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**VETO MESSAGE:**

VETO MESSAGE - No. 271

TO THE SENATE:

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

Senate Bill Number 6519, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to designating as police officers, warrant and transfer officers under the jurisdiction of the division of parole"

NOT APPROVED

The bill would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to extend police officer status to Warrant and Transfer Officers employed by the Division of Parole. The bill would take effect immediately.

Warrant and Transfer Officers are primarily responsible for transporting back to New York State parole violators who have been arrested and placed in custody in another state. In order to perform these duties, Warrant and Transfer Officers are designated as peace officers, with the authority to make warrantless arrests, use physical and deadly force where justified, carry licensed firearms, and execute warrantless searches. The bill would grant them the broader powers of a police officer, thereby authorizing them to also execute arrest and search warrants and make warrantless arrests for crimes committed outside their presence.

While I recognize and appreciate that Warrant and Transfer Officers perform an important and vital function within the Division of Parole, I am constrained to disapprove this bill. I am advised by the Division of Parole that Warrant and Transfer Officers are not involved in apprehending or arresting parole violators who are at-large, and they do not participate in any operations, either within this State or other jurisdictions, designed to identify the whereabouts of a wanted parole violator and effect his arrest pursuant to a parole violation warrant. Therefore, I have not been persuaded that conferring police officer status, with the substantial legal, practical and public policy consequences attendant thereto, on these individuals is necessary to enhance their effectiveness or promote public safety.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) GEORGE E. PATAKI

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