



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-10

1 **Sponsors:** Armand Chancellor, Jacob Taylor, Matthew Vlacich, George Laopodis

2

3 **An Act To:** Amend § 120.08 of penal law to make assaulting a first responder a class
4 A felony.

5

6

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

8

9 **Purpose:** To make assaulting a first responder a class A felony.

10

11 **Summary of Provisions**

12 **Section 1: Definitions**

13 **First Responder: Peace officer, police officer, firefighter or emergency medical**
14 **services professional.**

15 **Class C Felony: 3 ½ – 15 years maximum sentence.**

16 **Class A Felony: 20 years to life imprisonment.**

17

18 **Section 2:** A person is guilty of assault on a peace officer, police officer,
19 firefighter or emergency medical services professional when, with intent to prevent
20 a peace officer, police officer, a firefighter, including a firefighter acting as a
21 paramedic or emergency medical technician administering first aid in the
22 course of performance of duty as such firefighter, or an emergency medical
23 service paramedic or emergency medical service technician, from performing a
24 lawful duty, he or she causes serious physical injury to such peace officer, police
25 officer, firefighter, paramedic or technician. Assault on a peace officer, police
26 officer, firefighter or emergency medical services professional is a ~~class C felony~~
27 **class A felony.**

28

29

30 **Justification**

31 Every day, thousands of people all across New York leave their homes in the name
32 service. These people are first responders who keep our streets and communities
33 safe. Despite their heroic actions, these people are harassed, assaulted and
34 sometimes even murdered. It is past time that we protect the men and women who
35 risk their lives every day. Over 50,000 first responders were assaulted while
36 performing their duties in 2016. We need ensure our first responders are safe and
37 able to carry out their jobs successfully.

38

39

40 **Fiscal Implications**



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-10

41 It costs around \$69,000 to house an inmate each year in New York. There will not
42 be a raise in taxes because there is already funding in the state budget.

43

44 **Enviornmental Implications**

45 It will allow first responders to feel protected while performing their duties.

46

47 **Effective Date**

48 One year after passage.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-15

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

Sponsors: Alex Fenstermacher, Benjamin Finkel, Uriel Korin, Ayden Williams

An Act To

Amend section §3210 of NYS Consolidated Law, Education Law to add physical and mental sickness days excused from school.

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

Purpose

The bill will grant students excused absences from school on the basis of physical or mental illness.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1

Excused absence: any occasion in which a student misses school and may make up work from classes missed.

Physical illness: a disease or period of sickness affecting the body.

Mental illness: a disorder that affects mood, thinking, and behavior.

Medical Professional: one who provides healthcare treatment and advice based on formal training and experience, i.e. those who work as a physician, surgeon, nurse, dentist, psychologist, or psychiatrist.

Section 2

Section 3210

1. c. In the event that a person requests the release of a minor required by the provisions of part one of this article to attend upon instruction, the identity of such person shall be verified against a list of names provided by the person or persons in parental relation to the minor, as defined in section two of this chapter, at the time of such minor's enrollment. The school district may adopt appropriate procedures for the purpose of submitting a list of names at a later date or updating the list of names provided by the person or persons in parental relation. If such person is identified as one of those persons included on such list, such minor may be released from attendance. If such person is identified as a person not included on such list, such minor may not be released except in the event of an emergency as determined in the sole discretion of the principal of the school, or his designee, provided that the person or persons in parental relation to the minor have been contacted and have agreed to such release. A school district may presume that either



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-15

40 parent of the student has authority to obtain the release of said minor unless
41 the school district has been provided with a certified copy of the legally
42 binding instrument such as the court order or decree of divorce, separation
43 or custody which provides evidence to the contrary. No situation shall be
44 deemed an emergency until the facts of such situation have been verified by
45 such principal or his designee. No civil or criminal liability shall arise or attach
46 to any school district or employee thereof for any act or omission to act as a
47 result of, or in connection with, the duties or activities authorized or directed
48 by this paragraph. The foregoing procedure shall not apply to release of a
49 minor pursuant to the protective custody provisions of the social services law
50 and the family court act.

51 d. Absence for any of the below reasons shall be excused by the school for
52 up to three days per marking period with any additional day requiring written
53 consent from a medical professional:

54 (i) Physical or mental illness

55 (ii) Any other reason deemed fit by the school district

56

57 **Justification**

58 This bill is important because nearly half (49%) of high school students reported
59 feeling extreme stress on a daily basis (NYU Study). Excessive stress can lead to
60 lifelong illnesses such as auto-immune disorders. To reduce stress, letting students
61 take mental health days would greatly allow them to catch up on work and manage
62 their time. Moreover, in the United States, almost half of adults (46.4 percent) will
63 experience a mental illness during their lifetime. It would give a substantial
64 opportunity for those with mental illness to thrive in the school atmosphere by
65 taking a day off when needing to recalibrate. This bill will also promote openness in
66 regard to mental health, helping millions of students who struggle with it find aid
67 more easily. Fighting mental illness is an important step for modern society, and it
68 begins at the school level, helping students succeed.

