



2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #: AF-18

1 Sponsors: Jamus Socker, Alex Maddaloni, Ashleigh Rosen

2
3 An Act To

4 Amend section 2 of the New York State Election Law 5-106 to allow those convicted
5 of a non-violent felony to vote while on parole or probation.

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

7
8 Purpose

9 The purpose of this bill is to allow those convicted of a non-violent felony to vote
10 while on parole.

11 Summary of Provisions

12 Section 1

13 Non-violent felony: Does not involve the use of force or infliction of injury against the
14 victim. Sentencing can range from 1-25 years and probation can range from 1-15
15 years.

16
17 Section 2

18 No person who has been convicted of a felony pursuant to the laws of this state, shall
19 have the right to register for or vote at any election unless he shall have been
20 pardoned or restored to the rights of citizenship by the governor, or his maximum
21 sentence of imprisonment has expired, or he has been discharged from parole. The
22 governor, however, may attach as a condition to any such pardon a provision that
23 any such person shall not have the right of suffrage until it shall have been separately
24 restored to him.

25
26 Justification

27 Every year, thousands of non-violent felons have served their time in prison, only
28 to be released on probation or parole, and still not be able to vote. If this
29 population of people had the right to vote not only would they have the ability to
30 impact the result of an election but would increase the voter turnout overall. Many
31 people released from parole are unaware that their right has been restored and re-
32 registering to vote is very difficult due to the complex laws surrounding
33 disenfranchisement. New York is a healthier and stronger state when more people
34 participate in the electoral process. Mass disenfranchisement for minor offences is a
35 tragic legacy of the Jim Crow era that disproportionately affects people of color and
36 minority status.

37
38 Fiscal Implications

39 This bill has no fiscal implications.

40
41 Effective Date

42 One year from passage of this bill.