

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2855--A

Cal. No. 370

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 26, 2021

Introduced by Sens. SEPULVEDA, SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction -- recommitted to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the correction law and the public health law, in relation to birth certificates for incarcerated individuals

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (a) of section 601 of the correction law, as  
2 amended by section 209 of chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to  
3 read as follows:  
4 (a) Whenever an incarcerated individual shall be delivered to the  
5 superintendent of a state correctional facility pursuant to an indeter-  
6 minate or determinate sentence, the officer so delivering such incarcer-  
7 ated individual shall deliver to such superintendent, the sentence and  
8 commitment or certificate of conviction, or a certified copy thereof,  
9 and a copy of any order of protection pursuant to section 380.65 of the  
10 criminal procedure law received by such officer from the clerk of the  
11 court by which such incarcerated individual shall have been sentenced, a  
12 copy of the report of the probation officer's investigation and report  
13 or a detailed statement covering the facts relative to the crime and  
14 previous history certified by the district attorney, a copy of the  
15 incarcerated individual's fingerprint records, a detailed summary of  
16 available medical records, psychiatric records and reports relating to  
17 assaults, or other violent acts, attempts at suicide or escape by the  
18 incarcerated individual while in the custody of the local correctional  
19 facility; any such medical or psychiatric records in the possession of a  
20 health care provider other than the local correctional facility shall be  
21 summarized in detail and forwarded by such health care provider to the

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

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1 medical director of the appropriate state correctional facility upon  
2 request; the superintendent shall present to such officer a certificate  
3 of the delivery of such incarcerated individual, and the fees of such  
4 officer for transporting such incarcerated individual shall be paid from  
5 the treasury upon the audit and warrant of the comptroller. The sentence  
6 and commitment or certificate of conviction shall be deemed to grant  
7 authorization to the department of corrections and community supervision  
8 to request a certified copy of a birth certificate or certification of  
9 birth, or certified transcript of birth on behalf of an incarcerated  
10 individual, when such request is made pursuant to section forty-one  
11 hundred seventy-nine or subdivision four of section forty-one hundred  
12 seventy-four of the public health law. Whenever an incarcerated individ-  
13 ual of the state is delivered to a local facility, the superintendent  
14 shall forward summaries of such records to the local facility with the  
15 incarcerated individual.

16 § 2. Section 71 of the correction law is amended by adding a new  
17 subdivision 9 to read as follows:

18 9. (a) For any incarcerated individual who will be committed to the  
19 custody of the department for one year or greater, the commissioner  
20 shall make diligent efforts to obtain a certified copy of the birth  
21 certificate or certification of birth or certified transcript of birth  
22 and social security card for each such individual incarcerated in an  
23 institution or correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the  
24 department.

25 (b) Such birth certificate or certification of birth, or certified  
26 transcript of birth and social security card shall be kept in the  
27 incarcerated individual's records until the incarcerated individual is  
28 released from the department's custody upon which, such birth certif-  
29 icate or certification of birth, or certified transcript of birth and  
30 the individual's social security card shall be provided to the individ-  
31 ual.

32 (c) Where a facility in which an incarcerated individual is housed  
33 receives a certified birth certificate or certification of birth  
34 containing missing or incomplete information as to the incarcerated  
35 individual's first name, such facility shall initiate the process to  
36 correct or amend the birth certificate of the incarcerated individual in  
37 consultation with and upon consent of such individual.

38 § 3. Subdivision 2 of section 125 of the correction law, as amended by  
39 chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

40 2. The superintendent of each of said facilities shall furnish to each  
41 incarcerated individual who shall be discharged or released from said  
42 facility by pardon, parole, conditional release or otherwise, except  
43 such incarcerated individuals as are released for return for resentence  
44 or new trial or upon a certificate of reasonable doubt, and except such  
45 incarcerated individuals who are released to participate in a program  
46 outside the facility who are required to return to the facility, suit-  
47 able clothing adapted to the season in which he or she is discharged not  
48 to exceed sixty-five dollars in value and transportation to the county  
49 of his or her conviction or to such other place as the commissioner may  
50 designate. In addition, the commissioner shall take such steps as are  
51 necessary to ensure that, incarcerated individuals have a department  
52 issued release issued release photo identification card which shall be  
53 valid for one hundred twenty days and at least forty dollars available  
54 upon release.