69

70 **Fiscal Implications**

71 There are minimal fiscal implications for this bill due to the fact that changing
72 attendance has no monetary cost.

73

74 **Environmental Implications**

75 There are minimal environmental implications to this bill.

76

77 **Effective Date**

78 This bill will go into effect on July 1st, 2020.



**New York State YMCA
Youth And Government**

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #: AF-17

1 **Sponsors:** Orion Crossman, Alison Diaz, Abigail Stringer

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend section 125.05 of the penal code in order to make the intentional killing of a
5 pregnant person and their fetus a first-degree murder.

6

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

9 **Purpose**

10 This bill is necessary because it is important to ensure appropriate justice for
11 serious offenders who are responsible for the death of a parent and fetus.

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1**

14 Class D felony: A class D felony results in fines and prison sentences typically
15 ranging from 3-6 years

16 Abortional act: An Abortional act is an action with the ultimate outcome being the
17 miscarriage of an unborn fetus:

18 Viable fetus: A viable fetus is a fetus that is far enough into development to where
19 it can survive outside of the uterus under normal circumstances.

20 First-degree murder: A first degree murder in New York State is classified as a
21 premeditated murder, felony murder or murder under "special circumstances"
22 which include killing police officers or firefighters.

23 **Section 2**

24 S 125.45 abortion in the first degree.

25 a person is guilty of abortion in the first degree when he commits

26 upon a female pregnant for more than twenty-four weeks an abortional act

27 which causes the miscarriage of such female, unless such abortional act is

28 justifiable pursuant subdivision three of section 125.05. If this abortional act results

29 in the death of the pregnant person as well as their unborn fetus, this will

30 automatically be qualified as a first-degree murder under the New York State penal
31 code.

32 **Justification**

33 A study has proven that from 1990 to 2016, a recorded 20% of people who are

34 pregnant and die during their pregnancy are murdered. Due to the current laws

35 regarding abortion, the non-consensual abortion of a fetus only requires minimal

36 punishment. The fact that according to the CDC the second leading cause of death

37 for pregnant women is homicide in the US, we can ensure that following through

38 with this amendment will ensure that those who are murdered during their

39 pregnancy and lose their unborn fetus in the process are provided justice. The



**New York State YMCA
Youth And Government**

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #: AF-17

40 results of this bill will be that the murderer(s) will be sentenced to life in prison
41 without parole and without judge discretion.

42 **Fiscal Implications**

43 This bill after being taken into effect will cost roughly \$60,000 per inmate annually.

44 **Environmental Implications**

45 There are minimal environmental implications for this bill.

46 **Effective Date**

47 This bill will be taken into effect one year after passing.

48



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #:AF-18

1 **Sponsors:** Harrison Bender, Skyler Mongardi, Baylee Vester

2
3 **An Act To**

4 Amend § 70.70 of the New York State Penal Law to mandate the rehabilitation of
5 minors convicted of possession of controlled substances.

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

8
9 **Purpose**

10 To provide rehabilitation for minors convicted of possession of controlled
11 substances.

12
13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1: Definitions**

15 Controlled Substance: A drug or chemical whose manufacture, possession, or use is
16 regulated by a government, such as illicitly used drugs or prescription medications
17 that are designated by law.

18 Schedule II Drug: Substances in this schedule have a high potential for abuse
19 which may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

20 Minor: A person under the age of full legal responsibility.

21 Class A Misdemeanor: A court may sentence an individual to a maximum of one
22 year in jail or three years probation. In addition, a fine of up to \$1,000 or twice the
23 amount of the individual's gain from the crime may be imposed.

24 Class D Non-Violent Felony: Ranges from No Jail with Probation, to a maximum of 7
25 years.

26 **Section 2:**

27 § 70.70 Sentence of Imprisonment for felony drug offender other than a class A
28 felony.

29 (d) The court may direct that a determinate sentence imposed on a
30 defendant convicted of a class B felony, other than the class B felony defined in
31 section 220.48 of this chapter, pursuant to this subdivision be executed as a
32 sentence of parole supervision in accordance with section 410.91 of the criminal
33 procedure law.

34
35 (e) The court will direct that a determinate sentence imposed on a
36 defendant, who is a minor, convicted of a class A misdemeanor or a class D felony
37 pursuant to this subdivision, will be executed as a sentence of appropriate
38 mandatory rehabilitation in accordance with section §220.03 and §220.06 of the
39 penal law.

40
41 **Justification**



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #:AF-18

42 One in five adults admit to abusing recreational or prescription drugs during their
43 teenage years, meaning nearly two hundred thousand children admitted to being
44 victimized by the lack of guidance in our communities and court system. There are
45 certainly thousands more people not admitting to abusing these drugs that are
46 likely feeling the lasting effects every day, and something needs to lower this
47 number. Community organizations such as the Office of Addiction Services and
48 Supports (OASAS), New York State Health Council, and The Substance Abuse and
49 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are doing their part, yet our court
50 systems seem to frequently come up short with a seventy-seven percent recidivism
51 rate of drug offenders. With our bill, there will be less recidivism due to the
52 rehabilitation of these vulnerable minor offenders as there were in other nations.

