

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

November 27, 2023

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Introduced by Sens. SALAZAR, BRISPORT, CLEARE, GONZALEZ, JACKSON, RAMOS,  
SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be  
committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to the rights of people  
in prisons, jails, and forensic facilities

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "rights behind bars; protecting the rights of people in prisons,  
3 jails, and forensic facilities, and their loved ones, in New York state  
4 act".

5 § 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds and  
6 declares:

7 A. Incarcerated individuals, their families, and loved ones have human  
8 rights. The legislature finds that New York's prisons and jails system-  
9 atically fail to recognize and protect the human rights of incarcerated  
10 individuals, their families, and their loved ones. While some of these  
11 rights are protected by the law and constitution of New York State, and  
12 the law and constitution of the United States, it is well-documented  
13 that the rights protected under existing law are often not recognized in  
14 practice and that there are gaps in existing law. The intent of this  
15 act is to: (i) make clear some of the rights that already exist under  
16 New York law but are not being consistently followed, (ii) close some of  
17 the gaps in existing law, and (iii) enshrine into New York State law  
18 some of the well-established principles and obligations under interna-  
19 tional human rights law.

20 B. Numerous recent studies, reports, and court decisions have docu-  
21 mented systemic, widespread, and persistent human rights violations in  
22 New York's correctional facilities. These include: NYS Inspector General  
23 Lucy Lang, Racial Disparities in the Administration of Discipline in New  
24 York State Prisons, November 2022; Neff, Santo, and Meagher, How A 'Blue

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

LBD13213-04-3

1 Wall' Inside New York State Prisons Protects Abusive Guards, The Mars-  
2 hall Project in partnership with the New York Times, May 2023; Neff,  
3 Santo, and Meagher, In New York Prisons Guards Who Brutalize Prisoners  
4 Rarely Get Fired, The Marshall Project in partnership with the New York  
5 Times, May 2023; Law, V., The Worst Prison in New York State, Prison  
6 Legal News, March 2022; Gelardi and Brown, State Prisons Are Routinely  
7 Violating New York's Landmark Solitary Confinement Law, New York Focus,  
8 September 2022; Bryant, 19 People Have Died From NYC Jails in 2022, The  
9 Vera Project, December 2022; Weill-Greenberg, Disabled and Abandoned in  
10 New York State Prisons, The Nation, October 2021; Marcius, Hundreds of  
11 Women Set to Sue New York Over Allegations of Prison Sex Abuse, New York  
12 Times, November 2022; Monitor's Reports in Nunez, et al. v. NYC Depart-  
13 ment of Correction, et al., 11-cv-05845 (LTS) (SDNY) (multiple reports  
14 issued by Court-appointed Monitor as part of the settlement of a class  
15 action lawsuit relating to conditions in NYC jails on Rikers Island,  
16 starting in 2016 and continuing to the present); and Post-Visit Briefing  
17 Reports issued periodically by the Correctional Association of New York  
18 ("CANY") pursuant to their statutory authority to conduct monitoring  
19 visits in NYS prisons (Nine Post-Visit Briefings were issued by CANY  
20 from June 2021 through December 2022. Among the findings during this  
21 period were that 45% of incarcerated individuals interviewed reported  
22 witnessing or experiencing verbal, physical, or sexual abuse by prison  
23 staff, and 36% reported witnessing or experiencing racialized abuse by  
24 prison staff.).

25 C. Some of the human rights of incarcerated individuals in New York  
26 State are protected by provisions in the New York State Constitution,  
27 including, Article I, sections 5 (prohibiting cruel and unusual punish-  
28 ment), 6 (right to due process), 8 (right to speak freely), 11 (guaran-  
29 teeing equal protection of the laws), and 12 (prohibiting unreasonable  
30 searches and seizures); the United States Constitution, including the  
31 1st Amendment (free speech), 4th Amendment (prohibition of unreasonable  
32 searches and seizures), 8th Amendment (prohibition of cruel and unusual  
33 punishments), and 14th Amendment (guaranteeing equal protection of the  
34 law and due process of law). However, these provisions and laws do not  
35 go far enough to protect the rights of people incarcerated in New York.  
36 The intent of this act, in part, is to incorporate into New York law  
37 additional human rights protections for incarcerated people as enshrined  
38 in key documents included in the body of international human rights law,  
39 including, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, recognizing  
40 basic human rights applicable to all people, including, in Article 5,  
41 the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or  
42 degrading treatment or punishment; the International Covenant of Civil  
43 and Political Rights, including Article 7 (No one shall be subjected to  
44 torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment), and  
45 Article 10 (All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with  
46 humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person);  
47 the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (General Assembly  
48 Resolution 45/111); the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel,  
49 Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the United Nations Stand-  
50 ard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela  
51 Rules); and other applicable and binding principles of international  
52 human rights law.