55 § 4. Subdivision 5 of section 201 of the correction law, as amended by  
56 chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

1 5. (a) The department shall assist incarcerated individuals eligible  
2 for community supervision and incarcerated individuals who are on commu-  
3 nity supervision to secure employment, educational or vocational train-  
4 ing, and housing.

5 (b) The department shall make diligent efforts to ensure that an  
6 incarcerated individual upon their release, persons eligible for commu-  
7 nity supervision, and persons released to community supervision are  
8 provided with a state identification card issued by the department of  
9 motor vehicles.

10 (c) Where a person on community supervision whose department-issued  
11 release identification card will expire prior to such person obtaining a  
12 state identification card from the department of motor vehicles, the  
13 community supervision officer shall request that the department reissue  
14 such release identification card for an additional period of time if in  
15 the officer's discretion such reissuance will help to ensure that the  
16 person on community supervision shall have uninterrupted possession of a  
17 state-issued photo identification card.

18 § 5. Subdivision 4 of section 4174 of the public health law, as  
19 amended by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 4. No fee shall be charged for a search, certification, certificate,  
22 certified copy or certified transcript of a record to be used for school  
23 entrance, employment certificate or for purposes of public relief or  
24 when required by the veterans administration to be used in determining  
25 the eligibility of any person to participate in the benefits made avail-  
26 able by the veterans administration or when required by a board of  
27 elections for the purposes of determining voter eligibility or when  
28 requested by the department of corrections and community supervision or  
29 a local correctional facility as defined in subdivision sixteen of  
30 section two of the correction law for the purpose of correcting, amend-  
31 ing, or providing a certified copy or certified transcript of birth to  
32 an incarcerated individual in anticipation of such incarcerated individ-  
33 ual's release from custody or to obtain a death certificate to be used  
34 for administrative purposes for an incarcerated individual who has died  
35 under custody or when requested by the office of children and family  
36 services or an authorized agency for the purpose of providing a certi-  
37 fied copy or certified transcript of birth to a youth placed in the care  
38 and custody or custody and guardianship of the local commissioner of  
39 social services or the care and custody or custody and guardianship of  
40 the office of children and family services in anticipation of such  
41 youth's discharge from placement or foster care. Whenever a request is  
42 made by the department of corrections and community supervision for a  
43 certified copy of a birth certificate, or certification of birth, or  
44 certified transcript of birth on behalf of an incarcerated individual  
45 pursuant to this section, a certified copy of the sentence and commit-  
46 ment or certificate of conviction shall be deemed to grant authorization  
47 by the incarcerated individual to the department to submit such request  
48 on their behalf, and no other authorization shall be required.

49 § 6. Section 4179 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 322  
50 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

51 § 4179. Vital records; fees; city of New York. Notwithstanding the  
52 provisions of paragraph one of subdivision a of section 207.13 of the  
53 health code of the city of New York, the department of health shall  
54 charge, and the applicant shall pay, for a search of two consecutive  
55 calendar years under one name and the issuance of a certificate of  
56 birth, death or termination of pregnancy, or a certification of birth or

1 death, or a certification that the record cannot be found, a fee of  
2 fifteen dollars for each copy. Provided, however, that no such fee shall  
3 be charged when the department of corrections and community supervision  
4 or a local correctional facility as defined in subdivision sixteen of  
5 section two of the correction law requests a certificate of birth or  
6 certification of birth for the purpose of correcting, amending, or  
7 providing such certificate of birth or certification of birth to an  
8 incarcerated individual in anticipation of such incarcerated individ-  
9 ual's release from custody or to obtain a death certificate to be used  
10 for administrative purposes for an incarcerated individual who has died  
11 under custody or when the office of children and family services or an  
12 authorized agency requests a certified copy or certified transcript of  
13 birth for a youth placed in the custody of the local commissioner of  
14 social services or the custody of the office of children and family  
15 services pursuant to article three of the family court act for the  
16 purpose of providing such certified copy or certified transcript of  
17 birth to such youth in anticipation of discharge from placement.

18 § 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
19 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to  
20 subdivision (a) of section 601 of the correction law made by section one  
21 of this act shall not affect the expiration of such subdivision and  
22 shall be deemed to expire therewith.