

VETO MESSAGE - No. 225

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Assembly Bill Number 4982-A, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to persons authorized to visit correctional facilities"

NOT APPROVED

This bill would amend the Correction Law to allow members of the State Legislature to designate certain employees of the Department of Correctional Services ("DOCS") to accompany them on visits to correctional facilities and to add such employees to the list of persons authorized to visit any correctional facility at any time. The bill would take effect immediately.

This bill is opposed by both DOCS and the State Commission of Correction ("SCOC"). DOCS is concerned that the bill would interfere with its ability to supervise, manage, secure and control employees and facilities under its jurisdiction. The SCOC is concerned that the bill is unnecessary and could compromise security within correctional facilities. In addition, by authorizing legislators to direct the movement of Executive branch employees, the bill raises fundamental separation of powers concerns. I am constrained to disapprove the bill based on these objections as well as the lack of any demonstrated necessity for the bill.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) GEORGE E. PATAKI

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