53

54 **Fiscal Implications**

55 State rehabilitation centers are already covered by the state budget. Any non-state
56 rehabilitation centers will be paid for by the insurance company the individual is
57 under, and the difference will be paid for by the state. If needed, funds will be
58 added to the budget to compensate for the influx of new patients as it has in the
59 past.

60

61 **Effective Date**

62 This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #:AF-19

1

2 **Sponsors:** Nadia Nitollano, Maya Reiken, Raquel Sarig

3

4 **An Act To**

5 Amend section 2.20 of the NYS Criminal Procedure Law to state that NYS law
6 enforcement agencies cannot detain, arrest or investigate individuals for
7 immigration enforcement purposes.

8

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

10

11 **Purpose** The purpose of this bill is to make it much more difficult for NYS peace
12 officers to deliberately target individuals due to their immigration status.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1:**

16 **Detain:** to hold a person in custody, often for purposes of questioning.

17 **Peace Officer:** any employee of a state, county, or a municipality, a sheriff or other
18 public law enforcement agency.

19 **Hold Request:** a request to a jail (regarding someone in custody) asking the jail to
20 notify ICE when the person will be released, and to hold the person for an extra 48
21 hours so that ICE has an opportunity to come get them.

22 **Civil Immigration Warrant:** a form issued by certain immigration officers that names
23 an allegedly deportable non-citizen and directs various federal immigration
24 enforcement agents to arrest that individual.

25 **Immigration Status:** the way in which a person is present in the United States.

26 **Section 2:**

27 3. A peace officer, whether or not acting pursuant to his special duties, who lawfully
28 exercises any of the powers conferred upon him pursuant to this section, shall be
29 deemed to be acting within the scope of his public employment for purposes of
30 defense and indemnification rights and benefits that he may be otherwise entitled
31 to under the provisions of section fifty-k of the general municipal law, section
32 seventeen or eighteen of the public officers law, or any other applicable section of
33 law.

34 **4. New York law enforcement agencies shall not use department money or**
35 **resources to arrest, detain or investigate persons for the purpose of immigration**
36 **enforcement. This includes any of the following:**

37 **(A) Inquiring into an individual's immigration status.**

38 **(B) Detaining an individual on the basis of ICE hold requests.**



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #:AF-19

39 (C) Making arrests based on civil immigration warrants.

40

41 **Justification** This bill must be passed due to its enormous significance and
42 relevance in the world today. The success of sanctuary states and counties is
43 extremely apparent when looking at the statistics of sanctuary versus non-
44 sanctuary areas. For instance, a 2019 article from the *Center for American Progress*
45 expresses that sanctuary counties have lower crime, unemployment, and poverty
46 rates than non-sanctuary ones. In addition, these regions encourage good
47 relationships between law enforcement and undocumented immigrants, making
48 them safer and more humane. NYS becoming a sanctuary state is crucial for
49 protecting these individuals, statewide, against federal immigration laws that have
50 the potential to significantly harm or endanger them.

51

52 **Fiscal Implications** This bill will have very limited to no fiscal implications because
53 the salary of NYS peace officers will not change, only their roles and limitations. In
54 addition, jail and holding facility expenses will have no reason to rise, since the bill
55 actually puts limits on arrests and detainment.

56

57 **Environmental Implications** This bill will have limited to no impact on the
58 environment.

59

60 **Effective Date** This bill will go into effect 6 months after passage.

61



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4

Bill #:AF-28

1

2 **Sponsors:** Willa Einstein, Celia Holden, Jimena Perez-Tetuan, Zaida Rio Polanco

3

4 **An Act To**

5 An act to amend §267 of New York State Consolidated Public Health Law in order to
6 provide feminine hygiene products for public housing tenants

7

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

9

10 **Purpose** Make feminine hygiene products available at no cost for women in New
11 York State public housing

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions**

14 **Public housing** - housing provided for people with low incomes (less than \$58,450
15 annually), subsidized by public funds

16 **Feminine hygiene products** - pads and tampons

17 **Secondary schools** - public schools at the middle and high school level

18 **Section 2: Provisions**

19 All elementary and secondary public schools in the state serving students in any
20 grade from grade six through grade twelve shall provide feminine hygiene products
21 in the restrooms of such school building or buildings. Along with elementary and
22 secondary public schools, feminine hygiene products should be provided in public
23 housing as well. Such products shall be provided at no charge to students and
24 tenants.

25

26 **Justification**

27 This bill is important because it makes sure that menstruating women living in
28 public housing have access to products like pads and tampons. In many struggling
29 families, paying for food, rent and heat might be seen as more important than
30 paying for pads and tampons. Women would be forced to either bleed through
31 clothing or use other alternatives which could be unsanitary and harmful.

32 Secondary schools already provide these supplies for menstruating girls in all
33 bathrooms. It is immoral to abandon adults living in public housing with these
34 unnecessary costs. These are women that have to stretch out paychecks on a daily
35 basis. They should not have to spend their money on these supplies.

