



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1184

By Council Member Dromm

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to books in city correctional facilities

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 9 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 9-155 to read as follows:

§ 9-155 Access to publications. a. The commissioner shall provide inmates with access to a library containing new or used publications from publishers, organizations, and outside donors. Such access shall be offered within 48 hours of the inmate's admission whether or not affirmatively requested by the inmate.

b. Such library shall offer a variety of fiction and non-fiction publications, which shall not be censored unless they contain instructions on the manufacture or use of dangerous weapons or explosives, plans for escape, or other materials that may compromise the safety and security of the facility.

c. Publications offered to inmates shall be maintained in good condition.

d. Inmates shall be permitted to borrow such publications to read outside the library.

e. Such library shall be open during from at least 8:00 a.m to 9:00 p.m., and access by inmates shall not be restricted except during lockdown times.

f. No later than December 1, 2019, and on or before December 1 annually thereafter, the department shall report to the mayor and the council, and post on its website, the number of publications provided in each facility under the jurisdiction of the department, the source of such publications and, if such publications were censored, the reason for their censorship.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law, provided that the commissioner of correction shall take all necessary action, including the promulgation of rules, before such effective date.

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