

STATE OF NEW YORK

830--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, MYRIE, BAILEY, BENJAMIN, BIAGGI, BRESLIN, BRISPORT, GIANARIS, HARCKHAM, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KAVANAGH, KRUEGER, LIU, MAY, MAYER, PARKER, PERSAUD, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SANDERS, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, the criminal procedure law, the executive law, and the correction law, in relation to voting by formerly incarcerated individuals convicted of a felony; and to repeal certain provisions of the election law relating thereto

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 5-106 of the election law, as
2 amended by chapter 373 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 2. No person who has been convicted of a felony and sentenced to a
5 period of imprisonment for such felony pursuant to the laws of this
6 state, shall have the right to register for or vote at any election
7 [~~unless he shall have been pardoned or restored to the rights of citi-~~
8 ~~zenship by the governor, or his maximum sentence of imprisonment has~~
9 ~~expired, or he has been discharged from parole. The governor, however,~~
10 ~~may attach as a condition to any such pardon a provision that any such~~
11 ~~person shall not have the right of suffrage until it shall have been~~
12 ~~separately restored to him] while he or she is incarcerated for such
13 felony.~~

14 § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 5-106 of the election law is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 3. No person who has been convicted in a federal court, of a felony,
17 or a crime or offense which would constitute a felony under the laws of

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

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1 this state, and sentenced to a period of imprisonment for such felony,
2 shall have the right to register for or vote at any election [~~unless he~~
3 ~~shall have been pardoned or restored to the rights of citizenship by the~~
4 ~~president of the United States, or his maximum sentence of imprisonment~~
5 ~~has expired, or he has been discharged from parole~~] while he or she is
6 incarcerated for such felony.

7 § 3. Subdivision 4 of section 5-106 of the election law is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 4. No person who has been convicted in another state for a crime or
10 offense which would constitute a felony under the laws of this state and
11 sentenced to a period of imprisonment for such felony, shall have the
12 right to register for or vote at any election in this state [~~unless he~~
13 ~~shall have been pardoned or restored to the rights of citizenship by the~~
14 ~~governor or other appropriate authority of such other state, or his~~
15 ~~maximum sentence has expired, or he has been discharged from parole~~]
16 while he or she is incarcerated for such felony.

17 § 4. Subdivision 5 of section 8-504 of the election law is REPEALED
18 and subdivisions 6, 7, and 8 are renumbered subdivisions 5, 6, and 7.

19 § 5. Section 220.50 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding
20 a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

21 8. Prior to accepting a defendant's plea of guilty to a count or
22 counts of an indictment or a superior court information charging a felo-
23 ny offense, the court must advise the defendant on the record that
24 conviction will result in loss of the right to vote while the defendant
25 is serving a felony sentence in a correctional facility and that the
26 right to vote will be restored upon the defendant's release.

27 § 6. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section
28 259-i of the executive law, as amended by section 38-f-1 of subpart A of
29 part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

30 (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, at
31 least one month prior to the date on which an inmate may be paroled
32 pursuant to subdivision one of section 70.40 of the penal law, a member
33 or members as determined by the rules of the board shall personally
34 interview such inmate and determine whether he or she should be paroled
35 in accordance with the guidelines adopted pursuant to subdivision four
36 of section two hundred fifty-nine-c of this article. If parole is not
37 granted upon such review, the inmate shall be informed in writing within
38 two weeks of such appearance of the factors and reasons for such denial
39 of parole. Such reasons shall be given in detail and not in conclusory
40 terms. The board shall specify a date not more than twenty-four months
41 from such determination for reconsideration, and the procedures to be
42 followed upon reconsideration shall be the same. If the inmate is
43 released, he or she shall be given a copy of the conditions of parole.
44 Such conditions shall where appropriate, include a requirement that the
45 parolee comply with any restitution order, mandatory surcharge, sex
46 offender registration fee and DNA databank fee previously imposed by a
47 court of competent jurisdiction that applies to the parolee. The condi-
48 tions shall indicate which restitution collection agency established
49 under subdivision eight of section 420.10 of the criminal procedure law,
50 shall be responsible for collection of restitution, mandatory surcharge,
51 sex offender registration fees and DNA databank fees as provided for in
52 section 60.35 of the penal law and section eighteen hundred nine of the
53 vehicle and traffic law. If the inmate is released, he or she shall
54 also be notified in writing that his or her voting rights will be
55 restored upon release.