53 D. The fundamental approach of international human rights law to the  
54 treatment of people in prison is expressed in Rule 3 of the Mandela  
55 Rules, which recognizes that "imprisonment and other measures that  
56 result in cutting off persons from the outside world are afflictive by

1 the very fact of taking from these persons the right of self-determina-  
2 tion by depriving them of their liberty. Therefore the prison system  
3 shall not, except as incidental to justifiable separation or the mainte-  
4 nance of discipline, aggravate the suffering inherent in such a situ-  
5 ation." In turn, Rule 4 requires that incarceration must be used to  
6 "ensure the reintegration of such persons into society upon release so  
7 that they can lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life" and Rule 5  
8 thus requires prisons and jails to "minimize any differences between  
9 prison life and life at liberty that tend to lessen the responsibility  
10 of the {incarcerated people} or the respect due to their dignity as  
11 human beings."

12 To effectuate these rights, the Mandela Rules require, among other  
13 protections, that incarcerated people be allowed regular communication  
14 with their family and friends, including through visits and through  
15 writing, telecommunication, electronic means, and digital means (Rule  
16 58.1), that people in prison have a right to "food of nutritional value  
17 adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared  
18 and served", and that any use of force against an incarcerated individ-  
19 ual be "no more than is strictly necessary" (Rule 82). They also estab-  
20 lish basic rights related to access to programming and treatment,  
21 connections to community entities, and restrictions on the use of  
22 restraints.

23 E. In keeping with these legislative findings, this act aims to clear-  
24 ly recognize and establish the broad human rights framework that  
25 protects all incarcerated individuals in New York State. This act  
26 specifically addresses certain issues that have arisen in New York pris-  
27 ons and jails in recent years. That has included: violations of the  
28 HALT Solitary Confinement Law; restrictions on packages, visits, and  
29 mail; staff abuse and brutality; and denials of other basic rights.

30 In regard to some of these issues, the law is already clear, but New  
31 York's prisons and jails are not consistently following it. For example,  
32 despite clarity concerning who qualifies as disabled under the HALT  
33 Solitary Confinement Law, and who, therefore, cannot be placed in segre-  
34 gated confinement, the NYS Department of Corrections and Community  
35 Supervision has consistently placed people with disabilities in segre-  
36 gated confinement. The intent of the amendments to paragraph (c) of  
37 subdivision 33 of section 2 of the correction law made by section five  
38 of this act is not to define disability, which is already in the law,  
39 but rather to make clear via examples what is already required. Similar-  
40 ly, while the correction law is already clear that people facing possi-  
41 ble placement in segregated confinement or facing Tier III tickets must  
42 have access to meaningful representation, including by any lawyer or law  
43 student; that hearing officers must conduct individualized assessments  
44 of the fact to determine if the allegations meet the threshold require-  
45 ments for placement in segregated confinement or alternatives; and that  
46 people in alternative disciplinary units must have access to out-of-cell  
47 time in group settings, access to core programs available in the general  
48 population; and a presumption against the use of restraints unless an  
49 individualized determination is made finding a significant and unreason-  
50 able risk, prisons and jails are not complying with these provisions and  
51 so this act reiterates and clarifies these requirements.

52 This act is not intended as an all-inclusive compendium of the human  
53 rights protections afforded to people in jail or prison under interna-  
54 tional law, as the intent is to correct and clarify certain specific  
55 rights within the overall human rights framework. Among other  
56 protections, this act aims to ensure that people have a right to visit

1 with their loved ones, to have regular communication with their loved  
2 ones, to receive care packages from their loved ones, to have access to  
3 healthy and nutritious food, to be free from staff brutality and retali-  
4 ation, to be free from the torture of prolonged solitary confinement,  
5 and to have access to real and meaningful out-of-cell group programming  
6 and engagement. Recognition of these basic human rights will alleviate  
7 suffering of incarcerated individuals, strengthen ties with families and  
8 communities, better prepare people for release, increase safety in pris-  
9 ons and jails and in outside communities, and unequivocally establish as  
10 the policy of the State of New York that brutality, racism, sexual  
11 abuse, harassment, and denials of access to family and loved ones have  
12 no place in New York's jails and prisons and will not be tolerated.

13 § 3. Section 2 of the correction law is amended by adding eleven new  
14 subdivisions 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45 to read as  
15 follows:

16 35. "Contact visit" means a visit between an incarcerated individual  
17 and one or more visitors in a visiting room or equivalent space in which  
18 the incarcerated individual and their visitor are in the same unob-  
19 structed space as each other without physical barriers between the  
20 incarcerated individual and their visitor or visitors, that is conducive  
21 to meaningful social interaction and activity, and with the ability to  
22 interact freely with their visitor, including but not limited to the  
23 ability to communicate freely, hold hands, hug, kiss, have other appro-  
24 priate physical contact, purchase and share food and drinks from the  
25 vending machine, and take photographs together.

