

# STATE OF NEW YORK

---

2920

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 25, 2023

---

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- 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 expanding prison work release program eligibility and participation

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 851 of the correction law, as  
2 amended by section 228 of chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 2. "Eligible incarcerated individual" means: a person confined in an  
5 institution who is eligible for release on parole or who will become  
6 eligible for release on parole or conditional release within [~~two~~] three  
7 years. Provided, however, that a person under sentence for an offense  
8 defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision one of section 70.02 of  
9 the penal law, where such offense involved the use or threatened use of  
10 a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument shall not be eligible to partic-  
11 ipate in a work release program until he or she is eligible for release  
12 on parole or who will be eligible for release on parole or conditional  
13 release within [~~eighteen~~] thirty months. Provided, further, however,  
14 that a person under a determinate sentence as a second felony drug  
15 offender for a class B felony offense defined in article two hundred  
16 twenty of the penal law, who was sentenced pursuant to section 70.70 of  
17 such law, shall not be eligible to participate in a temporary release  
18 program until the time served under imprisonment for his or her determi-  
19 nate sentence, including any jail time credited pursuant to the  
20 provisions of article seventy of the penal law, shall be at least eigh-  
21 teen months. In the case of a person serving an indeterminate sentence  
22 of imprisonment imposed pursuant to the penal law in effect after  
23 September one, nineteen hundred sixty-seven, for the purposes of this  
24 article parole eligibility shall be upon the expiration of the minimum

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

LBD07516-01-3

1 period of imprisonment fixed by the court or where the court has not  
2 fixed any period, after service of the minimum period fixed by the state  
3 board of parole. ~~[If an incarcerated individual is denied release on~~  
4 ~~parole, such incarcerated individual shall not be deemed an eligible~~  
5 ~~incarcerated individual until he or she is within two years of his or~~  
6 ~~her next scheduled appearance before the state parole board.]~~ In any  
7 case where an incarcerated individual is denied release on parole while  
8 participating in a temporary release program, the department shall  
9 review the status of the incarcerated individual to determine if contin-  
10 ued placement in the program is appropriate. No person convicted of any  
11 escape or absconding offense defined in article two hundred five of the  
12 penal law shall be eligible for temporary release. Further, no person  
13 under sentence for aggravated harassment of an employee by an incarcer-  
14 ated individual as defined in section 240.32 of the penal law for, any  
15 homicide offense defined in article one hundred twenty-five of the penal  
16 law, for any sex offense defined in article one hundred thirty of the  
17 penal law, for an act of terrorism as defined in article four hundred  
18 ninety of the penal law, for an offense involving the sexual performance  
19 of a child as defined in article two hundred sixty-three of the penal  
20 law, or for an offense defined in section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of  
21 the penal law shall be eligible to participate in a work release program  
22 as defined in subdivision three of this section. Nor shall any person  
23 under sentence for any sex offense defined in article one hundred thirty  
24 of the penal law be eligible to participate in a community services  
25 program as defined in subdivision five of this section. ~~[Notwithstanding~~  
26 ~~the foregoing, no person who is an otherwise eligible incarcerated indi-~~  
27 ~~vidual who is under sentence for a crime involving: (a) infliction of~~  
28 ~~serious physical injury upon another as defined in the penal law or (b)~~  
29 ~~any other offense involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon~~  
30 ~~may participate in a temporary release program without the written~~  
31 ~~approval of the commissioner.]~~ The commissioner shall promulgate regu-  
32 lations giving direction to the temporary release committee at each  
33 institution in order to aid such committees in ~~[carrying out this~~  
34 ~~mandate]~~ determining which incarcerated individuals are eligible and  
35 appropriate to participate in the temporary release programs.

36 The governor~~[, by executive order,]~~ may not issue or enforce any exec-  
37 utive order to exclude or limit the participation of any class of  
38 ~~[otherwise]~~ eligible incarcerated individuals from participation in a  
39 temporary release program. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed  
40 to affect ~~[either the validity of any executive order previously issued~~  
41 ~~limiting the participation of otherwise eligible incarcerated individ-~~  
42 ~~uals in such program or]~~ the authority of the commissioner to impose  
43 appropriate regulations ~~[limiting such participation]~~ for determining  
44 which incarcerated individuals are eligible and appropriate to partic-  
45 ipate in the temporary release programs. The commissioner shall promul-  
46 gate regulations giving direction to department and transitional  
47 services staff with regard to developing and providing programmatic  
48 support to temporary release participants with emphasis on the first  
49 three months of work release.

50 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 851 of the correction law, as amended by  
51 section 228-b of chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as  
52 follows:

53 2. "Eligible incarcerated individual" means: a person confined in an  
54 institution who is eligible for release on parole or who will become  
55 eligible for release on parole or conditional release within ~~[two]~~ three  
56 years. Provided, that a person under a determinate sentence as a second

