STATE OF NEW YORK

1643--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to establishing a job fair pilot program

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

Section 1. Section 201 of the correction law is amended by adding a new subdivision 16 to read as follows:

16. (a) The department shall establish a three-year job fair pilot program to assist incarcerated individuals who are within six months of release to community supervision or who are otherwise within six months of their release date in finding employment. Such job fairs shall be held no less than three times per year in the Wende and New York City correctional facility hubs and shall be implemented by the commissioner in cooperation with the commissioner of labor. The commissioner shall appoint a coordinator for such job fair in each prison where such fairs are held. Eligible incarcerated individuals who reside in correctional facilities in the Wende or New York City correctional facility hubs shall be offered the opportunity to attend the job fair and, if they elect to attend, must be escorted or transported to the site of such job fair. Incarcerated individuals who would otherwise be eligible to participate in the pilot program but who reside in Albion, Taconic or Bedford Correctional Facilities shall not be included in the job fair pilot program but shall be offered enhanced job search opportunities for the duration of the program as practicable. Job fairs shall provide incarcerated individuals with help in resume preparation, internet employment searches, interview advice and other relevant job skills. Potential employers and industry representatives shall be identified by the commissioner in cooperation with the commissioner of the department

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

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of labor and shall be invited to such job fairs in order to assist incarcerated individuals in finding employment upon release.

(b) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to ensure the safety of incarcerated individuals, staff, potential employers, and industry representatives throughout any job fair held pursuant to this subdivision.

(c) The commissioner shall conduct evaluations of the program annually with a summary evaluation at the end of the pilot program. Such evaluations shall include recidivism statistics for job fair attendees, as well as number of attendees, employers attending, the number of jobs offered to such attendees prior to the end of their period of incarceration and other relevant information on the efficacy of the job fairs. Such evaluations shall be reported to the public and the legislature by December thirty-first of each year of the pilot program, with recidivism statistics reported for an additional three years after the pilot program has ended.

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