26 36. "Visitor" means any individual who comes to visit a person incar-  
27 cerated in a correctional facility or secure facility, including, but  
28 not limited to, a family member, friend, advocate, or loved one.

29 37. "Cell" means any room, area or space that is used or is intended  
30 to be used by an incarcerated individual for sleep, or that is not a  
31 shared space conducive to meaningful congregate social interaction among  
32 many people in a group setting where an individual is held for any  
33 purpose.

34 38. "Cell confinement" means being in a cell.

35 39. "Out-of-cell" means being in a space outside of, and in an area  
36 away from, a cell, in a group setting with other people all in the same  
37 shared space without physical barriers between people that is conducive  
38 to meaningful and congregate social interaction and activity.

39 40. "Congregate recreation" means out-of-cell recreation in a group  
40 setting with other people all in the same shared space that takes place  
41 outside, weather permitting, in an open yard without being caged or  
42 covered, and when weather does not permit or when an incarcerated indi-  
43 vidual so chooses, in a non-caged gymnasium or equivalent.

44 41. "Core programs" means any and all programs that can be assigned by  
45 a department program committee, any and all required department  
46 programs, and any and all programs that are considered for purposes of  
47 good time, merit time, other time allowance, parole release, or other  
48 release mechanisms. Core programs shall include, but not be limited to,  
49 academic classes, vocational programs, transitional services, alcohol  
50 and substance abuse treatment, aggression replacement training, sex  
51 offense counseling and treatment, and any other assigned or required  
52 programs.

53 42. "Represented" means an incarcerated individual having an attorney  
54 (licensed in any jurisdiction of the United States), law student with  
55 supervision by any attorney regardless of whether the attorney is affil-  
56 iated with a law school, paralegal, or other incarcerated individual

1 provide representation at any and all stages of a hearing and appeal,  
2 including but not limited to opening and closing statements, presenta-  
3 tion of evidence, calling and questioning witnesses, cross-examining  
4 witnesses, reading of the disposition, sentencing, and appeal, with the  
5 choice by the incarcerated individual and their representative of either  
6 having the representative physically present at any and all stages of  
7 the hearing in the same room and/or participating through videoconfer-  
8 ence.

9 43. "Personal property" means any and all property that has been  
10 lawfully in the possession of an incarcerated individual, including but  
11 not limited to, for the purposes of state correctional facilities all  
12 items listed in department directive forty-nine hundred thirteen as of  
13 June fourteenth, two thousand twenty-two and for purposes of local  
14 correctional facilities and secure facilities all items permitted under  
15 applicable rules and regulations to each facility as of October twenti-  
16 eth, two thousand twenty-three. If a person has a static tablet,  
17 personal property includes a static tablet and the person shall be able  
18 to use that tablet, in addition to any other tablet, for purposes of  
19 making phone calls, emails, and other uses. If a person is at a facility  
20 that allows televisions, personal property includes televisions.  
21 Personal property shall also include typewriters, assistive devices,  
22 approved electronic devices, books-on-tape players, and any other prop-  
23 erty that an incarcerated individual has lawfully had in their  
24 possession.

25 44. "Secure facility" means (a) all forensic mental health facilities,  
26 including those that hold people pursuant to section 330.20 or 730.50 of  
27 the criminal procedure law or 14 NYCRR Part 57, and including but not  
28 limited to the Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center, Kirby Forensic  
29 Psychiatric Center, Rochester Regional Forensic Unit, and Northeast  
30 Regional Forensic Unit; (b) all secure treatment facilities, as defined  
31 in subdivision (o) of section 10.03 of the mental hygiene law, including  
32 but not limited to the Central New York Psychiatric Center and St.  
33 Lawrence Psychiatric Center; and (c) all secure mental health facilities  
34 holding people pursuant to section four hundred two or five hundred  
35 eight of this chapter.

36 45. "Incarcerated individual" means any person confined in a state or  
37 local correctional facility or secure facility.

38 § 4. Subdivision 23 of section 2 of the correction law is amended by  
39 adding three new paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) to read as follows:

40 (a) A person may only be placed in cell confinement beyond seventeen  
41 hours a day for purposes of medical or mental health treatment if a  
42 licensed medical professional determines that the cell confinement  
43 itself is medically necessary to carry out the medical or mental health  
44 treatment, such as for purposes of suicide watch, medical isolation, or  
45 medical quarantine. Such determination shall be documented in writing  
46 and shall be reviewed and reauthorized by a licensed medical profes-  
47 sional at least once every forty-eight hours.

