

A Message to our Elected Officials:

On behalf of the members of the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association, Inc., (NYSCOPBA) thank you for taking the time learn about our legislative agenda. Every year we advocate for our members and meet with elected officials to discuss important matters and our legislative agenda and priorities.

NYSCOPBA is a member-driven organization consisting of over 30,000 active and retired state employees. Our active membership is made up of state correction officers and sergeants; and approximately 2000 members in a variety of law enforcement titles in many state agencies.

NYSCOPBA's members perform vital public safety services in extremely volatile and dangerous working conditions. NYSCOPBA members conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity while putting their lives on the line each and every day to protect our communities.

Over the years, NYSCOPBA has been fortunate to develop many lasting relationships with members of the legislature and their staff. We are grateful for your past and continued support of our members. To our new friends, we welcome you and look forward to developing a long-lasting relationship where, together, we can work to improve on the many issues facing our membership.

NYSCOPBA will continue to advocate on behalf of our members to improve their working conditions, benefits and wages. They deserve it. Hopefully, with your support and friendship, we will work together to honor their commitment and dedication to New York State. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today.

Best regards,

Chris Summers  
NYSCOPBA President

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# New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc



**Keeping New York Safe**

**24 Hours a Day...  
7 Days a Week**



[www.nyscopba.org](http://www.nyscopba.org)

# NYSCOPBA 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## **AMENDMENTS TO HALT**

NYSCOPBA supports the recommendations proposed by the DOCCS committee tasked with examining HALT. The HALT law has taken away vital staff tools needed to keep prisons safe and has created incentives for bad behavior. The unanimous recommendations will allow staff to maintain order, safety and security by having the option to separate problematic individuals from those who are truly seeking services and treatments to improve themselves prior to their release.

## **EARNED VACATION DEFERRAL OPTION**

NYSCOPBA supports legislation to allow the voluntary deferral of up to five vacation days per year and receive a lump sum payment equal to the value of the time deferred upon retirement. This incentive is not pensionable and will not be calculated into FAS.

## **DEATH GAMBLE BENEFIT**

NYSCOPBA supports **S6406-A** to provide an in-service death benefit for Section 89 retirement plan members by allowing beneficiaries of deceased members to elect to receive a lump sum death benefit equivalent to the deceased member's pension.

## **FORCIBLE TOUCHING**

NYSCOPBA supports **A1742/S3517** to establish the crime of forcible touching of a correction officer and increase penalties for certain offenses committed against correction officers.

## **OPTIONAL 20-YEAR RETIREMENT PLAN**

NYSCOPBA supports legislation to offer an optional 20-year retirement plan payable at 50% FAS, with additional incentives for years worked after becoming retirement eligible.

## **SHTA RETIREMENT OPTION**

NYSCOPBA supports **A8370/S7755** to allow certain SHTA titles to file to change their retirement election during a prescribed period of time.

## **SSO 3/4 DISABILITY**

NYSCOPBA supports **S8159-A** which would provide eligible safety and security officers with a 3/4 disability retirement benefit.

## **KEEP FIXING TIER 6**

NYSCOPBA supports additional reforms for Tier 6 retirement plan members. New reforms to Tier 6 are needed to improve recruitment and retention of the state workforce. State workers are working through staffing shortages across all agencies, especially in law enforcement titles. Tier 6 reforms such as a standard 3% contribution rate for all employees and expanding caps on overtime used for FAS calculations would help in the recruitment and retention of public employees.

## **NYSCOPBA OPPOSES PRISON CLOSURES**

The adopted budget includes closing up to 3 prisons with 90 days notice. NYSCOPBA strongly opposes any proposals for prison closures, especially with only 90-day notice. And now, crime rates remain elevated and local jails are holding thousands of state-ready inmates awaiting transfer to state prison. Now is not the time to close more prisons.

Facilities closing devastates communities and are a slap in the face to our union members who have endured numerous closures and continue to work in very violent conditions. Rather than housing the incarcerated individuals (I.I.'s) in less space, the State should spread out the population to create a safer environment for all.

## **NYSCOPBA OPPOSES S1671/A5355**

NYSCOPBA opposes any legislation that seeks to undermine the collective bargaining process, or agreements negotiated with the State of New York and ratified by our members. This bill would do just that by place final decision-making authority regarding discipline of DOCCS staff for acts of serious misconduct solely in the hands of the DOCCS Commissioner. This legislation would remove our members' right to arbitration and due process outlines the CBA.

## **NYSCOPBA OPPOSES HALT 2.0**

NYSCOPBA opposes A1261/S3763 - the so-called "Rights Behind Bars Act" which would remove the few effective tools that remain to maintain safety and security in state correctional facilities.