felony drug offender for a class B felony offense defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law, who was sentenced pursuant to section 70.70 of such law, shall not be eligible to participate in a temporary release program until the time served under imprisonment for his or her determinate sentence, including any jail time credited pursuant to the provisions of article seventy of the penal law, shall be at least eighteen months. In the case of a person serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment imposed pursuant to the penal law in effect after September one, nineteen hundred sixty-seven, for the purposes of this article parole eligibility shall be upon the expiration of the minimum period of imprisonment fixed by the court or where the court has not fixed any period, after service of the minimum period fixed by the state board of parole. ~~[If an incarcerated individual is denied release on parole, such incarcerated individual shall not be deemed an eligible incarcerated individual until he or she is within two years of his or her next scheduled appearance before the state parole board.]~~ In any case where an incarcerated individual is denied release on parole while participating in a temporary release program, the department shall review the status of the incarcerated individual to determine if continued placement in the program is appropriate. No person convicted of any escape or absconding offense defined in article two hundred five of the penal law shall be eligible for temporary release. Further, no person under sentence for aggravated harassment of an employee by an incarcerated individual as defined in section 240.32 of the penal law for, any homicide offense defined in article one hundred twenty-five of the penal law, for any sex offense defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law, for an act of terrorism as defined in article four hundred ninety of the penal law, for an offense involving the sexual performance of a child as defined in article two hundred sixty-three of the penal law, or for an offense defined in section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of the penal law shall be eligible to participate in a work release program as defined in subdivision three of this section. Nor shall any person under sentence for any sex offense defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law be eligible to participate in a community services program as defined in subdivision five of this section. ~~[Notwithstanding the foregoing, no person who is an otherwise eligible incarcerated individual who is under sentence for a crime involving: (a) infliction of serious physical injury upon another as defined in the penal law, (b) a sex offense involving forcible compulsion, or (c) any other offense involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon may participate in a temporary release program without the written approval of the commissioner.]~~ The commissioner shall promulgate regulations giving direction to the temporary release committee at each institution in order to aid such committees in ~~[carrying out this mandate]~~ determining which incarcerated individuals are eligible and appropriate to participate in the temporary release programs.

The governor~~[, by executive order,]~~ may not issue or enforce any executive order to exclude or limit the participation of any class of ~~[otherwise]~~ eligible incarcerated individuals from participation in a temporary release program. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect ~~[either the validity of any executive order previously issued limiting the participation of otherwise eligible incarcerated individuals in such program or]~~ the authority of the commissioner to impose appropriate regulations ~~[limiting such participation]~~ for determining which incarcerated individuals are eligible and appropriate to participate in temporary release programs. The commissioner shall promulgate

regulations giving direction to department and transitional services staff with regard to developing and providing programmatic support to temporary release participants with emphasis on the first three months of work release.

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

2. "Eligible incarcerated individual" means a person confined in an institution where a work release program has been established who is eligible for release on parole or who will become eligible for release on parole within [~~one year~~] three years.

§ 4. Subdivision 2-a of section 851 of the correction law, as added by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

2-a. Notwithstanding subdivision two of this section, the term "eligible incarcerated individual" shall also include a person confined in an institution who is eligible for release on parole or who will become eligible for release on parole or conditional release within [~~two~~] three years, and who was convicted of a homicide offense as defined in article one hundred twenty-five of the penal law [~~or an assault offense defined in article one hundred twenty of the penal law~~], and who can demonstrate to the commissioner that: (a) the victim of such homicide or assault was a member of the incarcerated individual's immediate family as that term is defined in section 120.40 of the penal law or had a child in common with the incarcerated individual; (b) the incarcerated individual was subjected to substantial physical, sexual or psychological abuse committed by the victim of such homicide or assault; and (c) such abuse was a substantial factor in causing the incarcerated individual to commit such homicide or assault. With respect to an incarcerated individual's claim that he or she was subjected to substantial physical, sexual or psychological abuse committed by the victim, such demonstration shall include corroborative material that may include, but is not limited to, witness statements, social services records, hospital records, law enforcement records and a showing based in part on documentation prepared at or near the time of the commission of the offense or the prosecution thereof tending to support the incarcerated individual's claim. Prior to making a determination under this subdivision, the commissioner is required to request and take into consideration the opinion of the district attorney who prosecuted the underlying homicide or assault offense and the opinion of the sentencing court. If such opinions are received within forty-five days of the request, the commissioner shall take them into consideration. If such opinions are not so received, the commissioner may proceed with the determination. Any action by the commissioner pursuant to this subdivision shall be deemed a judicial function and shall not be reviewable in any court.

§ 5. Subdivision 2-b of section 851 of the correction law, as added by chapter 738 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

2-b. When calculating in advance the date on which a person is or will be eligible for release on parole or conditional release, for purposes of determining eligibility for temporary release or for placement at an alcohol and substance abuse treatment correctional annex, the commissioner shall consider and include credit for all potential credits and reductions including but not limited to merit time, additional merit time and good behavior allowances. Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted as precluding the consideration and inclusion of credit for all potential credits and reductions including, but not limited to, merit time, additional merit time and good behavior allowances when

1 calculating in advance for any other purpose the date on which a person  
2 is or will be eligible for release on parole or conditional release.

3 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that  
4 the amendments to subdivision 2 of section 851 of the correction law  
5 made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration and  
6 reversion of such subdivision and section pursuant to subdivision (c) of  
7 section 46 of chapter 60 of the laws of 1994 and section 10 of chapter  
8 339 of the laws of 1972, as amended, when upon such date the provisions  
9 of section two of this act shall take effect; provided, further, that  
10 the amendments to subdivision 2 of section 851 of the correction law  
11 made by section two of this act shall expire on the same date as subdi-  
12 vision (c) of section 46 of chapter 60 of the laws of 1994, section 10  
13 of chapter 339 of the laws of 1972, and section 5 of chapter 554 of the  
14 laws of 1986, as amended, expire, when upon such date the provisions of  
15 section three of this act shall take effect; provided, further that the  
16 amendments to subdivisions 2-a and 2-b of section 851 of the correction  
17 law, made by sections four and five of this act shall not affect the  
18 expiration of such section and shall expire therewith.