48 (b) A person may only be held in such confinement pursuant to para-  
49 graph (a) of this subdivision for as limited a time as medically neces-  
50 sary, as exclusively determined by medical or mental health staff, and  
51 in the least restrictive environment that is medically appropriate, as  
52 determined exclusively by medical or mental health staff.

53 (c) Cell confinement pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision  
54 shall be in an appropriate space conducive to medical or mental health  
55 treatment. While in such confinement a person shall at least have access  
56 to: (i) a tablet pursuant to paragraph (t) of subdivision six of section

one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter unless a licensed medical professional determines that access to a tablet would be harmful to the person based on medical or mental health-related reasons; (ii) his or her full complement of property unless a licensed medical professional determines that access to a particular item is inappropriate for medical or mental health-related reasons; and (iii) core programs and other programming and engagement available to people incarcerated in the general population but done in a manner consistent with the medical and mental health treatment being received, such as at a physical distance determined appropriate by medical or mental health staff.

§ 5. Subdivision 33 of section 2 of the correction law, as added by chapter 93 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

33. "Special populations" means any person: (a) twenty-one years of age or younger; (b) fifty-five years of age or older; (c) with a disability as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision twenty-one of section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law, including but not limited to: (i) all people with any mental health diagnosis; (ii) all people on the office of mental health caseload currently; (iii) all people with any intellectual, developmental, or cognitive diagnosis; (iv) all people with any physical disability diagnosis or mobility impairment; (v) all people with any sensorial disability diagnosis; and (vi) all people with traumatic brain injury or organic brain syndrome; (d) who had been on the office of mental health caseload, or had any mental health diagnosis, within the previous year; (e) who had a diagnosis of intellectual, developmental, cognitive, physical, or sensorial disability within the previous year; or ~~[(d)]~~ (f) who is pregnant, in the first ~~[eight]~~ twelve weeks of the post-partum recovery period after giving birth, experiencing a miscarriage, or terminating a pregnancy, or longer if medically necessary, or caring for a child in a correctional institution pursuant to ~~[subdivisions]~~ subdivision two or three of section six hundred eleven of this chapter.

§ 6. Subdivision 3 of section 137 of the correction law, as amended by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3. Each incarcerated individual shall be entitled to clothing suited to the season and weather conditions, including but not limited to appropriate winter weather clothing, multiple layers of clothing, and the ability to wear personal clothing under state issued clothing when going to programs, recreation, visits, facility medical, or medical trips when the temperature is forty-five degrees or below, and to a sufficient quantity of quality, wholesome and nutritious food, including a full range and variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, consistent with nutritional guideline requirements developed by the department of health. Medically necessary diets, including but not limited to diabetic and heart health diets, and religious diets, shall be provided and be of comparable quality and variety as general population meals.

(a) Each incarcerated individual shall be afforded sufficient time to eat their meals, including that all people shall be provided at least twenty minutes after receiving their food to eat during meal times and that any person who requires additional time due to age or disability shall be provided sufficient additional time. Each incarcerated individual shall be allowed to bring leftover food out of the mess hall in a small bowl. To the extent practicable, the clothing and bedding of incarcerated individuals shall be manufactured and laundered in institutions in the department.



1 (b) Each incarcerated individual who uses a wheelchair shall be  
2 provided an assistant to help push the wheelchair if the person who uses  
3 the wheelchair chooses to have such an assistant.

4 § 7. Subdivision 5 of section 137 of the correction law, as amended by  
5 chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

6 5. No incarcerated individual in the care or custody of the department  
7 shall be subjected to degrading treatment~~[, and no]~~. No officer ~~[or]~~,  
8 other employee of the department, or other government employee shall  
9 ~~[inflict any blows whatever]~~ use force upon any incarcerated individual,  
10 ~~[unless in self defense, or to suppress a revolt or insurrection. When~~  
11 ~~any incarcerated individual, or group of incarcerated individuals, shall~~  
12 ~~offer violence to any person, or do or attempt to do any injury to prop-~~  
13 ~~erty, or attempt to escape, or resist or disobey any lawful direction,~~  
14 ~~the officers and employees shall use all suitable means to defend them-~~  
15 ~~selves, to maintain order, to enforce observation of discipline, to~~  
16 ~~secure the persons of the offenders and to prevent any such attempt or~~  
17 ~~escape]~~ except as a last resort after exhausting de-escalation tech-  
18 niques and where there are no practical alternatives available to  
19 prevent: (i) imminent physical harm to other incarcerated individuals,  
20 staff, visitors, or other persons; (ii) major property damage that rais-  
21 es an imminent safety and security risk; or (iii) escape. When the use  
22 of force is authorized, officers and employees shall always use the  
23 minimum amount necessary to defend themselves, to secure the persons of  
24 incarcerated individuals, to prevent imminent physical harm, to prevent  
25 major property damage that raises an imminent safety and security risk,  
26 and to prevent an escape. Any force used shall be proportional to the  
27 threat encountered. Contractors and volunteers are prohibited from ever  
28 using force.

