

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



COMMITTEE ON
CORRECTION

CARL E. HEASTIE
SPEAKER

DAVID I. WEPRIN
CHAIR



DAVID I. WEPRIN
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
24TH DISTRICT

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Correction Committee

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December 15, 2020

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

As Chairman of the Assembly Standing Committee on Correction, it is a great pleasure to submit to you the Annual Report for the 2020 Legislative Session. This year was filled with uncertain times, however, the Committee on Correction remained attentive and committed to serving the people of New York.

The Annual Report continues the longstanding practice of highlighting the work of the Committee on Correction, as well as reviewing major aspects of state and local corrections by providing budgetary, workload and population data.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the Committee on Correction, all the members of the Assembly and staff for their continued commitment to the work of the Committee and to progressive corrections legislation. As always, your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

David I. Weprin
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Correction

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION

David I. Weprin, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Michael Blake
William Colton
Maritza Davila
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Walter T. Mosley
Felix Ortiz
Nily Rozic
Dan Quart
Latrice Walker

Minority

Joseph M. Giglio, Ranking
Gary Finch
Philip A. Palmesano

Program and Counsel Staff

Marty Rosenbaum, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Theophilus Alexander, Analyst
Joann Butler, Executive Secretary

Chair's Staff

Sumeet Sharma, Chief of Staff
Jamie Kazi, Committee Clerk
Benjamin Herman, Scheduler



2020 Standing Committee on Correction

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I. JURISDICTION

The Assembly Committee on Correction has jurisdiction over legislation affecting all aspects of the operations of both state and local correctional facilities. This responsibility includes 52 state correctional facilities and 62 local correctional systems, including all local jails and police lockups operated by municipalities across New York State. New York's correctional system has approximately 36,000 incarcerated individuals housed in state facilities and 13,575 incarcerated individuals in local facilities. More than 18,601 correctional personnel combined are employed in all correctional facilities.

The Committee on Correction works closely with other committees of the Assembly, including the Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Codes, Health, Mental Health and Governmental Employees to consider issues and legislation that affect correctional staff, incarcerated individuals and the public.

Assembly Member David I. Weprin was appointed Chair of the Committee on Correction in January 2017. Chairperson Weprin represents Assembly District 24 in Queens, New York, and has been a member of the Assembly since 2010.

II. NEW YORK STATE'S CORRECTIONAL POPULATION

A. State Correctional Facilities and Community Supervision

As of November 1, 2020, the prison population of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) was 35,983 incarcerated individuals and 35,947 parolees under custody. The overall population has now declined by approximately 50% since the peak of 71,538 in 1999. The total under-custody population is 17,872 African American, 8,235 Caucasian, 8,712 Hispanic, 327 Native American, 223 Asian and 579 individuals recorded as "other category." Additionally, there are 1,404 women under-custody in state correctional facilities. There were 517 state-ready incarcerated individuals (individuals held in a local correctional facility waiting transfer to state prison) as of November 1, 2020, and 24 state-ready parolees. Additionally, there were 148 individuals living in residential treatment facilities operated by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, pending compliant housing under the Sexual Assault Reform Act (SARA).

There were 6,500 new admissions to state correctional facilities between January and October 2020, 8,732 less than in the same period in 2019, and 1,040 parolee admissions. New court commitments for this period were 3,510. There were 1,277 returned parole violators and 1,474 conditional release revocations, including 641 violators who were admitted into DOCCS-operated alternative-to-incarceration 90-day drug treatment programs. Additionally, 219 parolees were mandated to the Willard drug treatment program and 38 parolees voluntarily went to Willard rather than face revocation with an

uncertain sanction. There were 456 people on parole who were returned to prison for new felony offenses.

B. Local Correctional Facilities

The total under-custody population among local correctional facilities as of December 2020 was 13,575. For the City of New York, there were 4,800 individuals under custody, a 3,293 population decrease compared to the previous year. County correctional facilities outside of the City of New York had an under-custody population of 8,775, approximately 5,487 fewer persons than in the previous year.

