

STATE OF NEW YORK

9108

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the correction law, in relation to establishing the crime of harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual

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

1 Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 240.33 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 240.33 Harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual.

4 An incarcerated individual or respondent is guilty of harassment of an
5 employee by an incarcerated individual when, with intent to harass,
6 annoy, threaten or alarm a person in a facility whom such incarcerated
7 individual knows or reasonably should know to be an employee of such
8 facility or the board of parole or the office of mental health, or a
9 probation department, bureau or unit or a police officer, such incarcer-
10 ated individual, for the purpose of degrading or abusing an employee, or
11 for the purpose of gratifying such incarcerated individual's sexual
12 desire:

13 1. Displays or touches their intimate parts while in clear view of an
14 employee; or

15 2. Intentionally engages in conduct that such incarcerated individual
16 knows would cause an employee to be in clear view of such incarcerated
17 individual while such incarcerated individual displays or touches their
18 intimate parts; or

19 3. Communicates to an employee such incarcerated person will, at some
20 time in the future, cause such employee to come in contact with such
21 incarcerated person's blood, urine, seminal fluid, or feces.

22 For purposes of this section, "incarcerated individual" means an
23 incarcerated individual or detainee in a correctional facility, local
24 correctional facility or a hospital, as such term is defined in subdivi-
25 sion two of section four hundred of the correction law. For purposes of
26 this section, "respondent" means a juvenile in a secure facility oper-
27 ated and maintained by the office of children and family services who is

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

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1 placed with or committed to the office of children and family services.
2 For purposes of this section, "facility" means a correctional facility
3 or local correctional facility, hospital, as such term is defined in
4 subdivision two of section four hundred of the correction law, or a
5 secure facility operated and maintained by the office of children and
6 family services.

7 Harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual is a class B
8 misdemeanor.

9 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 851 of the correction law, as amended by
10 section 228 of chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 2. "Eligible incarcerated individual" means: a person confined in an
13 institution who is eligible for release on parole or who will become
14 eligible for release on parole or conditional release within two years.
15 Provided, however, that a person under sentence for an offense defined
16 in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision one of section 70.02 of the
17 penal law, where such offense involved the use or threatened use of a
18 deadly weapon or dangerous instrument shall not be eligible to partic-
19 ipate in a work release program until he or she is eligible for release
20 on parole or who will be eligible for release on parole or conditional
21 release within eighteen months. Provided, further, however, that a
22 person under a determinate sentence as a second felony drug offender for
23 a class B felony offense defined in article two hundred twenty of the
24 penal law, who was sentenced pursuant to section 70.70 of such law,
25 shall not be eligible to participate in a temporary release program
26 until the time served under imprisonment for his or her determinate
27 sentence, including any jail time credited pursuant to the provisions of
28 article seventy of the penal law, shall be at least eighteen months. In
29 the case of a person serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment
30 imposed pursuant to the penal law in effect after September one, nine-
31 teen hundred sixty-seven, for the purposes of this article parole eligi-
32 bility shall be upon the expiration of the minimum period of imprison-
33 ment fixed by the court or where the court has not fixed any period,
34 after service of the minimum period fixed by the state board of parole.
35 If an incarcerated individual is denied release on parole, such incar-
36 cerated individual shall not be deemed an eligible incarcerated individ-
37 ual until he or she is within two years of his or her next scheduled
38 appearance before the state parole board. In any case where an incarcer-
39 ated individual is denied release on parole while participating in a
40 temporary release program, the department shall review the status of the
41 incarcerated individual to determine if continued placement in the
42 program is appropriate. No person convicted of any escape or absconding
43 offense defined in article two hundred five of the penal law shall be
44 eligible for temporary release. Further, no person under sentence for
45 aggravated harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual as
46 defined in section 240.32 of the penal law for, no person under sentence
47 for harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual as defined
48 in section 240.33 of the penal law for, any homicide offense defined in
49 article one hundred twenty-five of the penal law, for any sex offense
50 defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law, or for an
51 offense defined in section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of the penal law
52 shall be eligible to participate in a work release program as defined in
53 subdivision three of this section. Nor shall any person under sentence
54 for any sex offense defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal
55 law be eligible to participate in a community services program as
56 defined in subdivision five of this section. Notwithstanding the forego-

1 ing, no person who is an otherwise eligible incarcerated individual who
2 is under sentence for a crime involving: (a) infliction of serious phys-
3 ical injury upon another as defined in the penal law or (b) any other
4 offense involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon may
5 participate in a temporary release program without the written approval
6 of the commissioner. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations
7 giving direction to the temporary release committee at each institution
8 in order to aid such committees in carrying out this mandate.

9 The governor, by executive order, may exclude or limit the partic-
10 ipation of any class of otherwise eligible incarcerated individuals from
11 participation in a temporary release program. Nothing in this paragraph
12 shall be construed to affect either the validity of any executive order
13 previously issued limiting the participation of otherwise eligible
14 incarcerated individuals in such program or the authority of the commis-
15 sioner to impose appropriate regulations limiting such participation.

16 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
17 have become a law; the amendments to subdivision 2 of section 851 of the
18 correction law made by section two of this act shall not affect
19 the expiration of such subdivision or section and shall expire and be
20 deemed repealed therewith.