29 (a) All officers, department employees, and government employees work-  
30 ing or operating in a correctional facility shall be prohibited from  
31 using excessive and unnecessary force, force after control of an incar-  
32 cerated individual has been established, and all high impact force,  
33 including but not limited to (i) strikes or blows to the head, face,  
34 groin, neck, kidneys, and spinal column, (ii) kicks, and (iii) choke  
35 holds, carotid restraint holds, and other neck restraints except where a  
36 person is in imminent danger of death or equivalent level of serious  
37 bodily injury and where lesser means are impractical or ineffective.

38 (b) No officer, other employee of the department, or other government  
39 employee working or operating in a correctional facility shall carry or  
40 use a steel baton. Any use of other batons, chemical spray, or any other  
41 weapons shall comply with all provisions of this subdivision.

42 (c) No officer, other employee of the department or the office of  
43 mental health, or other government employee working or operating in a  
44 correctional facility or secure facility shall carry out, nor cause  
45 others to carry out, any form of retaliation against any person incar-  
46 cerated in a correctional facility or confined in a secure facility for  
47 reporting misconduct, reporting an incident, raising a complaint, filing  
48 a grievance, filing a lawsuit, taking other legal action, communicating  
49 with the media, lawmakers, the Correctional Association of New York, an  
50 attorney, an advocate, any investigative body or any other person or  
51 entity, otherwise exercising or asserting the rights of incarcerated or  
52 confined individuals or asserting responsibilities of staff or the  
53 department, taking any other similar action, or supporting another  
54 incarcerated or confined individual in taking any of the actions in this  
55 paragraph.

(d) No officer, other employee of the department or the department of mental health, or other government employee working or operating in a correctional facility or secure facility shall provide any false information on a misbehavior report, unusual incident report, use of force report, or any other document, and all officers, employees, and government employees working or operating in a correctional facility or secure facility shall have a duty to report, and provide all relevant information regarding, any and all observed misconduct by another officer, employee, or person working or operating in a correctional facility or secure facility.

§ 8. Subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction law is amended by adding seven new paragraphs (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u) and (v) to read as follows:

(p) (i) All persons incarcerated in a correctional facility or secure facility shall have the right to in-person contact visits with up to four visitors at a time, every day of the week for many hours per day. Visitation shall be allowed at all correctional facilities and secure facilities, seven days a week, every day of the year. The number, length, and frequency of visits by each visitor may be limited only as necessary to accommodate all visitors who arrive during scheduled visiting times, and any such limitations shall never infringe upon the minimum visit requirements in this paragraph. Multiple sets of visitors shall be allowed to visit an incarcerated individual at different times on the same day, and a visitor shall be allowed to visit multiple incarcerated individuals at different times on the same day. If a visitor leaves the correctional facility, they shall have the ability to return to the facility that day to participate in a visit, including either with the same incarcerated individual originally visited or a different incarcerated individual.

(ii) Neither the department nor the office of mental health may restrict an incarcerated individual's visits as a disciplinary measure or for any other reason, nor may either agency deny or restrict a visitor's ability to visit so long as the person visited agrees to the visit.

(iii) Each correctional facility and secure facility shall process visitors and bring down people in such facilities to a visit as expeditiously as possible, including ensuring that the visited person and their visitor are able to be together starting within one hour of the visitor arriving at the facility, unless the visited person voluntarily chooses to take more time to come for the visit. All visitors waiting for a visit shall have basic needs met while waiting, including but not limited to being able to wait inside, being able to comfortably sit, and having access to drinking water and bathroom facilities.

(iv) No drug detecting dogs may be used inside of any visiting rooms or other areas where a visited person is meeting with their visitor.

(v) Videoconferencing may supplement, but shall not take the place of, in-person visits.

(vi) Each incarcerated individual shall be provided the opportunity to take a shower before any visit.