C. Community Supervision

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is the sole agency responsible for the supervision of all persons under custody or released from state correctional facilities and subject to a term of parole or post-release supervision. This responsibility includes efforts to ensure successful adjustment to community living and assisting individuals with substance use treatment, job training, job placement and other services to enhance the likelihood of a self-sufficient and crime-free lifestyle. DOCCS staff is also responsible for identifying violations of parole conditions that may result in the use of rehabilitative and corrective measures, including revision of parole conditions and, in some cases, parole revocation. According to DOCCS, as of November 1, 2020, there were 35,947 individuals in New York State under parole supervision, which is 721 fewer than at the same time last year.

The Correction Committee recognizes the importance of supportive reentry services and continues to advocate for increased funding and diversity of programming to help people in custody and coming out of prison successfully reintegrate into the community.

D. Board of Parole

The Board of Parole (Board) reviews the records of parole-eligible individuals sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment and either denies or approves release on parole. This is separate and apart from the release mechanism for those sentenced to a determinate term of imprisonment or those eligible for conditional release. The Board also sets conditions of release for anyone released from a state correctional facility and subject to a period of community supervision.

Between January and October 2020, the Board of Parole conducted 6,722 non-administrative interviews. During this same period, there were 7,818 parole release interviews. Additionally, according to the Board, the release rates for initial appearances rose to 42% and to 39% for reappearances. Initial release rates were 39% for A-I felony offenses, 20% for legislative violent felony offenses, 42% for drug offenses, 41% for other

offenses classified as coercive, 58% for major property offenses, 46% for other felony offenses, 29% for youth offenses and 25% for juvenile offenses.

E. Community Corrections Programs

According to data obtained from the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), which is housed in the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), at the end of the SFY 2019-2020, there were 86,580 adults under probation supervision across New York State, a decrease of 5,513 since last year at the same time. The adult probation-sentenced population includes 41,493 people on felony probation and 40,680 misdemeanor offenders on probation, as well as 4,407 people on probation for offenses other than felonies or misdemeanors, such as criminal mischief, crimes against public order and probations who transferred to New York after convictions in other states. In addition, local probation departments supervise youth placed under supervision by the family court, which includes approximately 1,922 juvenile delinquency cases (a decrease of 309 cases compared to the previous year), and 442 persons in need of supervision (PINS) cases (a decrease of 117 cases) in this last fiscal year.

Among specialized projects lead by OPCA is the Sex Offender Address Confirmation Project. The supervision period for sex offenders under probation is longer than the supervision period for offenders convicted of other offenses. Probation officers regularly confirm offender addresses, including by comparing them to the state's Sex Offender Registry (SOR), require that offenders complete change of address forms, and file violations and request warrants on absconders. There are 4,150 registered sex offenders under probation supervision, an increase of 550 from the previous year.

III. STATE BUDGET IMPACT ON CORRECTIONAL AGENCIES

The SFY 2020-2021 Budget for DOCCS appropriates \$2.94 billion in state operations funding. The DOCCS budget represents funding for the operation of state correctional facilities as well as community supervision and the Board of Parole. Included within the DOCCS budget is \$136.39 million for the supervision of people released to parole and post-release supervision, and \$7.1 million to support the functions of the Board of Parole. The department has the largest state operations budget of any state agency and the average cost to house an individual is approximately \$60,000 per year. The budget also includes approximately \$14.6 million in Aid to Localities funding.

A. Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Facilities

During the SFY 2020-2021 Budget, the legislature passed legislation that authorized the governor to close correctional facilities in this fiscal year provided that the governor gives the legislature at least 90 days' advance notice before the closure of any such correctional facility. The notice includes: the list of correctional facilities projected to close, the number

of incarcerated individuals housed in the facilities and the number of staff working in the facilities. A provision in the law also requires the Commissioner of the Department to produce a detailed report to the legislature on the results of staff relocation efforts within 60 days after the closure of any correctional facility. In SFY 2019-2020, the executive provided notice and closed Lincoln Correctional Facility and Livingston Correctional Facility, which resulted in a reported annual cost saving of \$36 million. Previous facility closures have resulted in a number of property sales and conversions of such properties for new uses, often benefitting the community at large.

