

ASSEMBLY, No. 5172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 14, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JESSICA RAMIREZ

District 32 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State and county correctional facilities to make feminine hygiene products of varying absorbency levels available to female inmates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the provision of menstrual products in
2 correctional facilities, and amending P.L.2019, c.288.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2019, c.288 (C.30:1B-6.8) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 4. The Commissioner of Corrections shall:

10 a. place an inmate who has a minor child in a State correctional
11 facility as close as possible to that child's place of residence at the
12 request of the inmate and prior to sentencing;

13 b. establish policies that encourage and promote visitation,
14 particularly for inmates who are primary caretaker parents,
15 including, but not limited to:

16 (1) requiring the visitation program be in operation at least six
17 days per week, including Saturday and Sunday, for at least three
18 hours per visit;

19 (2) prohibiting restrictions on the number of minor children
20 allowed to visit an inmate;

21 (3) authorizing up to three adult visitors; and

22 (4) authorizing contact visits;

23 c. prohibit the isolated confinement of a pregnant woman;

24 d. prohibit a staff member of, or medical service provider for, a
25 correctional facility from restraining a woman known to be
26 pregnant or applying restraints during any stage of labor, any
27 pregnancy related medical distress, delivery, or postpartum;

28 e. provide parenting classes to primary caretaker parents;

29 f. provide appropriate trauma informed care to inmates who
30 are primary caretaker parents and train correctional police officers
31 on how to interact with inmates who are victims of trauma;

32 g. allow former inmates who have returned to society, after
33 appropriate internal clearance, to mentor current inmates who are
34 incarcerated primary caretaker parents and assist these inmates with
35 reentry efforts;

36 h. require standard feminine hygiene products, including but
37 not limited to, tampons and sanitary pads of varying absorbency
38 levels, be provided at the request of and free of charge to female
39 inmates, and petroleum jelly, aspirin, ibuprofen, and any other item
40 deemed appropriate by the commissioner, to be made available to
41 inmates from the commissary or medical department;

42 i. restrict correctional police officers and other department
43 employees from entering the restrooms and shower facilities of
44 inmates of the opposite sex when occupied except when deemed
45 necessary by the commissioner; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 j. allow all pregnant women and inmates who are primary
2 caretaker parents to enroll in residential drug abuse and mental
3 health programs provided they meet the requirements of those
4 programs.
5 (cf: P.L.2019, c.288, s.4)
6
- 7 2. Section 5 of P.L.2019, c.288 (C.30:1B-6.9) is amended to read
8 as follows:
- 9 5. The chief executive officer or warden of each county
10 correctional facility shall:
- 11 a. establish policies that encourage and promote visitation,
12 particularly for inmates who are primary caretaker parents,
13 including, but not limited to:
- 14 (1) requiring in-person visitation three days per week, including
15 Saturday and Sunday, for at least 30 minutes per visit;
- 16 (2) prohibiting restrictions on the number of children allowed to
17 visit an inmate consistent with current regulations;
- 18 (3) authorizing up to two adult visitors; and
- 19 (4) providing consistent access to contact visits;
- 20 (5) authorizing contact visits with children;
- 21 b. prohibit the isolated confinement of a pregnant woman;
- 22 c. prohibit a staff member of, or medical service provider for, a
23 county correctional facility from restraining a woman known to be
24 pregnant or applying restraints during any stage of labor, any
25 pregnancy related medical distress, delivery, or postpartum;
- 26 d. provide parenting classes to inmates who are primary
27 caretaker parents;
- 28 e. provide trauma informed care to inmates who are primary
29 caretaker parents and train correctional police officers on how to
30 interact with inmates who are victims of trauma;
- 31 f. allow former inmates who are participating members of a
32 non-profit or reentry organization mentorship or visitation program
33 approved by the chief executive officer or warden to mentor current
34 inmates who are incarcerated primary caretaker parents and assist
35 these inmates with reentry efforts;
- 36 g. require standard feminine hygiene products, including but
37 not limited to tampons and sanitary pads of varying absorbency
38 levels, be provided at the request of and free of charge to female
39 inmates, and petroleum jelly, aspirin, ibuprofen, and any other item
40 deemed appropriate by the chief executive officer or warden, to be
41 provided at the request of and free of charge to inmates;
- 42 h. restrict correctional police officers and other department
43 employees from entering the restrooms and shower facilities of
44 inmates of the opposite sex when occupied except when deemed
45 necessary by the chief executive officer or warden; and
- 46 i. allow all pregnant women and inmates who are primary
47 caretaker parents to enroll in residential drug abuse and mental

1 health programs provided they meet the requirements of those
2 programs.

3 (cf: P.L.2019, c.288, s.5)

4

5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill requires State and county correctional facilities to make
11 feminine hygiene products of varying absorbency levels readily
12 accessible to female inmates.

13 Under current law, the Commissioner of Corrections in State
14 correction facilities, or the chief executive officer or warden in
15 county correctional facilities, is required to ensure that standard
16 feminine hygiene products, including but not limited to tampons
17 and sanitary pads, are provided at the request of and free of charge
18 to female inmates.

19 This bill amends current law to require that feminine hygiene
20 products of varying absorbencies be provided to female inmates.