(q) All persons in a correctional facility or a secure facility shall have the right to receive packages from any person through direct mail, during a visit to a correctional facility or secure facility, or by mail from commercial sources. The department shall not require that packages be purchased from or delivered by a vendor, shall not require that packages that are purchased or delivered from a vendor come from a particular vendor or vendors, and shall not restrict the ability of a person



1 to directly send items to an incarcerated individual through the facili-  
2 ty package room or directly deliver items to an incarcerated individual  
3 through the visiting process. The department shall provide for prompt  
4 delivery to incarcerated individuals of all packages, including prompt  
5 delivery of perishable food items to avoid expiration or spoilage. All  
6 packages shall be delivered to incarcerated individuals within forty-  
7 eight hours from the time the package arrives at the facility, except  
8 that all packages that are brought on a visit shall be delivered to the  
9 incarcerated individual on the same day as the visit. If any item in a  
10 package is disallowed, the incarcerated individual shall have the option  
11 to, within fourteen days of receiving written notice that the item is  
12 disallowed, donate the item to the charitable organization of their  
13 choosing, return the item via the visiting room, or return the item via  
14 mail at their own expense. Items that may be part of packages shall  
15 include, but not be limited to the following items, and any restrictions  
16 on the particular packaging of any such items must be reasonably and  
17 directly related to a significant safety or security concern:

18 (i) food utensils and food items, without any limit on the number of  
19 pounds or items, including but not limited to fresh fruits and vegeta-  
20 bles, coffee and beverages, dried coffee cream, bread, pouched food,  
21 canned food, candy, cheese, condiments, meats, nuts, oatmeal and cereal,  
22 pastries, raisins and dried fruit, cooked or cured or smoked seafood,  
23 and snacks;

24 (ii) personal cosmetics and personal hygiene products, including but  
25 not limited to soap, shampoo, deodorant, and feminine hygiene items;

26 (iii) seasonally appropriate indoor and outdoor clothing and footwear;

27 (iv) legal, writing, and art supplies, including but not limited to  
28 stationery, writing and drawing implements, and typewriters;

29 (v) educational supplies, including but not limited to notebooks,  
30 rulers, and calculators appropriate for primary, secondary and post-sec-  
31 ondary education;

32 (vi) new and used books, magazines and other publications;

33 (vii) items for use in recreation and physical exercise;

34 (viii) accessories for tablet computers and other electronic devices  
35 permitted in facilities;

36 (ix) religious articles, including but not limited to prayer rugs and  
37 books, religious headgear, and pendants; and

38 (x) tobacco products.

39 (r) All persons incarcerated in a correctional facility or secure  
40 facility, other than those in segregated confinement, shall have access  
41 to at least fourteen hours of out-of-cell time per day, including access  
42 to at least seven hours of daily out-of-cell congregate programming and  
43 activities and access to at least two hours of congregate recreation.

44 (s) All persons incarcerated in a correctional facility or secure  
45 facility shall have the right to receive correspondence in its original,  
46 and not photocopied, form, including but not limited to letters, cards,  
47 photographs, postcards, legal mail, and other correspondence.

48 (t) All persons incarcerated in a correctional facility or secure  
49 facility shall have access to an internet-connected or similarly  
50 equipped tablet or other device that allows for free personal phone  
51 calls and free emails, as well as access to law library resources,  
52 programming, music, games, videos, movies, and other applications.  
53 Incarcerated individuals shall have access to free personal phone calls  
54 and free emails at least four hours per day. Beyond the four-hour mini-  
55 mum, a facility may provide additional access to the tablet and addi-  
56 tional access to personal phone calls and emails, and all personal phone

1 calls and emails shall be free for the person initiating and the person  
2 receiving the communication.

3 (u) All correctional facilities and secure facilities shall operate a  
4 commissary or canteen. The prices of items sold at each commissary or  
5 canteen shall take into account the minimum wages people incarcerated  
6 are earning and shall be at least sixty percent below the current market  
7 rate for such items, as based upon the cost of similar items for sale in  
8 the same region as the correctional facility. Each commissary and  
9 canteen shall be fully stocked and shall include quality wholesome and  
10 nutritious food, including a full range and variety of fresh fruits and  
11 vegetables.

12 (v) Any person incarcerated in a correctional facility or secure  
13 facility shall have a right to bring in state court an action based on  
14 any violation of this section or the regulations prescribed under these  
15 sections to: (i) enjoin such violation; (ii) obtain a declaratory judg-  
16 ment; (iii) recover for money damages; and (iv) any other appropriate  
17 relief determined by the court.

18 § 9. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision 6 of section  
19 137 of the correction law is amended by adding two new clauses (A) and  
20 (B) to read as follows:

21 (A) Time spent in any of the following locations shall not constitute  
22 out-of-cell time: (1) on a tier or walkway outside of a cell or groups  
23 of cells; (2) in a recreation area contiguous to a cell; (3) in a recre-  
24 ation area without a group of many people afforded simultaneous access  
25 to the same shared space without physical barriers and conducive to a  
26 meaningful congregate social interaction; or (4) any space without a  
27 group of many people afforded simultaneous access to the same shared  
28 space without physical barriers and conducive to meaningful congregate  
29 social interaction.