As part of Raise the Age legislation enacted during the 2017-2018 budget process, the Office of Children and Family Services assumed the administration of programs at Adirondack and Hudson correctional facilities, although the department continued to provide security services. This fiscal year, Part G of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020 authorized the transfer of adolescent offenders from the custody of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to the custody of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). In May, the department transformed its operations at Adirondack Correctional Facility from an adolescent offender facility to a medium-security correctional facility for males over age 60.

Prisoners Legal Services

The SFY 2020-2021 Executive Budget again included \$2.2 million for Prisoners Legal Services (PLS), which provides legal representation and assistance in civil matters to person to incarcerated persons unable to afford counsel. The Assembly secured an additional \$750,000 and the Senate added \$150,000 to bring the total funding for PLS up to \$3.1 million, surpassing the funding amount that PLS received the previous year. The Committee believes PLS is an important program that has played a longstanding and vital role in making New York prisons safer and more humane. Its work has resulted in positive changes in incarcerated individuals' attitudes and behavior and has promoted constructive policy and programmatic modifications within DOCCS.

Board of Parole

Funding for the Board of Parole is separately appropriated and may not be decreased by interchange with any other appropriation in the DOCCS budget, in order to ensure adequate funding to perform its mission with the required independence. The SFY 2020-2021 Board of Parole budget is \$7.1 million; this amount remained the same as the previous year.

The Board of Parole is a statutorily maintained 19-member appointed body with independent decision-making authority. There are 16 commissioners currently serving on the board with 5 of those appointments taking place last year. The appointments included three men and two women, among them persons of Latino, Korean and African American descent. The legislature has pressed the executive to not only fill empty seats, but to diversify the Board of Parole as well. The appointments last year helped the Board of Parole reflect the diversity of the prison population and the public at large.

The Board of Parole is housed within DOCCS for administrative support and maintains its independence with its own counsel's office and cadre of Administrative Law Judges. The Board continues to make discretionary determinations regarding the release of persons sentenced to indeterminate terms of imprisonment, the setting of release conditions for all individuals, revocation of community supervision for certain individuals charged with violating conditions of release, and three-year discharges of sentence for certain persons under supervision. The former Board functions of granting merit termination of sentences, granting certificates of rehabilitation, and preparing parole summaries have been carried out by DOCCS since 2011.

Community Supervision

The DOCCS budget allocation for supervision of persons released to the community in SFY 2020-2021 is \$136.39 million. Community supervision is entirely separate from the Board of Parole budget, since community supervision is no longer a function of the Board following the merger with DOCCS in 2011.

Community supervision staff members oversee approximately 36,194 people on parole and post-release supervision out of seven regional offices across the state.

Many ex-offenders have educational and vocational needs, a history of substance use and difficulty maintaining stable housing and employment. The Correction Committee recognizes the importance of supportive reentry services and continues to advocate for increased funding and diversity of programming designed to help people leaving prison successfully reintegrate into the community.

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision shifted its internal operations on March 20, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Department temporarily suspended all in-person reports of individuals under state community supervision. Community supervision staff members utilized technology including telephone calls, videoconferencing, GPS electric monitoring, and other methods to ensure safely-maintained contact with people on community supervision.

B. Local Correctional Agencies

The DOCCS budget continues to include \$200,000 in aid-to-localities funding to local correctional facilities for reimbursement to counties for housing "state-ready" individuals. "State-ready" refers to individuals who have been sentenced to state prison and are being held in a county jail awaiting transport. The reimbursement for "state-ready" individuals was essentially eliminated in the SFY 2009-10 Budget but the state is still responsible for reimbursing counties up to \$100 per day for each "state-ready" individual who is not transferred to state prison within 10 days of the locality notifying DOCCS that the individual is ready for transport.

C. Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives

The SFY 2011-12 Budget restructured certain appropriations so that formerly separate programs within the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) such as the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), among other appropriations, have been consolidated. The new program structure of DCJS now consists of the offices of Administration, Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategies, and separate programs for each of the newly merged agencies.

Thus, the appropriation for OPCA is unspecified within the Executive Budget and contained within a larger appropriation for DCJS Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategies Program covering additional programs for organizations and services such as Aid to Prosecution, Crime Labs, and Drug Diversion, among others.

