

STATE OF NEW YORK

4479

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to health facilities
and services in correctional facilities

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2801 of the public health law, as
2 amended by section 2 of part E of chapter 57 of the laws of 2023, is
3 amended to read as follows:
4 1. "Hospital" means a facility or institution engaged principally in
5 providing services by or under the supervision of a physician or, in the
6 case of a dental clinic or dental dispensary, of a dentist, or, in the
7 case of a midwifery birth center, of a midwife, for the prevention,
8 diagnosis or treatment of human disease, pain, injury, deformity or
9 physical condition, including, but not limited to, a general hospital,
10 public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center, a rural emer-
11 gency hospital under 42 USC 1395x(kkk), or successor provisions, dental
12 clinic, dental dispensary, rehabilitation center other than a facility
13 used solely for vocational rehabilitation, nursing home, tuberculosis
14 hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity hospital, midwifery birth
15 center, lying-in-asylum, out-patient department, out-patient lodge,
16 dispensary, correctional health care facility and a laboratory or
17 central service facility serving one or more such institutions, but the
18 term hospital shall not include an institution, sanitarium or other
19 facility engaged principally in providing services for the prevention,
20 diagnosis or treatment of mental disability and which is subject to the
21 powers of visitation, examination, inspection and investigation of the
22 department of mental hygiene except for those distinct parts of such a
23 facility which provide hospital service. The provisions of this article
24 shall not apply to a facility or institution engaged principally in
25 providing services by or under the supervision of the bona fide members

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

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1 and adherents of a recognized religious organization whose teachings
2 include reliance on spiritual means through prayer alone for healing in
3 the practice of the religion of such organization and where services are
4 provided in accordance with those teachings. No provision of this arti-
5 cle or any other provision of law shall be construed to: (a) limit the
6 volume of mental health, substance use disorder services or develop-
7 mental disability services that can be provided by a provider of primary
8 care services licensed under this article and authorized to provide
9 integrated services in accordance with regulations issued by the commis-
10 sioner in consultation with the commissioner of the office of mental
11 health, the commissioner of the office of [~~alcoholism and substance~~
12 ~~abuse~~] addiction services and supports and the commissioner of the
13 office for people with developmental disabilities, including regulations
14 issued pursuant to subdivision seven of section three hundred sixty-
15 five-1 of the social services law or part L of chapter fifty-six of the
16 laws of two thousand twelve; (b) require a provider licensed pursuant to
17 article thirty-one of the mental hygiene law or certified pursuant to
18 article sixteen or article thirty-two of the mental hygiene law to
19 obtain an operating certificate from the department if such provider has
20 been authorized to provide integrated services in accordance with regu-
21 lations issued by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner
22 of the office of mental health, the commissioner of the office of [~~aleo-~~
23 ~~holism and substance abuse~~] addiction services and supports and the
24 commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities,
25 including regulations issued pursuant to subdivision seven of section
26 three hundred sixty-five-1 of the social services law or part L of chap-
27 ter fifty-six of the laws of two thousand twelve.

28 § 2. Section 2801 of the public health law is amended by adding a new
29 subdivision 15 to read as follows:

30 15. "Correctional health care facility" means a facility or part of a
31 facility providing health care services to persons confined in a correc-
32 tional facility or local correctional facility, that is operated by,
33 operated under contract with or supervised by the department of
34 corrections and community supervision, by a county or the city of New
35 York or by a correctional facility or local correctional facility. As
36 used in this subdivision, "correctional facility" and "local correction-
37 al facility" shall have the same meaning as in section two of the
38 correction law, except that the exclusion of certain facilities under
39 paragraph (b) of subdivision four of that section shall not apply.

40 § 3. Section 2803 of the public health law is amended by adding a new
41 subdivision 15 to read as follows:

42 15. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of
43 corrections and community supervision, representatives of local correc-
44 tional facilities, the commissioner of mental health and the commision-
45 er of addiction services and supports, shall make regulations relating
46 to correctional health care facilities, including, but not limited to,
47 their establishment, construction, and operation, considering the stand-
48 ards of state and national organizations knowledgeable in correctional
49 health care services.

50 (b) A correctional health care facility in operation on the effective
51 date of this subdivision may continue to operate for two years after
52 such date regardless of whether it has been established under this
53 section.

54 § 4. Subdivision 26 of section 206 of the public health law, as sepa-
55 rately amended by chapters 45 and 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to
56 read as follows:

1 26. The commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to review any
2 policy or practice instituted in facilities operated by the department
3 of corrections and community supervision, and in all local correctional
4 facilities, as defined in subdivision sixteen of section two of the
5 correction law, regarding [~~human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired~~
6 ~~immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis C (HCV), and COVID-19]~~
7 health care services provided to persons confined in the facility,
8 including the prevention of [~~the transmission of and the treatment of~~
9 ~~such infections and diseases among incarcerated individuals]~~ infection
10 or disease. Such review shall be performed at least annually, and shall
11 focus on whether such policy or practice is consistent with current,
12 generally accepted medical standards and procedures used [~~to prevent the~~
13 ~~transmission of and to treat those infections and diseases among]~~ in
14 relation to the general public. In performing such reviews, in order to
15 determine the quality and adequacy of care and treatment provided,
16 department personnel are authorized to enter correctional facilities and
17 inspect policy and procedure manuals and medical protocols, interview
18 health services providers and incarcerated individual-patients, review
19 medical grievances, and inspect a representative sample of medical
20 records of incarcerated individuals [~~known to be infected with any such~~
21 ~~infections or diseases~~]. Prior to initiating a review of a correctional
22 system, the commissioner shall inform the public, including patients,
23 their families and patient advocates, of the scheduled review and invite
24 them to provide the commissioner with relevant information. Upon the
25 completion of such review, the department shall, in writing, approve
26 such policy or practice as instituted in facilities operated by the
27 department of corrections and community supervision, and in any local
28 correctional facility, or, based on specific, written recommendations,
29 direct the department of corrections and community supervision, or the
30 authority responsible for the provision of medical care to incarcerated
31 individuals in local correctional facilities to prepare and implement a
32 corrective plan to address deficiencies in areas where such policy or
33 practice fails to conform to current, generally accepted medical stand-
34 ards and procedures. The commissioner shall monitor the implementation
35 of such corrective plans and shall conduct such further reviews as the
36 commissioner deems necessary to ensure that identified deficiencies in
37 those policies and practices are corrected. All written reports pertain-
38 ing to reviews provided for in this subdivision shall be maintained,
39 under such conditions as the commissioner shall prescribe, as public
40 information [~~available for public inspection]~~ and shall be posted on the
41 department's website in searchable and downloadable form; provided that
42 patient individual identifying information shall be kept confidential by
43 the commissioner. This subdivision shall not diminish any other authori-
44 ty or jurisdiction of the commissioner.

45 § 5. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
46 law. Effective immediately, the commissioners of health, corrections and
47 community supervision, mental health, and addiction services and
48 supports shall promulgate rules and regulations and take other actions
49 reasonably necessary prior to such effective date to implement the
50 provisions of this act.