of a
17 health care professional licensed or certified under title eight of the
18 education law, acting within his or her lawful scope of practice,
19 provided that no court shall require the use of any specified type or
20 brand of drug during the course of medically prescribed drug treatments.

21 6. Upon an eligible defendant's agreement to abide by the conditions
22 set by the court, the court shall issue a securing order providing for
23 bail or release on the defendant's own recognizance and conditioning any
24 release upon the agreed upon conditions. The period of alcohol or
25 substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment shall begin as specified by the court
26 and as soon as practicable after the defendant's release, taking into
27 account the availability of treatment, so as to facilitate early inter-
28 vention with respect to the defendant's [~~abuse~~] substance use or condi-
29 tion and the effectiveness of the treatment program. In the event that a
30 treatment program is not immediately available or becomes unavailable
31 during the course of the defendant's participation in the judicial
32 diversion program, the court may release the defendant pursuant to the
33 securing order.

34 7. When participating in judicial diversion treatment pursuant to this
35 article, any resident of this state who is covered under a private
36 health insurance policy or contract issued for delivery in this state
37 pursuant to article thirty-two, forty-three or forty-seven of the insur-
38 ance law or article forty-four of the public health law, or who is
39 covered by a self-funded plan which provides coverage for the diagnosis
40 and treatment of chemical abuse and chemical dependence however defined
41 in such policy; shall first seek reimbursement for such treatment in
42 accordance with the provisions of such policy or contract.

43 8. During the period of a defendant's participation in the judicial
44 diversion program, the court shall retain jurisdiction of the defendant,
45 provided, however, that the court may allow such defendant to (i) reside
46 in another jurisdiction, or (ii) participate in alcohol and substance
47 [~~abuse~~] use treatment and other programs in the jurisdiction where the
48 defendant resides or in any other jurisdiction, while participating in a
49 judicial diversion program under conditions set by the court and agreed
50 to by the defendant pursuant to subdivisions five and six of this
51 section. The court may require the defendant to appear in court at any
52 time to enable the court to monitor the defendant's progress in alcohol
53 or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment. The court shall provide notice,
54 reasonable under the circumstances, to the people, the treatment provid-
55 er, the defendant and the defendant's counsel whenever it orders or
56 otherwise requires the appearance of the defendant in court. Failure to

1 appear as required without reasonable cause therefor shall constitute a
2 violation of the conditions of the court's agreement with the defendant.

3 9. (a) If at any time during the defendant's participation in the
4 judicial diversion program, the court has reasonable grounds to believe
5 that the defendant has violated a release condition in an important
6 respect or has willfully failed to appear before the court as requested,
7 the court except as provided in subdivision two of section 510.50 of
8 this chapter regarding a failure to appear, shall direct the defendant
9 to appear or issue a bench warrant to a police officer or an appropriate
10 peace officer directing him or her to take the defendant into custody
11 and bring the defendant before the court without unnecessary delay;
12 provided, however, that under no circumstances shall a defendant who
13 requires treatment for opioid [~~abuse or dependence~~] use be deemed to
14 have violated a release condition on the basis of his or her partic-
15 ipation in medically prescribed drug treatments under the care of a
16 health care professional licensed or certified under title eight of the
17 education law, acting within his or her lawful scope of practice. The
18 relevant provisions of section 530.60 of this chapter relating to issu-
19 ance of securing orders shall apply to such proceedings under this
20 subdivision.

21 (b) In determining whether a defendant violated a condition of his or
22 her release under the judicial diversion program, the court may conduct
23 a summary hearing consistent with due process and sufficient to satisfy
24 the court that the defendant has, in fact, violated the condition.

25 (c) If the court determines that the defendant has violated a condi-
26 tion of his or her release under the judicial diversion program, the
27 court may modify the conditions thereof, reconsider the order of recog-
28 nizance or bail pursuant to subdivision two of section 510.30 of this
29 chapter, or terminate the defendant's participation in the judicial
30 diversion program; and when applicable proceed with the defendant's
31 sentencing in accordance with the agreement. Notwithstanding any
32 provision of law to the contrary, the court may impose any sentence
33 authorized for the crime of conviction in accordance with the plea
34 agreement, or any lesser sentence authorized to be imposed on a felony
35 drug offender pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of subdivision two of
36 section 70.70 of the penal law taking into account the length of time
37 the defendant spent in residential treatment and how best to continue
38 treatment while the defendant is serving that sentence. In determining
39 what action to take for a violation of a release condition, the court
40 shall consider all relevant circumstances, including the views of the
41 prosecutor, the defense and the alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treat-
42 ment provider, and the extent to which persons who ultimately success-
43 fully complete a drug treatment regimen sometimes relapse by not
44 abstaining from alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use or by failing to comply
45 fully with all requirements imposed by a treatment program. The court
46 shall also consider using a system of graduated and appropriate
47 responses or sanctions designed to address such inappropriate behaviors,
48 protect public safety and facilitate, where possible, successful
49 completion of the alcohol or substance [~~abuse~~] use treatment program.

50 (d) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as preventing a
51 court from terminating a defendant's participation in the judicial
52 diversion program for violating a release condition when such a termi-
53 nation is necessary to preserve public safety. Nor shall anything in
54 this subdivision be construed as precluding the prosecution of a defend-
55 ant for the commission of a different offense while participating in the
56 judicial diversion program.

(e) A defendant may at any time advise the court that he or she wishes to terminate participation in the judicial diversion program, at which time the court shall proceed with the case and, where applicable, shall impose sentence in accordance with the plea agreement. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the court may impose any sentence authorized for the crime of conviction in accordance with the plea agreement, or any lesser sentence authorized to be imposed on a felony drug offender pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of subdivision two of section 70.70 of the penal law taking into account the length of time the defendant spent in residential treatment and how best to continue treatment while the defendant is serving that sentence.

10. Upon the court's determination that the defendant has successfully completed the required period of alcohol or substance ~~abuse~~ use treatment and has otherwise satisfied the conditions required for successful completion of the judicial diversion program, the court shall comply with the terms and conditions it set for final disposition when it accepted the defendant's agreement to participate in the judicial diversion program. Such disposition may include, but is not limited to: (a) requiring the defendant to undergo a period of interim probation supervision and, upon the defendant's successful completion of the interim probation supervision term, notwithstanding the provision of any other law, permitting the defendant to withdraw his or her guilty plea and dismissing the indictment; or (b) requiring the defendant to undergo a period of interim probation supervision and, upon successful completion of the interim probation supervision term, notwithstanding the provision of any other law, permitting the defendant to withdraw his or her guilty plea, enter a guilty plea to a misdemeanor offense and sentencing the defendant as promised in the plea agreement, which may include a period of probation supervision pursuant to section 65.00 of the penal law; or (c) allowing the defendant to withdraw his or her guilty plea and dismissing the indictment.

11. Nothing in this article shall be construed as restricting or prohibiting courts or district attorneys from using other lawful procedures or models for placing appropriate persons into alcohol or substance ~~abuse~~ use treatment.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, that the amendments to the opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 216.00 of the criminal procedure law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to section 12 of chapter 90 of the laws of 2014, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.