

STATE OF NEW YORK

187

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Cities

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the New York city department of corrections and the New York city health and hospitals corporation to adopt safety policies and training to protect health care workers

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

1 Section 1. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended
2 by adding a new section 9-168 to read as follows:

3 § 9-168 Health care worker safety policy; reports. a. Definitions. As
4 used in this section, the following terms shall have the following mean-
5 ings:

6 1. "Correctional health services" means the division of the New York
7 city health and hospitals corporation responsible for the delivery of
8 health and mental health services to incarcerated individuals in the
9 custody of the department, and any other health care entity designated
10 by the city of New York as the agency or agencies responsible for health
11 services for incarcerated individuals in the care and custody of the
12 department, including an outside provider sharing such responsibilities.

13 2. "Health care worker" means a health care professional employed by
14 correctional health services or another entity described in paragraph
15 one of this subdivision who regularly provides health and mental health
16 services to incarcerated individuals in the custody of the department.
17 Such term shall include dentists, physical therapists and subcontractors
18 of any health care entity designated by the city of New York as the
19 agency or agencies responsible for health services for incarcerated
20 individuals in the care and custody of the department, including an
21 outside provider.

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

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1 3. "Hospitals corporation" or "corporation" means the New York city
2 health and hospitals corporation.

3 4. "Special officer" means a peace officer appointed pursuant to
4 subdivision forty of section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law and
5 employed by the city of New York or the New York city health and hospi-
6 tals corporation to perform the patrol, investigation, and maintenance
7 of the peace duties of special officer, senior special officer and
8 hospital security officer.

9 b. Health care worker safety policy. 1. The department, in collab-
10 oration with correctional health services shall develop and implement a
11 joint health care worker safety policy to protect health care workers
12 from assault and other violent incidents during the provision of
13 services to incarcerated individuals. Such policy shall establish a
14 minimum standard of care for health care worker safety which shall, at
15 minimum:

16 2. Require yearly training for all uniformed staff of the department
17 and all special officers as defined in paragraph four of subdivision a
18 of this section regarding minimum standards necessary to secure an
19 incarcerated individual in the presence of a health care worker.

20 3. Establish protocols in consultation with stakeholders such as
21 health care employee unions, advocacy and community groups, for requir-
22 ing uniformed staff of the department and all special officers to inform
23 all health care workers who will or are likely to come into contact with
24 an incarcerated individual with a history of violent or aggressive
25 behavior whenever such individual is admitted to a hospital or other
26 medical facility. Such protocols shall be reviewed, and modified if
27 deemed necessary, by the department and health care providers on an
28 annual basis to ensure such protocols are adequate to protect health
29 care workers.

30 c. Reporting. 1. No later than ninety days after the effective date of
31 this section, and every six months thereafter, the department and
32 correctional health services shall publish a joint report on the health
33 care worker safety policy, which shall include but not be limited to a
34 review of any new rules and regulations promulgated or amended pursuant
35 thereto, and an evaluation of compliance with the policy at each correc-
36 tional facility and any medical facility subject to the provisions of
37 this chapter.

38 2. No later than nine months after the effective date of this section
39 and annually, the department and correctional health services shall
40 prepare and submit a report to the legislature. Such report shall
41 include a copy of every joint report published pursuant to paragraph two
42 of this subdivision during the twelve months preceding the date on which
43 the report required pursuant to this paragraph is due and any related
44 materials, together with any recommendations or proposals relating to
45 health care worker safety. Such report shall include an analysis of
46 whether certain punitive measures, including but not limited to the
47 imposition of a higher maximum sentence of imprisonment for assault on a
48 health care worker by an incarcerated individual, and/or provisions for
49 the extension of such an individual's current sentence should be consid-
50 ered by the legislature as a deterrent to such assaults.

51 d. Private right of action. 1. The department, the corporation, or
52 both such department and corporation shall be liable for damages to any
53 health care worker who suffers injuries as a result of any failure to
54 enforce or comply with minimum standards of care established pursuant to
55 subdivision b of this section.

- 1 2. A health care worker aggrieved by a violation of paragraph one of
- 2 this subdivision and subdivision b of this section shall have a cause of
- 3 action in any court of competent jurisdiction against the department,
- 4 the corporation or both such department and corporation.
- 5 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.