30 (B) If an incarcerated individual voluntarily chooses not to partic-  
31 ipate in congregate out-of-cell time, congregate recreation, or congre-  
32 gate programming, they shall be offered access to comparable individual  
33 programming, individual recreation, and individual time away from their  
34 cell where they sleep. Voluntarily declining to participate in congre-  
35 gate out-of-cell time, congregate recreation, or congregate programming  
36 shall be done in writing or by videotape.

37 § 10. Subparagraph (v) of paragraph (j) of subdivision 6 of section  
38 137 of the correction law, as amended by section 4 of part NNN of chap-  
39 ter 59 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

40 (v) An incarcerated [~~person~~] individual in a residential rehabili-  
41 tation unit shall have access to core programs and work assignments  
42 [~~comparable to core programs and types of work assignments in general~~  
43 ~~population~~] available in general population, and shall receive the same  
44 credit for participation in such programs as they would in general popu-  
45 lation for purposes of their program requirements and for purposes of  
46 good time, merit time, other time allowance, parole release, or consid-  
47 eration for other release mechanisms. Such incarcerated [~~persons~~] indi-  
48 viduals shall also have access to additional out-of-cell, trauma-in-  
49 formed therapeutic programming aimed at promoting personal development,  
50 addressing underlying causes of problematic behavior resulting in place-  
51 ment in a residential rehabilitation unit, and helping prepare for  
52 discharge from the unit and to the community.

53 § 11. Subparagraph (vii) of paragraph (j) of subdivision 6 of section  
54 137 of the correction law, as added by chapter 93 of the laws of 2021,  
55 is amended to read as follows:

(vii) Restraints shall not be used when incarcerated [~~persons~~] individuals are participating in out-of-cell activities within a residential rehabilitation unit, residential mental health treatment unit, step-down unit, correctional alternative rehabilitation unit, protective custody, and any other similar unit, unless an [~~individual~~] individualized assessment is made at the time of, or immediately following, an incident involving the person in question that restraints are required for that specific person in question because of a significant and unreasonable risk [~~to the safety and security~~] of imminent serious physical injury to self, other incarcerated [~~persons~~] individuals or staff based on concrete evidence of such risk by that person. Such individualized assessments shall be memorialized in writing, with a written explanation as to why, including providing concrete evidence relied on to determine that, restraints were required for the specific person in question to prevent a significant and unreasonable risk of imminent serious physical injury.

(A) Where restraints are imposed, the least restrictive form of restraints shall be used, for no longer than necessary to abate such imminent harm.

(B) Restraints shall not continue to be used beyond the day they were applied unless a determination is made at a subsequent due process hearing, with all of the protections of subdivision one of this section, that restraints remain necessary to abate a significant and unreasonable risk of imminent serious physical injury to self, other incarcerated individuals, or staff, based on concrete evidence of such risk.

(C) Any continuing use of restraints shall be reviewed daily, in writing, and discontinued once there is no longer a risk of imminent injury. Continued use of restraints may only be authorized for at most a seven-day period.

§ 12. Paragraph (k) of subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction law is amended by adding three new subparagraphs (v), (vi) and (vii) to read as follows:

(v) No incarcerated individual shall receive a sanction of more than fifteen days of segregated confinement time nor more than sixty days of time in a residential rehabilitation unit, residential mental health treatment unit, or any other disciplinary confinement unit for any incident, regardless of how many charges are associated with that incident.

(vi) To impose a disciplinary sanction, a hearing officer must find an incarcerated individual guilty of the charged act or acts by clear and convincing evidence.

(vii) All hearing officers shall engage in a meaningful fact finding process. If a hearing officer imposes a sanction of segregated confinement beyond three days or any time in a residential rehabilitation unit, the hearing officer shall detail in writing in their decision the specific ways in which the act or acts the incarcerated individual was found guilty of met all of the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph. The disposition or determination shall include a statement of evidence, which includes the testimony of each witness and a statement of reasons why the incarcerated individual's evidence or defense was credited or rejected.

§ 13. Paragraph (l) of subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction law is amended by adding five new subparagraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) to read as follows:

(i) Each person facing the possibility of placement in segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit shall be informed in writing and verbally, including before they appear for a disciplinary

1 hearing and then again on the hearing record, that they are permitted to  
2 be represented at their disciplinary hearing, shall be provided the  
3 opportunity to seek representation, and may bring their chosen represen-  
4 tative into the hearing at any time prior to the disposition of their  
5 hearing.

6 (ii) For all disciplinary hearings, incarcerated individuals and,  
7 where applicable, their representatives shall be provided, as soon as  
8 possible and no later than forty-eight hours prior to the start of a  
9 hearing, all evidence relevant to their disciplinary charge and/or hear-  
10 ing, including but not limited to the misbehavior report, any and all  
11 exculpatory evidence, any use of force or unusual incident reports  
12 concerning the incident, any to-from memoranda concerning the incident,  
13 any staff reports or accounts, any witness statements, any information  
14 relied upon from a confidential source subject to security redactions,  
15 any medical records related to the incident, any related contraband  
16 receipts, any other written materials concerning the incident, any  
17 related photographs, and audio and video recordings of or related to the  
18 incident.