36

37 **Fiscal Implications**



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4

Bill #:AF-28

38 New York State would spend approximately \$100 every year on one family in need
39 of period products. There are 9,121 households living in New York State public
40 housing. This means that it would cost \$912,100 per year to fund this bill. Although
41 this may seem excessive, the New York State Health budget is \$74,210,952,000, so
42 this bill would only require a reallocation of 0.000012% of the New York State
43 Health budget funds.

44

45 **Environmental Implications**

46 Pads and tampons do have a significant impact on the amount of plastic pollution
47 created. In fact, close to 20 billion sanitary napkins, tampons and applicators are
48 dumped into North American landfills every year. These products are not
49 biodegradable since they are 90% plastic and their materials could potentially
50 spend hundreds of years in our landfills. Alternative options of disposing feminine
51 supplies are not much better. Burning them would release even more detrimental
52 greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

53 Furthermore, a year's worth of a typical feminine hygiene products leaves a carbon
54 footprint of 5.3 kg CO2 equivalents. The materials that are used to make these
55 pads and tampons contribute to plastic pollution. This is an already existing
56 problem in our society that is not addressed often enough.

57

58 **Effective Date**

59 This bill will go into effect July 1 of the year following its passage.



New York State YMCA

Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1

Bill #:AL-02

Sponsors: Olivia Lombardo

An Act To: Amend § 901 Title 1 Article 19 of the Education Law to implement Condom Availability Programs (CAPs) to public high schools in New York State.

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

Purpose: This bill will provide public high school students with free and accessible contraceptives via the school they attend.

Summary of Provisions

§ 901. School health services to be provided. 1. School health services, as defined in subdivision two of this section, shall be provided by each school district for all students attending the public schools in this state, except in the city school district of the city of New York, as provided in this article. School health services shall include the services of a registered professional nurse, if one is employed, and shall also include such services as may be rendered as provided in this article in examining students for the existence of disease or disability and in testing the eyes and ears of such students, as well as providing students with condoms upon request.

2. School health services for the purposes of this article shall mean the several procedures including, but not limited to, medical examinations, dental inspection and/or screening, scoliosis screening, vision screening and audiometer tests, designed to determine the health status of the child; to inform parents or other persons in parental relation to the child, pupils and teachers of the individual child's health condition subject to federal and state confidentiality laws; to guide parents, children and teachers in procedures for preventing and correcting defects and diseases; to instruct the school personnel in procedures to take in case of accident or illness; to survey and make necessary recommendations concerning the health and safety aspects of school facilities and the provision of health information. Additionally, condoms will be made free and accessible to students at their request and will be distributed by a registered professional nurse, if one is employed.

Justification It is a simple fact that teens are engaging in sexual intercourse--70% of teenagers in New York State reported to have had sex by the time they were 19. However, the methods by which teens are engaging in this kind of sexual activity are often unsafe due to their stigmatization. In New York State alone, according to research produced by Planned Parenthood, over half of teenagers feel



New York State YMCA

Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1

Bill #:AL-02

uncomfortable talking to their parents about sex; this, combined with a lack of access to condoms without parental approval or adequate monetary resources, does not actually deter teens from engaging in sexual intercourse, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Rather, it does the opposite: teens continue to have sex, but they do so without the proper protection. When implemented in schools everywhere from Massachusetts to Colorado, CAPs programs showed a significant decrease in unplanned pregnancies, an increase in the use of protection during sex, and no significant increase or decrease in sexual activity among high school students. These programs were proven to be both effective and necessary, promoting access, safety, and a more informed student body.

Fiscal Implications The state will incur a \$522,900 annual cost.

Environmental Implications Due to the nature of condoms as they are traditionally manufactured, both its packaging and the condom itself are made entirely out of plastic--an entity that is detrimental to the environment. However, the greatest burden on the environment to date is not plastic, but humans. Since the usage of condoms reduces unplanned pregnancies, it can be challenged that the increase in plastic condoms may potentially positively, rather than negatively, impact the environment.

Effective Date This bill shall go into effect one after passage.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-09

1 **Sponsors:** Justin Cooke, Kenny Schneider, Adam Schultzer, Ian Hua

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend section 94 of the New York State Social Service Law by adding subsection 5
5 to have free or reduced meals for all eligible students attending a public college in
6 New York

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

8 **Purpose**

9 The purpose of the bill is to make it easier for students that attend public college by
10 making it cheaper for them to get meals.

11 **Summary of Provisions**

12 **Section 1: Definitions**

13 **Eligible:** Having the right to do or obtain something.

14 **Participate:** to take part in an activity.

15 **Section 2:**

16 § 94. Federal donated commodities. 1. (a) Until his social services
17 district has been included in the food stamp distribution program or
18 programs under section ninety-five, each commissioner of social services
19 is authorized and required, in accordance with regulations of the
20 department, to assist needy families and individuals of his social
21 services district to obtain federal donated commodities for their use,
22 by certifying, when such is the case, that they are eligible to receive
23 such commodities, and by distributing such commodities to eligible
24 families and individuals. However, only those who are receiving or are
25 eligible for public assistance or care and such others as may qualify in
26 accordance with federal requirements and standards promulgated by the
27 department shall be certified as eligible to receive such commodities.