1 § 7. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 259-i of the executive
2 law, as amended by section 38-f-2 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62
3 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) At least one month prior to the expiration of the minimum period
5 or periods of imprisonment fixed by the court or board, a member or
6 members as determined by the rules of the board shall personally inter-
7 view an inmate serving an indeterminate sentence and determine whether
8 he or she should be paroled at the expiration of the minimum period or
9 periods in accordance with the procedures adopted pursuant to subdivi-
10 sion four of section two hundred fifty-nine-c. If parole is not granted
11 upon such review, the inmate shall be informed in writing within two
12 weeks of such appearance of the factors and reasons for such denial of
13 parole. Such reasons shall be given in detail and not in conclusory
14 terms. The board shall specify a date not more than twenty-four months
15 from such determination for reconsideration, and the procedures to be
16 followed upon reconsideration shall be the same. If the inmate is
17 released, he or she shall be given a copy of the conditions of parole.
18 Such conditions shall where appropriate, include a requirement that the
19 parolee comply with any restitution order and mandatory surcharge previ-
20 ously imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction that applies to the
21 parolee. The conditions shall indicate which restitution collection
22 agency established under subdivision eight of section 420.10 of the
23 criminal procedure law, shall be responsible for collection of restitu-
24 tion and mandatory surcharge as provided for in section 60.35 of the
25 penal law and section eighteen hundred nine of the vehicle and traffic
26 law. If the inmate is released, he or she shall also be notified in
27 writing that his or her voting rights will be restored upon release.

28 § 8. Subparagraph (xi) of paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section
29 259-i of the executive law, as amended by section 11 of part E of chap-
30 ter 62 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

31 (xi) If the presiding officer sustains any violations, he or she must
32 prepare a written statement, to be made available to the alleged viola-
33 tor and his or her counsel, indicating the evidence relied upon and the
34 reasons for revoking presumptive release, parole, conditional release or
35 post-release supervision, and for the disposition made. The presiding
36 officer shall also advise the alleged violator in a written statement
37 that revocation will result in loss of the right to vote while he or she
38 is serving the remainder of his or her felony sentence in a correctional
39 facility and that the right to vote will be restored upon his or her
40 release.

41 § 9. Section 75 of the correction law, as amended by section 18 of
42 subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 § 75. Notice of voting rights. [~~Upon~~] Prior to the [discharge] release
45 from a correctional facility of any person [whose maximum sentence of
46 imprisonment has expired or upon a person's discharge from community
47 supervision,] the department shall notify such person [~~of his or her~~
48 right to vote] verbally and in writing, that his or her voting rights
49 will be restored upon release and provide such person with a form of
50 application for voter registration [~~together with~~] and a declination
51 form, offer such person assistance in filling out the appropriate form,
52 and provide such person written information distributed by the board of
53 elections on the importance and the mechanics of voting. Upon release,
54 such person may choose to either submit his or her completed application
55 to the state board or county board where such person resides or have the
56 department transmit it on his or her behalf. Where such person chooses

1 to have the department transmit the application, the department shall
2 transmit the completed application upon such person's release to the
3 state board or county board where such person resides.

4 § 10. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 510 to
5 read as follows:

6 § 510. Voting upon release. Prior to the release from a local correc-
7 tional facility of any person convicted of a felony the chief adminis-
8 trative officer shall notify such person verbally and in writing that
9 his or her voting rights will be restored upon release and provide such
10 person with a form of application for voter registration and a declina-
11 tion form, offer such person assistance in filling out the appropriate
12 form, and provide such person written information distributed by the
13 board of elections on the importance and the mechanics of voting. Upon
14 release, such person may choose to either submit his or her completed
15 application to the state board or county board where such person resides
16 or have the department transmit it on his or her behalf. Where such
17 person chooses to have the department transmit the application, the
18 chief administrative officer shall transmit the completed application
19 upon such person's release to the state board or county board where such
20 person resides.

21 § 11. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 209 to
22 read as follows:

23 § 209. Notice of voting rights. The department shall notify each
24 person serving a period of community supervision verbally and in writing
25 of his or her right to vote and provide such person with a form of
26 application for voter registration and a declination form, offer such
27 person assistance in filling out the appropriate form, and provide such
28 person written information distributed by the board of elections on the
29 importance and the mechanics of voting. Such person may choose to either
30 submit his or her completed application to the state board or county
31 board where such person resides or have the department transmit it on
32 his or her behalf. Where such person chooses to have the department
33 transmit the application, the department shall transmit the completed
34 application to the state board or county board where such person
35 resides.

36 § 12. Section 3-102 of the election law is amended by adding a new
37 subdivision 16-b to read as follows:

38 16-b. Develop and implement a program to educate attorneys, judges,
39 election officials, corrections officials, including parole and
40 probation officers, and members of the public regarding the requirements
41 of the chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-one which added this
42 subdivision.

43 § 13. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that
44 sections five, six, eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve of this act
45 shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have
46 become a law; provided further, however, that the amendments to para-
47 graph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 259-i of the executive law made by
48 section six of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion
49 of such paragraph pursuant to subdivision d of section 74 of chapter 3
50 of the laws of 1995, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of
51 section seven of this act shall take effect.