



2020 New York State YMCA

Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING

FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #: SL-05

Sponsors: Alyssa Reid and Jordan Fuss

An Act To

Raise prison wages to \$4.00 per hour in New York State and raise maximum daily earning to \$32.00.

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

Purpose

Prisoners are expected to come out of prison and get a job and a place to live but how are they expected to do that when they are only able to make up to \$4.00 a day. The purpose of our bill is to raise prison wages and maximum daily earning to \$32.00.

Summary of Provisions

An act to amend the correction laws, Amd §§170, 171, 177, 178, 184, 186 & 187, Cor L, in relation to enacting "the prison minimum wage act"

Justification

Most prisoners want to work, they want to do something productive with their time. Prison jobs range from laundry to groundskeeping and sweeping the cellblock to preparing prisoner meals. The jobs often have a strongly positive effect: They can teach skills and build self esteem, as well as provide a break from the tedious prison life.

Is it okay to require prisoners to work for no pay, as Texas does? Or to pay prisoners 15 cents an hour (Arizona), or 19 cents an hour (Pennsylvania)? In the outside world, people are paid for their work and are rewarded for good job performance. There's no reason prison jobs shouldn't operate in the same way.

Why not pay prisoners a real wage, so they can save for the future and build a future for their eventual release? The benefits are successful reentry into the world, lower crime rate and reduced human suffering would be enormous.

Fiscal Implications

Raise taxes in New York State.

Effective Date

January 1st, 2021