28 (b) Each commissioner of social services shall develop and submit to
29 the department for its approval a plan describing his district's
30 operations under this section, which plan shall accord with federal and
31 state requirements.

32 2. Federal donated commodities shall not be deemed or construed to be
33 public assistance and care or a substitute, in whole or in part,
34 therefor; and the receipt of such commodities by eligible families and
35 individuals shall not subject them, their legally responsible relatives,
36 their property or their estates to any demand, claim or liability on
37 account thereof.

38 3. A person's need or eligibility for public assistance or care shall
39 not be affected by his receipt of federal donated commodities.

40 4. Any inconsistent provisions of law notwithstanding, expenditures
41 made by social services districts for the purpose of certifying



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-09

42 eligibility of needy families and individuals for federal donated
43 commodities and for distributing such commodities to them shall be
44 deemed to be expenditures for the administration of public assistance
45 and care and shall be subject to reimbursement by the state in
46 accordance with the provisions of section one hundred fifty-three to the
47 extent of one hundred percentum thereof.

48 5. An act to add section 5 of the New York State Social Service Law by adding to
49 have free or reduced meals for all eligible students attending a public college in
50 New York. (a). The student will be eligible for free or reduced meals by how much
51 income the family makes.

52 (i)The students will be determined eligible through the same chart the public
53 schools already use.

54 (ii)The students must go through the eligibility chart again whether they were
55 eligible in high school. Students from families with a household income of \$70,000
56 a year are eligible for reduced lunch.

57 (iii)The reduced percent for meals will be estimated around 84% of the annual price
58 of the meal plan for a year

59

60 **Justification**

61 According to market watch 45% of college students struggled to feed themselves
62 last year. Within America, New York is the 6th most expensive state to go to college.
63 To decrease this percent, this bill will, make it so the students can have free or
64 reduced meals.

65 **Fiscal Implications**

66 The cost of this program will be paid for by the taxpayers of New York at a rate of only \$1.10 a
67 month.

68 **Effective Date**

69 The upcoming school year after passage.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-10

1 **Sponsors:** Alexis Ahn, Phoenix McBride, Heidi Becken

2 **An Act To**

3 Amend Article 22, section 623.2 of Correction Law to require the state to provide
4 free domestic telephone service to individuals within the custody of the department
5 of corrections.

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

8
9 **Purpose**

10 To ensure that the earnings of prisoners and their potentially financially burdened
11 families are not further diminished by unscrupulous and exorbitant phone call fees.
12 This amendment additionally seeks to reduce recidivism rates, decrease the
13 financial burden on the families of those incarcerated, and incentivize the reduction
14 of costs associated with incarceration by policymakers.

15
16 **Summary of Provisions**

17 **Section 1: Definitions**

18 Commissioner: The Commissioner of Correction; the head of the Commission of
19 Correction, the body tasked with providing for a safe, stable, and humane
20 correctional system.

21 Prison: a secure facility operated by a state or the federal government that houses
22 people who have been convicted of a felony criminal offence and are serving a
23 sentence of (typically) 1 year or more.

24 **Section 2:**

25 § 623.2 Telephone Fees.

26 ~~2. The department shall make available either a "prepaid" or "collect call" system,~~
27 ~~or a combination thereof, for telephone service. Under the "prepaid" system, funds~~
28 ~~may be deposited into an account in order to pay for station to station calls,~~
29 ~~provided that nothing in this subdivision shall require the department to provide or~~
30 ~~administer a prepaid system. Under a "collect call" system, call recipients are~~
31 ~~billed for the cost of an accepted telephone call initiated by an inmate. Under~~
32 ~~such "collect call" system, the provider of inmate telephone service, as an~~
33 ~~additional means of payment, must permit the recipient of inmate calls to~~
34 ~~establish an account with such provider in order to deposit funds to pay for such~~
35 ~~collect calls in advance.~~



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-10

36 To the extent that the department provides telephone services to inmates, the
37 department shall provide all such telephone services to inmates without charge to
38 the inmates or the receiving parties.

39

40 **Justification**

41 Free phone calls for inmates is not a new idea, as there has already been a
42 precedent set within New York State; the New York City Council has recently passed
43 a law, stating that New York City jail inmates would not be charged for their phone
44 calls. In addition, legislation has been put forth by multiple states to achieve the
45 same goal. These changes come in light of numerous studies, which have shown
46 that more frequent contact with people outside of prison drastically reduces the
47 rate of recidivism for inmates, and frequent contact with family members and loved
48 ones is critical to reentry into society. In contrast, leaving jail/prison with little to no
49 money undoubtedly increases the rate of recidivism, as inmates may find it difficult
50 to sustain themselves upon reentry.

51

52 **Fiscal Implications**

53 Using the most costly situation in which every state prisoner makes a 30-minute
54 phone call every day of the year, this bill would constitute about \$26 million
55 annually, which would be added to the Department of Corrections and Community
56 Supervision budget.

