

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



“Death Gamble” Legislation S4077 Ritchie / A5133 Jenne

This bill would modify the in-service death benefit for tiers 2 through 6 State Correction Officers and Sergeants. The in-service death benefit will be the value of the pension reserve as if the members had retired on their date of death. The provision is scheduled to expire five years after the date of enactment. This important legislation will provide incentives for seasoned Officers to work past 25 years of service knowing that in the event of their untimely death, their beneficiaries will be able to receive the pension that the employees have paid into over the course of their careers.



Aggravated Harassment S2046 Bonacic / A659 Gunther

This bill amends section 240.32 of the Penal Law to include the conduct of intentionally exhorting upon an employee within the provisions of aggravated harassment of an employee by an inmate. With the inclusion of language that requires a specific intent by the incarcerated individual to spit on an employee, the bill would ensure that unintended exhorting, which can often occur during a heated discussion or argument, does not constitute a crime under the bill.

Subpoena Notification S3581 Gallivan / No Same As

This bill requires that notice be provided to any Officer or employee of the DOCCS whose personal information is the subject of a subpoena. The bill requires the Commissioner to provide written notice within five (5) business days of issuing a subpoena.



SSO Peace Officer S247 Ortt / No Same As

This bill would allow for full-time Peace Officer status for Safety and Security Officers employed with OMH and OPWDD. Safety and Security Officers patrol and inspect treatment facilities, handling all safety and security issues and preventing the endangerment of patients and persons with disabilities, employees, visitors and property. Like other law enforcement personnel, Peace Officer status should be provided to them on a full time basis.



Community Heroes Protection Act S1114A Akshar / A2962A Abbate

This bill designates offenses aimed at First Responders, Correction Officers, Firefighters, medical service personnel and other law

enforcement personnel as “hate crimes.” This legislation intends to support and protect the men and women who devote their lives to protecting and serving the people of New York State.

In addition to the legislation above, NYSCOPBA strongly supports any legislation that would increase STAFFING LEVELS, TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT to combat high levels of violence and contraband in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for all who live and work at the facilities.

We Oppose...

- Any legislation that further erodes the utilization of Special Housing Units as a tool for staff to properly impose discipline for inmates who jeopardize the safety and security of facilities.
- Constitutional Convention – the potential erosion of pensions and benefits protected by the State’s Constitution, would undermine the efforts and gains that public employees have fought for years to obtain.
- Any legislation that would impose so-called Right to Work laws limiting a union’s right to collectively bargain on behalf of its members and threatening the very existence of public employee unions.