

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4238

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM, DILAN, GIBBS, HYNDMAN, WALKER, COOK, LEVENBERG, WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law and the tax law, in relation to adjusting the earnings of formerly incarcerated individuals who were unjustly convicted

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

1 Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 188  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 188. Adjustment of earnings of incarcerated individuals; unjust  
4 conviction. 1. (a) Any incarcerated individual who is employed pursuant  
5 to the provisions of this article shall be entitled to a retroactive  
6 adjustment in their rate of compensation where such incarcerated indi-  
7 vidual is subsequently (i) pardoned upon the grounds of innocence of the  
8 crime or crimes for which such incarcerated individual was sentenced and  
9 which are the grounds for the fine, restitution or reparation; or (ii)  
10 such incarcerated individual's judgment of conviction was reversed or  
11 vacated, and the accusatory instrument dismissed or, if a new trial was  
12 ordered, either such incarcerated individual was found not guilty at the  
13 new trial or such defendant was not retried and the accusatory instru-  
14 ment dismissed; provided that the judgment of conviction was reversed or  
15 vacated, and the accusatory instrument was dismissed, on any of the  
16 following grounds: (1) paragraph (a), (b), (c), (e) or (g) of subdivi-  
17 sion one of section 440.10 of the criminal procedure law; or (2) subdivi-  
18 vision one (where based upon grounds set forth in clause one of this  
19 subparagraph), two, three (where the count dismissed was the sole basis  
20 for the imprisonment complained of) or five of section 470.20 of the  
21 criminal procedure law; or (3) comparable provisions of the former code  
22 of criminal procedure or subsequent law; or (4) the statute, or applica-

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

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1 tion thereof, on which the accusatory instrument was based violated the  
2 constitution of the United States or the state of New York.

3 (b) Such compensation adjustment shall be the greater of:

4 (i) the current minimum wage of the state;

5 (ii) the current wage or industry standard wage of the trade or indus-  
6 try that such incarcerated individual was actively employed in or  
7 trained/certified to work in; or

8 (iii) the wage equivalent of the incarcerated individual's salary at  
9 the time of conviction.

10 2. Within ninety days following the notice of adjudication for such  
11 pardon, reversal or vacation pursuant to subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of  
12 paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section, the department shall  
13 notify such formerly incarcerated individual of their right to receive a  
14 compensation adjustment pursuant to the provisions of this section.

15 3. Within ninety days of providing notice pursuant to subdivision two  
16 of this section, the department shall remit to such formerly incarcerat-  
17 ed individual any moneys owed as adjusted compensation as well as an  
18 accounting, including the method of accounting, for all such moneys.

19 4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any moneys  
20 remitted to a formerly incarcerated individual pursuant to the  
21 provisions of this section shall not diminish or impair any compensation  
22 or award which may be available to such formerly incarcerated individual  
23 pursuant to the provisions of section eight-b of the court of claims  
24 act.

25 § 2. Subsection (i) of section 601 of the tax law is relettered  
26 subsection (j) and a new subsection (i) is added to read as follows:

27 (i) Adjusted compensation of formerly incarcerated individuals.  
28 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) of  
29 this section and any other provision of this article, for taxable years  
30 beginning after the effective date of this subsection, the income of an  
31 individual received pursuant to the provisions of section one hundred  
32 eighty-eight of the correction law shall be exempt from tax under this  
33 article regardless of whether such income is subject to federal income  
34 taxation.

35 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
36 have become a law.