57

58 **Environmental Implications**

59 This bill has no environmental implications.

60

61 **Effective Date**

62 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

63

64



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-16

1 **Sponsors:** Owen Perala, Tyler Michaels

2
3 **An Act To** Amend the New York State Education Law Section 3204 Subsection 3
4 under Article 65 to mandate a second language in all schools.

5
6 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

7
8 **Purpose** To amend the New York State Education Law Section 3204, Subsection 3
9 to mandate a second language in the first eight years of full-time public day
10 schools.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1**

14 **Foreign language:** any language other than English.

15
16 **Section 2**

17 **Section 3204**

18 3. Courses of study. a. (1) The course of study for the first eight years of full time
19 public day schools shall provide for instruction in at least the ~~twelve~~ thirteen
20 common school branches of arithmetic, reading, spelling, writing, the English
21 language, geography, United States history, civics, hygiene, physical training, the
22 history of New York state, science, and a foreign language of either Mandarin
23 Chinese, Spanish, or French.

24
25 **Justification**

26 43% of the world is bilingual, and 13% is trilingual, United States citizens know an
27 average of 0.7 languages. 20% of the United States students speak a foreign
28 language in grades K-12, but in Europe, 92% of students do. In addition to this,
29 only 58% of middle schools and 25% of elementary schools offered a foreign
30 language in 2008, according to a 2017 report by the Commission on Language
31 Learning. These statistics are lower than the 75% and 31%, respectively, that they
32 were in 1997. Learning foreign languages has already been proven to be important,
33 as dual language learning gives students a wider worldview, allowing for more
34 collaborative learning. In addition to this, bilingual students can focus more intently
35 on the topics at hand and ignore distractions. They also demonstrate a higher
36 ability to change based on their environment and circumstances.

37
38 **Fiscal Implications**

39 Fiscal implications will vary from school district to school district, as schools will
40 have different needs based on the number of students in their district, the
41 existence or absence of an existing program, and availability of any existing foreign
42 language teachers. A first-year teacher's salary is \$60,477, while the average



**New York State YMCA
Youth And Government**

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-16

43 teacher salary is \$79,588. It is presumed that most school districts will not need to
44 pay another full-time teacher, however, they may need to pay an existing teacher
45 for more working time. The average hourly salary for a teacher in New York State is
46 \$21.32.

47

48 **Environmental Implications**

49 There are no known environmental implications for this bill.

50

51 **Effective Date**

52 The law will go into effect three calendar years after this bill passes.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3

Bill #:AL-19

1 **Sponsors:** Zachary Phelps, Jordan Colon, Logan Bush, Evan Anello

2

3 **An Act To** Amend § 52 of the General Construction Law to abolish daylight saving
4 time (DST).

5

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

8

9 **Purpose** To abolish daylight savings time to improve public health, increase
10 productivity, save energy, and save money.

11 **Summary of Provisions**

12 **Section 1: Definitions**

13 **Standard time:** a uniform time for places in approximately the same longitude,
14 established in a country or region by law or custom.

15 **Daylight savings time:** The advancement of standard time by one hour at two
16 o'clock on the second Sunday in March, which becomes the standard time
17 throughout the year until the first Sunday in November at two o'clock of the same
18 year, when the standard time falls back by one hour.

19 **Section 2:**

20 § 52. Time, standard.

21 1. The standard time throughout this state is that of the seventy-fifth
22 meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, except as hereinafter provided, and all
23 courts and public officers, and legal and official proceedings shall be regulated
24 thereby.

25 2. ~~At two o'clock antemeridian on the last Sunday in April of each year, the~~
26 ~~standard time throughout this state shall be advanced one hour from that of the~~
27 ~~seventy-fifth meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, and the time so advanced~~
28 ~~shall continue to be standard time throughout this state until the last Sunday in~~
29 ~~October of the same year, when such standard time, as so advanced, shall be~~
30 ~~retarded to that of the seventy-fifth meridian west from Greenwich; and during~~
31 ~~such period in each year all courts and public officers, and legal and official~~
32 ~~proceedings shall be regulated in accordance therewith.~~

33 **Justification**

34 DST does not save energy. Although the additional daylight time reduces demand
35 for household lighting, it increased demand for cooling on summer evenings and
36 heating in early spring and late fall mornings. DST has an extreme effect on human
37 health. Changing sleep patterns, even by one hour, goes against a person's natural
38 circadian rhythms and has negative consequences for health. Studies show an



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3

Bill #:AL-19

39 increase in workplace injuries, suicide, headaches, depression and miscarriages.
40 Daylight savings time increases the risk that a car accident will be fatal and results
41 in over thirty more deaths from car accidents annually. Eliminating DST would save
42 a lot of money through opportunity cost, program writing and maintenance, and
43 energy.

44 **Fiscal Implications**

45 An estimated one point seven billion dollars are lost each year in opportunity cost
46 spent moving clocks, watches, and devices forward and backward. For devices that
47 automatically follow daylight savings time, there is cost in building DST support into
48 computer systems and keeping them maintained. The amount of money needed to
49 change these DST supported computers would be negligible compared to the
50 amount saved.