The DCJS budget includes \$44.9 million for aid to local probation departments and additional federal funds are also directed to help offset probation aid cuts; the same amount was budgeted in the previous year.

D. State Commission of Correction

The State Commission of Correction is responsible for the regulation and oversight of all correctional facilities in New York State. This responsibility encompasses—52 state correctional facilities, 62 county jails and the New York City correctional system comprising 18 facilities, and five secure centers operated by the Office of Children and Family Services. The Commission’s budget for SFY 2020-2021 is \$2.95 million.

The Commission’s Forensic Medical Unit investigated or is investigating 73 deaths in correctional facilities. Of those for which a cause of death has been stated by the Commission, 2 were the result of a homicide; 27 deaths were the result of suicide, 0 from AIDS, 25 from natural causes, 0 from unknown causes, and 19 deaths were the result of overdose. There were, according to the Commission, at least 35 persons incarcerated in state correctional facilities and 9 individuals on parole who died from COVID-19 in 2020. The number may well be larger, as some deaths of incarcerated persons who died in hospitals are not included in this figure. At least 14 members of staff working in state correctional facilities died of COVID-19 during this period. Again, it is believed the number of such deaths is higher as not all such deaths of staff have been reported as COVID deaths to the Department.

IV. COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Significant Legislation Advanced by the Correction Committee in 2020

The Correction Committee advanced the following legislation which passed both houses in 2020:

Limited Credit Time Allowance – Chapter 723 of the Laws of 2019 was passed to allow any incarcerated individual who obtains an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree while in prison, regardless of whether they were in a DOCCS sanctioned program or completed coursework through a correspondence program to earn limited credit time allowance. Made significant changes to Limited Credit Time Allowance in order to allow incarcerated individuals who obtain a college degree to qualify for LCTA release. This chapter amendment makes technical changes, clarifying the spelling of associate; and makes substantive changes adding doctoral degrees to the list of degrees an incarcerated individual may complete through a registered program from a New York State degree-granting institution or an out-of-state institution authorized to offer post-secondary distance education in New York. (A.9060, Wright / S.6944, Bailey; Chapter 35 of 2020 laws)

Off-hours arraignment – Amends Section 500-a and 500-c of the Correction Law to authorize the pre-arraignment detention of arrested individuals in a county jail facility, when done as part of a plan for an off-hours arraignment part established by the Chief Administrative Judge. This chapter amendment clarifies the law's intent, which originates from the approval of the Hurrell-Harring settlement that requires New York State and Onondaga, Ontario, Washington, Suffolk, and Schuyler counties to improve the delivery of public defense services in four key areas: counsel at arraignment, caseload relief, initiatives to improve the quality of indigent defense; and eligibility standards for representation. (A.9061, Weprin / S.7163, May; Chapter 36 of 2020 laws).

Medical Review Board – Amends Section 47 of the Correction Law to clarify who the recipients of the Correction Medical Review Board's reports are; and requires that the State Commission on Correction may only redact death reviews to the extent required by state and federal law in order to protect confidential medical and behavior health records. (A.9062, Weprin / S.7182, Sepulveda; Chapter 80 of 2020 laws)

Religious Waiver Rights – Amends subdivision 5 of Section 112 of the Correction Law to prohibit the Commissioner of the DOCCS from promulgating any policy or regulation requiring that incarcerated individuals waive their religious rights in order to participate in inmate work programs. (A.9702, Weprin / S.8740, Liu; Chapter 211 of 2020 laws)

Prison Oversight – Permits the Correctional Association of New York to access, visit, and examine all state correctional facilities (A.10194, Weprin / S.8046, Sepulveda; Chapter 320 of 2020 laws)

Close to Home – Requires the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), whenever practicable, to place incarcerated individuals in correctional facilities located in closest proximity to the primary place of residence of such individual’s minor child or children (A.6710-A, Rozić/ S.724, Montgomery; Chapter 355 of 2020 laws).

