

STATE OF NEW YORK

8492--C

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 20, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Codes in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring state law enforcement agencies to develop and implement a tattoo policy

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-aa
2 to read as follows:

3 § 837-aa. Tattoo policies; law enforcement agencies. 1. For the
4 purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following
5 meanings:

6 (a) "Tattoo" is defined as a mark on the body of a person made with
7 indelible ink or pigments injected beneath the outer layer of the skin
8 that is permanent and difficult to reverse or remove in terms of finan-
9 cial cost, discomfort, and effectiveness of removal techniques. For
10 purposes of this section, "tattoo" shall also include marks made on the
11 body of a person by method of branding or scarring that are permanent
12 and difficult to reverse or remove in terms of financial cost, discom-
13 fort, and effectiveness of removal techniques.

14 (b) "State agency" shall mean any department, division, board, bureau,
15 commission, office, agency, authority or public corporation of the
16 state.

17 (c) "State law enforcement agency" shall mean the division of state
18 police, the department of corrections and community supervision, the
19 division of law enforcement in the department of environmental conserva-

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

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1 tion, and any other state agency as defined in paragraph (b) of this
2 subdivision or state authority as defined in section two of the public
3 authorities law that employs individuals designated as police officers
4 pursuant to subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal
5 procedure law or individuals designated as peace officers pursuant to
6 subdivision twenty-five of section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law,
7 but shall not include any police officer or peace officer employed by
8 any municipality as defined in section eight hundred thirty-five of this
9 article or any other local agency or local authority.

10 2. (a) The commissioner, the superintendent of the division of the
11 state police, the commissioner of the department of corrections and
12 community supervision, and the person in charge of every state law
13 enforcement agency as defined in paragraph (c) of subdivision one of
14 this section shall adopt and implement a tattoo policy for all members
15 of such law enforcement agency who are designated as police officers
16 pursuant to section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law or as peace offi-
17 cers pursuant to subdivision twenty-five of section 2.10 of the criminal
18 procedure law and all applicants for employment in such positions with
19 such agency.

20 (b) Each policy established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivi-
21 sion shall establish guidelines which will include but not be limited
22 to:

23 (i) permitting such police officers and peace officers and applicants
24 for employment as police officers and peace officers within such agency
25 to have arm, leg, back, or torso tattoos, including sleeve tattoos,
26 provided however that such policies may require the covering of such
27 tattoos in the course of employment;

28 (ii) prohibiting hand tattoos with the exception of no more than one
29 ring tattoo on each hand below the joint of the bottom segment (portion
30 closest to the palm) of the finger; and

31 (iii) prohibiting hand, face, and neck tattoos.

32 (c) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a state law
33 enforcement agency to establish rules prohibiting any tattoo that is not
34 explicitly authorized by paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

35 (d) This section shall not be construed to prevent any person current-
36 ly employed by a state agency from continuing to serve.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
38 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or
39 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of
40 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed
41 on or before such effective date.