

TO ALL NYSCOPBA MEMBERS, RETIREES, AND FRIENDS & FAMILIES:

**CALL TO ACTION!!! YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS CALL TO ACTION IS CRUCIAL!!!**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! NYSCOPBA's #1 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR FOR EXECUTIVE ACTION. **PLEASE CONTACT GOVERNOR CUOMO'S OFFICE TODAY AND URGE HIM TO SIGN OUR "DEATH GAMBLE" LEGISLATION INTO LAW!!** THE GOVERNOR WILL HAVE **UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>** TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS LEGISLATION. CONTACT HIM NOW!!!

**ABOUT THE BILL...**

**S.4077-A (Ritchie)/A.5133-A (Jenne)** – This bill would provide the beneficiaries of a deceased State Correctional Officers or Sergeant with a benefit equal to the value of the pension reserve as if the deceased individual retired on the day of his or her death.

**HOW CAN YOU CONTACT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE?**

[Governor Andrew Cuomo Facebook Page](#)

[@NYGovCuomo](#) - Twitter Feed

[Website Contact Form](#) – The contact form must be filled out entirely before submitting. Select and/or cut and paste the following information:

- Topic: Select "Legislation" option
- Subject: Sign S.4077-A (Ritchie)/A.5133-A (Jenne) – NYSCOPBA "Death Gamble" Legislation
- Message: Cut and paste the sample text provided below, or craft your own.

**By phone: 1-518-474-8390**

**Office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm.** Tell them that you support bills S.4077-A (Ritchie)/A.5133-A (Jenne) and that you encourage the governor to sign the legislation into law.

**Contact by Mail**

Send the Governor a letter using the sample text below, or craft your own.

**Letters can be sent to:**

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Sample Text:**

On the following page.

Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to sign S.4077-A (Ritchie)/A.5133-A (Jenne) into law. This bill will provide the beneficiaries of a deceased State Correction Officer or Sergeant with a benefit equal to the value of the pension reserve as if the deceased individual retired on the day of his or her death.

Today, thousands of NYSCOPBA members are eligible to retire. We are seeing our colleagues retire from state service as soon as they are eligible, but we need to retain our most seasoned and experienced correction officers and sergeants to teach and train our younger, less-experienced officers. Nearly one-third of NYSCOPBA members are eligible to retire and the system is not equipped to handle a mass exodus of experienced law enforcement personnel. By providing a death benefit that protects our members and their families, the State can help retain our most experienced officers and ensure that the system continues to operate efficiently.

Under existing law, if a State Correctional Officer or Sergeant is eligible for a service-based retirement and continues working, his or her beneficiaries receive a lump sum payment of three times salary if the employee should die while in service, even though a pension would have been payable if the employee had retired on the date immediately preceding his or her death.

Enactment of this legislation would simply provide the beneficiaries of a service-retirement eligible Correction Officer or Sergeant who dies while in service with the benefit that they would have been entitled to, had their respective loved one retired, instead of opting to continue serving the people of the State of New York. For those dedicated law enforcement officers who make the decision to continue providing critical services for the benefit of all New Yorkers, the State should take the logical step of ensuring that the families of these dedicated civil servants are protected.

For these reasons stated herein, I respectfully request that you sign S.4077-A (Ritchie)/A.5133-A (Jenne) into law.

Respectfully submitted,