

STATE OF NEW YORK

4115

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 2, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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, in relation to requiring the educational and vocational credits earned by incarcerated individuals are transferable upon release

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 136 of the correction law, as
2 amended by chapter 431 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as
3 follows:
4 1. The objective of correctional education in its broadest sense
5 should be the socialization of the inmates through varied impressional
6 and expressional activities, with emphasis on individual inmate needs.
7 The objective of this program shall be the return of these inmates to
8 society with a more wholesome attitude toward living, with a desire to
9 conduct themselves as good citizens, and with the skill and knowledge
10 which will give them a reasonable chance to maintain themselves and
11 their dependents through honest labor. To this end each inmate shall be
12 given a program of education which, on the basis of available data,
13 seems most likely to further the process of socialization and rehabili-
14 tation. Provided that, the commissioner, in consultation with the
15 commissioner of education, shall develop a curricula for and require
16 provision of an education program to all inmates, on a periodic basis,
17 on the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome which may
18 include the viewing of a video presentation thereon. The time daily
19 devoted to such education shall be such as is required for meeting the
20 above objectives. The director of education, subject to the direction of
21 the commissioner and after consultation with the commissioner of educa-
22 tion, shall develop the curricula and the education programs that are
23 required to meet the special needs of each correctional facility in the

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

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1 department. The commissioner of education shall ensure such curricula
2 and educational programs provide incarcerated individuals the opportu-
3 nity to earn educational or vocational credits which shall be transfera-
4 ble to an educational institution upon the release of the incarcerated
5 individual. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with the
6 commissioner and the director of education, shall set up the educational
7 requirements for the certification of teachers in all such correctional
8 facilities. Such educational requirements shall be sufficiently broad
9 and comprehensive to include training in penology, sociology, psychol-
10 ogy, philosophy, in the special subjects to be taught, and in any other
11 professional courses as may be deemed necessary by the responsible offi-
12 cers, and shall include training relating to the consequences and
13 prevention of shaken baby syndrome which may include the viewing of a
14 video presentation thereon. No certificates for teaching service in the
15 state institutions shall be issued unless a minimum of four years of
16 training beyond the high school has been secured, or an acceptable
17 equivalent. Existing requirements for the certification of teachers in
18 the institutions shall continue in force until changed pursuant to the
19 provisions of this section.
20 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.