51 **Effective Date** This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2021



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-25

1 **Sponsors:** Nathan Slawson, Savannah Werner, Emera Aquila, Moriah Clendenin,
2 Haley Brown

3
4 **An Act To** Amend the education law, § 504 in relation to clarifying health
5 education access for all.

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

8
9 **Purpose** Require all public-school districts to include an online assistance referral
10 system on their district website and provide instruction on the use of the platform.

11
12
13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1: Definitions**

15
16 Online Referral System: a web-based program that works across all electronic
17 platforms and contains contact information of service providers relevant to student's
18 mental health needs.

19
20 Mental Health: a person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional
21 well being.

22
23 **Section 2: Provisions**

24
25 Section 1 adds a new paragraph to Education Law § 504 to declare that mental health
26 as well as physical health is part of health education in the schools. Section 2 makes
27 the bill effective on July 1, 2018. Section 3 will require districts to provide a online
28 mental health referral system on their district websites as well as provide education
29 to students and the community it serves on how to access the platform.

30
31 **Justification** Having an mental health online referral system in school districts will
32 help eliminate mental illness and suicide. Researchers estimated that 50% of
33 mental illness begins at age 14. Unfortunately, researchers have also shown that
34 many children and adolescence do not receive treatment. Mandating an online
35 referral system will help children and adolescents receive treatment they need.
36 Research shows that over 80% of students with emotional and behavioral disorders
37 have scored below the general population in reading, writing, and math. Half of all
38 cases of anxiety disorders begin as early as age 8 and about 22% of youth aged
39 13-18 experience serious mental disorders. While it is mandatory for teachers to
40 include Mental Health in their curriculum, so students are aware, it is not required



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-25

41 they have methods in place that allow students to report. It is embarrassing to go
42 to the guidance office and ask for help and is also a part of the social anxiety
43 disorders that they need help with. This system also provides an anonymous way
44 for students to seek help without the stigma of going to the guidance office at the
45 same time providing data that the schools and the members of their community
46 may be facing allowing them to be proactive in offering services, classes, or other
47 resources as needed. Teens say that 96% of kids in their community struggle with
48 anxiety and depression, and 90% struggle with bullying. Having this online referral
49 system in schools and communities will help save lives of loved ones.

50
51 **Fiscal Implications** A popular platform much like the one we are suggesting costs
52 \$6,000 per year. \$1 million in grant money was set aside in the initial passage of
53 this bill for districts across NYS to implement the teaching of mental health in
54 schools. This equates to less than .01% of the grant money set aside for teaching
55 about mental health in schools. Therefore, there would be no immediate tax burden
56 on the taxpayers of the state.

57
58 **Enviornmental Implications** There are no foreseeable environmental implications
59 that will be caused by this proposal.

60
61 **Effective Date** This law will go into effect on August 1 of the year following its
62 passage.

63
64



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-26

1 **Sponsors:** Madison Catania, Sarah Duenzl, Kenny Gillio, Edward Gubelman

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend section § 130.30 of Penal Law to increase the penalty for second degree
5 rape from a Class D Felony to a Class C Felony.

6

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

8

9 **Purpose**

10 To increase the punishment for those who commit second degree rape so that the
11 punishment fits the crime, and by doing so, ensuring that New York State is taking
12 the correct actions necessary to help prevent second degree rape.

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1: Definitions**

15 Class D Felony- Fraud, theft, robbery, burglary, and manslaughter in special cases
16 are Class D Felonies in New York State.

17 Class C Felony- Assault, fraud, types of theft, robbery, larceny and drug distribution are
18 each charged as a Class C Felonies in New York State

19 **Section 2**

20 § 130.30 Rape in the second degree.

21 A person is guilty of rape in the second degree when:

- 22 1. being eighteen years old or more, he or she engages in sexual
23 intercourse with another person less than fifteen years old; or
24 2. he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person who is
25 incapable of consent by reason of being mentally disabled or mentally
26 incapacitated.

27 It shall be an affirmative defense to the crime of rape in the second
28 degree as defined in subdivision one of this section that the defendant
29 was less than four years older than the victim at the time of the act.

30 Rape in the second degree is a ~~class-D felony~~: class c felony.

31 **Justification**

32 Second Degree Rape needs a more severe punishment than a Class D Felony, as it
33 can emotionally damage and scar someone for his or her entire life. The current
34 punishment in place is not the correct punishment to fit the crime. These rapists
35 need a more realistic punishment than what is currently enforced. With this bill in
36 place, the punishment will be raised from a class d felony (2-7 years) to a class c
37 felony (3 ½ to 15 years). It is horrific that those who commit second degree rape
38 aren't dealt with in a more proper manner. Rape has been a growing issue that
39 hasn't been dealt with in a proper manner in New York State. On average, there are



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-26

40 433,648 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the
41 United States. Justice needs to be served for these rape victims, and this bill will
42 help serve that justice. It is also statistically proven that 94% of women who are
43 raped experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the
44 two weeks following the rape. Not only are these victims physically damaged, but
45 they are emotionally damaged as well. With that being said, the increase in
46 punishment is more than justifiable.

