

ASSEMBLY, No. 4954

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires female inmates be provided with family planning services prior to release from correctional facility.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning female inmates and amending P.L.2009, c.329.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 2. **【The】** Except as provided in subsection m. of this section,
9 the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each inmate at
10 least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional facility:

11 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
12 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
13 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

14 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote
15 under R.S.19:4-1;

16 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
17 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
18 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
19 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
20 limited to information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
21 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
22 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-
23 7 et seq.);

24 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
25 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
26 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

27 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
28 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
29 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

30 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)

31 g. A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
32 born in New Jersey;

33 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

34 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

35 j. A two-week supply of prescription medication;

36 k. General written information concerning child support,
37 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
38 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
39 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
40 establishing parentage; **【and】**

41 l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
42 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the
43 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
44 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
45 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
2 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
3 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
4 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
5 seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely
6 provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical
7 records by other providers; and

8 m. In the case of a female inmate, family planning services.

9 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

10
11 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
12 after enactment.

13 14 15 STATEMENT

16
17 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to provide
18 family planning services to a female inmate at least ten days prior to
19 her release from a State correctional facility.

20 The "Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009," (P.L.2009, c.329;
21 C.30:1B-6.1 et seq.) requires the Commissioner of Corrections to
22 provide inmates, at least ten days before their release, with various
23 documents, information, and other items. Examples of these items
24 include a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
25 information on expungement of criminal records, information on
26 voting rights, a two week supply of prescription medication, and a
27 medical discharge summary. This bill requires the commissioner to
28 also provide female inmates with family planning services to aid in
29 their successful reentry into the community.