STATE OF NEW YORK

3399--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS, HEVESI, BURDICK, LEVENBERG, CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction -- recommitted to the Committee on Correction 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 correction law, in relation to screening incarcerated individuals for eligibility for public benefits prior to release

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

Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 77 to read as follows:

§ 77. Public benefits screening. 1. It shall be the duty of an official of any institution under the jurisdiction of the commissioner to cooperate with an authorized agency of the department of social services to, at least thirty days prior to release, screen incarcerated individuals for eligibility for public benefits. Public benefits shall include, but not be limited to, the supplemental nutrition access program pursuant to section ninety-five of the social services law, special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC) under 42 USC § 1786, and the home energy assistance program (HEAP as administered by the office of temporary and disability assistance, in accordance with section one hundred fifty-eight of the social services law, 42 USC § 1383 and section two hundred nine of the social services law, temporary assistance, supplemental security income and state supplemental payments. Any individual determined eligible to apply for a program shall be provided assistance for making such application if requested by the individual.

2. The department shall be required to report annually to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on participation in such public benefits screening program. Such reporting shall include metrics on the following:

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

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(a) how many people were deemed eligible for at least one type of benefit, disaggregated by type of benefit;

(b) for how many people were applications submitted, disaggregated by type of benefit;

(c) for any people deemed eligible but for whom applications were not submitted, disaggregated by demographic; and

(d) the reason that such applications were not filed, disaggregated by type of benefit and by reason.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date upon which 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.