STATE OF NEW YORK

5598

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 8, 2023

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:

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 136 of the correction law, as amended by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

1. The objective of correctional education in its broadest sense should be the socialization of the incarcerated individuals through varied impressional and expressional activities, with emphasis on individual incarcerated individual needs. The objective of this program shall be the return of these incarcerated individuals to society with a more wholesome attitude toward living, with a desire to conduct themselves as good citizens, and with the skill and knowledge which will give them a reasonable chance to maintain themselves and their dependents through honest labor. To this end each incarcerated individual shall be given a program of education which, on the basis of available data, seems most likely to further the process of socialization and rehabilitation. Provided that, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop a curricula for and require provision of an education program to all incarcerated individual, on a periodic basis, on the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome which may include the viewing of a video presentation thereon. The time daily devoted to such education shall be such as is required for meeting the above objectives. The director of education, subject to the direction of the commissioner and after consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop the curricula and the education

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

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programs that are required to meet the special needs of each correctional facility in the department. **The commissioner of education shall ensure such curricula and educational programs provide incarcerated individuals the opportunity to earn educational or vocational credits which shall be transferable to an educational institution upon the release of the incarcerated individual.** The commissioner of education, in cooperation with the commissioner and the director of education, shall set up the educational requirements for the certification of teachers in all such correctional facilities. Such educational requirements shall be sufficiently broad and comprehensive to include training in penology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, in the special subjects to be taught, and in any other professional courses as may be deemed necessary by the responsible officers, and shall include training relating to the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome which may include the viewing of a video presentation thereon. No certificates for teaching service in the state institutions shall be issued unless a minimum of four years of training beyond the high school has been secured, or an acceptable equivalent. Existing requirements for the certification of teachers in the institutions shall continue in force until changed pursuant to the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.