In addition, the Assembly passed the following correction related bills:

Prison Education Commission – Establishes a nine-member commission on prison education appointed by the governor, Speaker of the Assembly, Temporary President of the Senate, Assembly Minority Leader, and Senate Minority Leader, that is required to study and develop a plan for improving education in the state correctional system. (A.2177, Barron; Passed the Assembly)

Dyslexia Screening – Requires a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening for certain incarcerated individuals. (A.7822, Simon, Passed the Assembly)

Merit Time Expansion – Adds the completion of 18 credits in a degree-granting higher education program registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to an existing list of criteria that may qualify an eligible incarcerated individual for merit time allowance. (A.9543-A, Epstein; Passed the Assembly)

Pregnant Incarcerated Women’s Rights – Permits a pregnant incarcerated woman to choose one support person to accompany her into the delivery room during the birth of a child. (A.9965, Rosenthal L; Passed the Assembly)

B. Budget Highlights from State Fiscal Year 2020-2021

The SFY 2020-2021 enacted budget included Article VII language to:

- Authorize the governor to close correctional facilities provided that at least ninety days’ advance notice is provided to the legislature before the closure of any correctional facilities.
- Authorize the transfer of adolescent offenders from the custody of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to the custody of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).
- Extend the cutoff date of the Economic Transformation Program to include communities affected by prison closures from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2021.

C. Press Conference: Testing and Visitation

On October 30, Chair Weprin joined Chair Sepulveda, family members of incarcerated individuals, and a broad collation of criminal justice advocates at the Queensboro correctional facility to call for the increased attention to New York State’s incarcerated population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, lawmakers, advocates and

family members of the incarcerated urged DOCCS to adopt CDC recommended COVID-19 testing, implement mitigation efforts in lieu of isolating incarcerated individuals who have been suspected to be exposed to COVID-19, make flu vaccinations available to incarcerated individuals upon request, and maintain visitation across every state correctional facility in order to preserve family bonds and the morale of incarcerated individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman Weprin alongside family members of incarcerated individuals outside of Queensboro Correctional Facility in Long Island City, NY

V. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2021

A. Parole

More than half a million people have been released from New York State prisons since 1985. As of November 1, 2020 there are 36,194 individuals on community supervision and 35,650 individuals in state prison. The declining population of people in custody and on community supervision indicates that most parolees successfully re-integrate back into the community.

Given the importance of a successful parole system, we must ensure that we do everything we can to support the Department and the Board of Parole in its reentry mission. The Committee regularly consults with professionals, academics, law enforcement experts, advocates and the public to evaluate whether the practices and procedures in place today for both DOCCS and the Board of Parole are fair and effective, and to make recommendations to improve future outcomes. In 2021, the Committee will focus on reforming the parole revocation process, continue to advance bills for needed parole reforms and support legislation to ensure that individuals who do not pose a public safety risk are released to community supervision.

B. Visitation

This year, A6710-A (Rozic) was signed into law requiring that the department, whenever practicable, place incarcerated individuals in correctional facilities located in closest proximity to the primary residence of the individual's minor child or children. Visitation is the most important predictor of successful re-entry for people leaving prison and has a major effect on preserving family ties. The Committee recognizes the vital impact that this legislation will have on bringing parents closer to their children.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 20, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision temporarily suspended in-person visitation in all state correctional facilities. As an alternative to in-person visitation, the department provided the following weekly benefits to incarcerated individuals in custody: 5 free stamps, 2 free secure messages via electronic tablet, and 1 free phone call. Research demonstrates that visitation not only eases re-entry into society, but also promotes the adjustment and well-being of individuals during their incarceration. On August 5, DOCCS resumed visitation in maximum security facilities, and on August 8, visitation resumed in all other facilities.

This is why the Committee strongly supports A.2483 (Weprin), which would formally establish in-person visitation programs in state and local correctional facilities and ensure that video visitation cannot replace in-person visits. The Committee understands the importance and value that family and visitation bring to incarcerated individuals and hopes to see the bill pass the Assembly next year.