47 **Fiscal Implications**

48 The increase in a Class D Felony to a Class C Felony will mean that violators of this
49 bill will be incarcerated longer. This increase in incarceration will likely increase New
50 York State taxes.

51 **Environmental Implications**

52 This bill will change the culture surrounding second degree rape. Rapists will not
53 win this battle, as they have taken enough from the victim and will finally be
54 punished correctly for their actions. Hopefully, this will also make the victims and
55 those who feel threatened feel safer and have a better sense of closure,
56 understanding that the one who raped them is held accountable and dealt with the
57 right way.

58 **Effective Date**

59 This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-27

1 **Sponsors:** Samantha Ivey and Chase Thalheimer

2
3 **An Act To** Add paragraph 3-b to subdivision (a) of New York Tax Law § 1115 to
4 exempt emergency contraceptives from tax on retail sales.

5
6 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

7
8 **Purpose** To allow the best access to emergency contraceptives, reduce unwanted
9 pregnancies, dangerous self-induced abortions, and further advance economic
10 equality between genders.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1**

14 **Emergency Contraceptives:** a method of contraception that prevents pregnancy
15 after unprotected sex or birth control failure. Examples include Plan B and Copper-T
16 IUDs. Nonexamples include condoms, birth control pills, spermicide, and
17 diaphragms.

18 **Copper-T IUDs:** An intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD) inserted into the uterus
19 to prevent pregnancy.

20 **Plan B:** Brand name for a commonly-used progestin-only emergency contraceptive
21 designed to prevent pregnancy within 72 hours after a contraceptive accident or
22 unprotected sex.

23 **Section 2**

24 § 1115 (3) Drugs and medicines intended for use, internally or externally, in the
25 cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of illnesses or diseases in human beings,
26 medical equipment (including component parts thereof) and supplies required for
27 such use or to correct or alleviate physical incapacity, and products consumed by
28 humans for the preservation of health but not including cosmetics or toilet articles
29 notwithstanding the presence of medicinal ingredients therein or medical equipment
30 (including component parts thereof) and supplies, other than such drugs and
31 medicines, purchased at retail for use in performing medical and similar services for
32 compensation.

33 (3-a) Feminine hygiene products, including, but not limited to, sanitary
34 napkins, tampons, and panty liners.

35 **(3-b) Emergency contraceptives, including, but not limited to, Copper-T IUDs**
36 **and emergency contraceptive pills such as Plan B.**

37
38
39



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4

Bill #:AL-27

40 **Justification**

41 The cost of popular emergency contraceptive, Plan B, costs \$51.60 with tax. In
42 about 5 hours of minimum wage work, one could make \$51.60. That same sum of
43 money could be saved as money towards rent, used to pay for groceries of an
44 entire week, or used to pay for forms of transportation. According to the
45 reproductive rights organization, the Guttmacher Institute, as of 2014, there were
46 an estimated 20 million women who were in need of publicly funded contraceptive
47 services and supplies because they either had an income below 250% of the federal
48 poverty level or were younger than 20. Those of low income are less likely to
49 purchase emergency contraceptives themselves as they cannot afford it nor the
50 abortion, they would need without it, leaving them with the dangerous option of
51 unsafe, self-induced abortion. Due to the criminalization of this act of extreme
52 desperation through NYS Penal Law, Article 125.50, it is unclear just how many
53 women choose this option as these tragic instances are often underreported. In
54 addition to a financial need that is expressed by many women, as of 2017, access
55 to resources that allow for family planning has decreased as 39% of New York
56 counties have no clinics that provide abortions and the number of New York
57 abortion clinics have decreased by about 100 in the past 3 years. The lack of safe
58 clinics leads to an increase in dangerous, self-induced abortions. If they had better
59 access to emergency contraceptives, they could stop the pregnancy altogether.
60 Moreover, allowing emergency contraceptives to join the list of untaxed items
61 among male reproductive health products such as condoms and Viagra, and will
62 strengthen New York's actions to become a leader in the encouragement of
63 economic equality. New York's journey of economic equality began in 2016 with the
64 elimination of the regressive tampon tax. This journey will continue through the
65 elimination of the tax on emergency contraceptives thus increasing accessibility and
66 economic equality between genders.

67 **Fiscal Implications**

68 The tax on emergency contraceptives is a burden placed primarily on women and is
69 only easily available to those who can afford it. It is, therefore, a discriminatory tax
70 against women and those of low economic status. In the instance of a tax-free male
71 condom failing, the woman must pay a tax to purchase an emergency
72 contraceptive. This is simply unfair. Eliminating such a tax would encourage
73 economic equality between men and women while easing the burden on those of
74 low economic status who are unable to pay the tax.

75 **Environmental Implications**

76 This bill will have a nonexistent impact on New York State wildlife.

77 **Effective Date**

78 This bill will go into effect January 1 of the year following its passage.