19 (iii) For all disciplinary hearings, incarcerated individuals and,  
20 where applicable, their representatives shall have the right during a  
21 hearing to provide opening and closing statements, request and receive  
22 evidence, conduct a meaningful investigation, call and question  
23 witnesses, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence.

24 (iv) All disciplinary hearings shall be recorded and such recordings  
25 shall be provided to the incarcerated individual and his or her repre-  
26 sentative, if applicable.

27 (v) If a person is held in segregated confinement or a residential  
28 rehabilitation unit prior to a hearing, any time spent in segregated  
29 confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit prior to the hearing  
30 shall: (A) if the person is found guilty of an eligible charge under  
31 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (k) of this subdivision, be credited  
32 toward any sanction to segregated confinement or residential rehabili-  
33 tation unit imposed; and (B) if the person is not found guilty of an  
34 eligible charge under subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (k) of this subdivi-  
35 vision, be credited as additional good time behavior allowance time  
36 under section eight hundred three of this chapter.

37 § 14. Paragraph (o) of subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction  
38 law, as amended by section 6 of part NNN of chapter 59 of the laws of  
39 2021, is amended to read as follows:

40 (o) The department shall publish monthly reports on its website, with  
41 semi-annual and annual cumulative reports, of the total number of beds  
42 at each facility, including the number of beds held vacant for use as  
43 quarantine, and the total number of people who are in, separately list-  
44 ed: general population; segregated confinement [~~and the total number of~~  
45 ~~people who are in~~]; residential rehabilitation units; step-down  
46 programs; residential mental health treatment units, including but not  
47 limited to behavioral health units, residential mental health units,  
48 therapeutic behavior units, intermediate care programs, and transitional  
49 intermediate care programs; protective custody; administrative segre-  
50 gation; reception, shock incarceration; I-ASAT; close supervision units;  
51 special needs units; assessment and program preparation units; residen-  
52 tial crisis treatment units; intensive intermediate care programs,  
53 correctional alternative rehabilitation units, units for the cognitively  
54 impaired, and any and all other designated units within the prison  
55 system where out-of-cell time is restricted in any way, on the first day  
56 of each month and the total number of placements in each location during

1 the preceding month. The reports shall provide a breakdown of the  
2 number of people and placements, separately listed, in [~~segregated~~  
3 ~~confinement and in residential rehabilitation~~] each of the aforemen-  
4 tioned units, separately listed, by: (i) age; (ii) race; (iii) gender;  
5 (iv) mental health treatment level; (v) special health accommodations or  
6 needs; (vi) need for and participation in substance use disorder,  
7 academic, vocational, transitional services, aggression replacement  
8 training, sex offense counseling and treatment, and all other mandatory  
9 programs, separately listed; (vii) pregnancy status; (viii) continuous  
10 length of stay in [~~residential treatment units~~] each type of unit, as  
11 well as length of stay in the past sixty days; (ix) number of days [~~in~~  
12 ~~segregated confinement~~] and hours per day, of participation in out-of-  
13 cell group programming; (x) a list of all incidents resulting in sanc-  
14 tions of segregated confinement, including all substantiated charges  
15 related to each incident, by facility, unit, amount of segregated  
16 confinement and residential rehabilitation unit time imposed for the  
17 sanction, and date of occurrence; (xi) [~~the number of incarcerated~~  
18 ~~persons in segregated confinement by~~] facility; [~~and~~] (xii) the number  
19 of [~~incarcerated persons in residential rehabilitation units by facili-~~  
20 ~~ty~~] incidents of self-harm, suicide attempts, and suicide by facility,  
21 unit, and date of occurrence; (xiii) the number of deaths by facility  
22 and unit, cause of death, and date of occurrence; (xiv) the number of  
23 sanctions taking away a person's privileges or services, separately  
24 listed and including but not limited to, visitation, packages, corre-  
25 spondence, phone calls, tablets, cell shield, programs, recreation,  
26 commissary, out-of-cell time, food, restitution, forfeiture of funds,  
27 loss of good time, family reunion program, and imposed work task; and  
28 (xv) staff uses of force, by facility, unit, date of occurrence, level  
29 of injury to incarcerated individuals and staff, and outcome of any  
30 disciplinary or other action taken.

31 § 15. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application  
32 of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not  
33 affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act,  
34 or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be  
35 given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the  
36 provisions and applications of this act are severable.

37 § 16. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
38 have become a law.