C. Housing

Thousands of incarcerated individuals are released to community supervision from New York State correctional facilities, the majority of whom are sent to New York City. A significant number of formerly incarcerated individuals are discharged into the local shelter system directly from state correctional facilities. This does little to support the parolee or lower recidivism rates, and it exacerbates the homelessness crisis in local communities across the State where parolees are being discharged. In 2021, the Committee hopes to see A.6458 (Weprin) pass the Assembly, which would require the department to assist incarcerated individuals with housing before they are discharged from a correctional facility to community supervision. The city social services district has implemented a broad range of programs and services aimed at lowering the shelter census and for the first time in a decade the number of people in its shelter system has stabilized. The current number of formerly incarcerated individuals entering shelters comes at great cost to New York City and other localities, and undermines local efforts to control spending and reduce the number of people in shelters. Research suggests that securing stable housing is a critical first step to successful re-entry.

D. Higher Education

The benefits of post-secondary correctional education are clear. Studies have consistently found that the higher the level of education attained, the more likely a formerly incarcerated individual will be to obtain gainful and stable employment, and the less likely he or she will be to engage in future criminal activity. The New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform reported that post-secondary correctional education programs have been shown to reduce recidivism by up to 40%. The Bard Prison Initiative reports that 97.5% of BPI graduates who leave prison never return back, and similarly 85% of BPI

alumni are employed within two months of returning home¹. The Committee hopes to again see A.9543-A (Epstein) pass the Assembly, which would add the completion of eighteen credits from a degree-granting higher education program registered by the New York State Department of Education, to an existing list of criteria that may qualify an eligible incarcerated individual for merit time release.

There are 29 state correctional facilities operating degree-granting programs. While there is still great unmet need for college programs in New York correctional facilities, this year, the U.S. Department of Education selected 67 new higher education institutions², including 5 from New York, to participate in a second cohort of the Second Chance Pell Program. According to the DOCCS, to date, there are 12 state correctional facilities, including Bedford Hills and Taconic that are funded by the Second Chance Pell Initiative³. The expansion of this program should help increase enrollment in these vital rehabilitation programs. Assembly Member Aubry sponsors A.3943, which would repeal paragraph d of subdivision six of section 661 of the education law relating to the eligibility of incarcerated students for general or academic performance awards. This bill would reverse the 1995 decision when New York prohibited incarcerated individuals from accessing state funds through the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for post-secondary education. Many college programs operating in prisons throughout the state shut down after TAP was discontinued. Although this bill is in the Education committee, the Correction committee supports this piece of legislation and will continue to work for the expansion of higher education in correctional facilities and urges the Governor to reinstate TAP grants for incarcerated individuals.

E. COVID Response

According to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, DOCCS implemented emergency protocols to minimize outbreaks and help ensure the safety and well-being of staff, incarcerated individuals and persons under parole supervision. The Department mandated that all staff wear face masks while on duty, and reports that it supplies incarcerated individuals with surgical-type masks. In-person visitation was halted at the beginning of the pandemic in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 from outside visitors, but resumed on August 5, 2020. All individuals are required to complete

¹“By The Numbers Archive,” Bard Prison Initiative (Bard Prison Initiative), accessed December 9, 2020, <https://bpi.bard.edu/by-the-numbers/>.

² U.S. Department of Education. (2020, April 24). *Secretary DeVos Expands Second Chance Pell Experiment; More than Doubling Opportunities for Incarcerated Students to Gain Job Skills and Earn Postsecondary Credentials*. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-expands-second-chance->

³ Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. College Programs. <https://doccs.ny.gov/college-programs>.

a health and travel questionnaire prior to entering facilities and community supervision offices. The Department also issued enhanced cleaning and sanitizing measures and disinfecting procedures for offices and facilities.⁴

The Committee remains concerned and will continue to monitor conditions for incarcerated persons and staff at correctional facilities throughout the state. Significant improvements are needed and expected.

⁴ “DOCCS Covid-19 Report.” *Department of Corrections and Community Supervision*, <https://doccs.ny.gov/doccs-covid-19-report>.

APPENDIX

2020 SUMMARY SHEET

**Summary of Action on All Bills
Referred to the
Committee on Correction**

Final Action on Assembly Bills

Bills Reported With or Without Amendment

To Codes	0
To Judiciary	0
To Ways and Means	6
To Rules	6
To the Floor	3
Total	14

Committee Action

Held For Consideration	24
Defeated	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	7

Total Assembly Bills in Committee **174**

Total Number of Meetings Held **3**