



# NEWSBEAT...

Newsletter from the Office of  
**Senator Bill Perkins**

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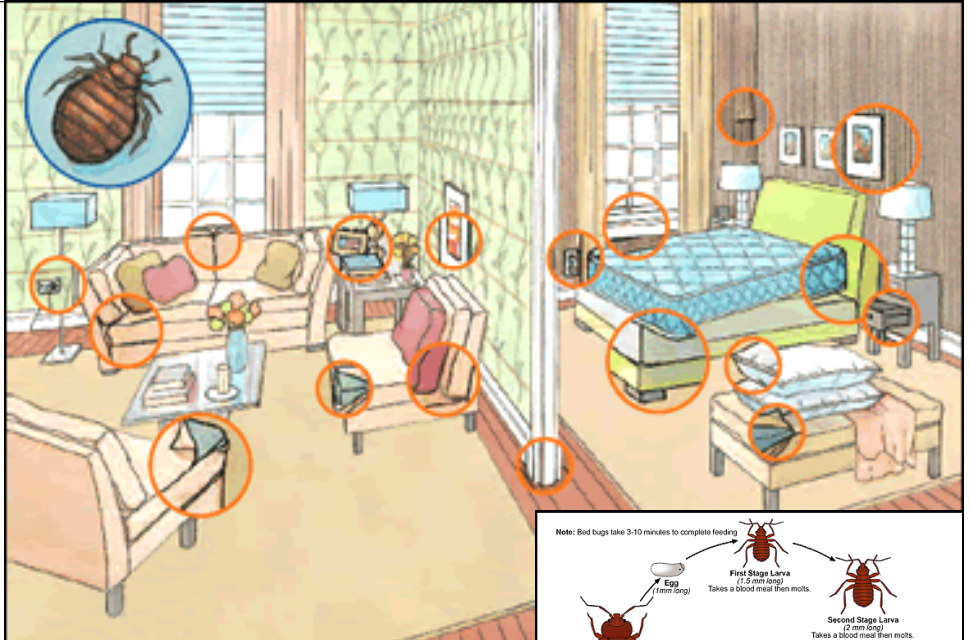
## **New York State Senator Bill Perkins Votes for Anti-Bed Bug Legislation Providing Safeguards to Fight New York Outbreak**

**B**ed bugs will have a harder time hopping between mattresses – and into your home - thanks to measures approved by the Senate Democratic Majority with the support of Senator Bill Perkins. The legislature passed legislation (S7316B/Peralta) adding additional safeguards to prevent the cross-contamination of furniture infested with bed bugs.

Within the last five years, bed bug infestations have become rampant across all zip codes in New York City. Getting rid of bed bugs is a costly, time-consuming and emotionally draining process.

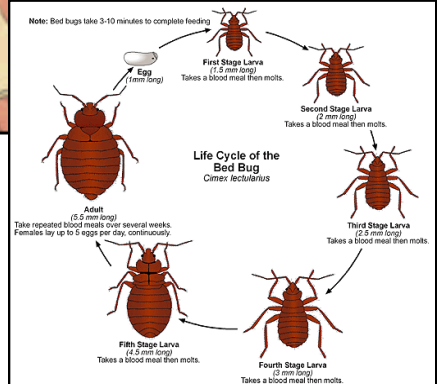
“Keeping your homes clean is not enough to stop the spread of bed bugs infesting our city. Second hand bedding that is offered for sale must be properly sanitized, properly handled and clearly labeled so customers know what they are buying. Our common sense legislation will protect consumers, protect our health and fight these pests that are plaguing New Yorkers,” said Senator Bill Perkins (D-30<sup>th</sup> District) said.

The legislation approved by the senate would help get rid of these unwanted insects by eliminating cross contamination between infested furniture, particularly second-hand bedding, and new mattresses - one of the leading contributors to the spread of bed bugs. This measure requires the sanitization of second-hand bedding, and prohibits used bedding that has not



**Bed bugs need a blood meal to grow and lay eggs. A female lays 5-7 eggs per week and if fed, will lay 200-500 eggs in her life. Eggs take about 10 days to hatch. Bed bugs are fully grown in 2 to 4 months and can live as long as a year.**

**Although Bed bugs bites are not lethal, one should use the website at the end of this article to gain as much knowledge about to protect your household from them.**



been sanitized from being transported, stored or sold with new bedding.

Senator Perkins says consumers need to be clearly informed when they are buying bedding so they can be aware of potentially infested purchases. The consumer protections in the new legislation include:

- Eliminating the term “new” when it comes to permitting bedding that was returned within thirty days.
- Requiring full disclosure on bedding labels to include the manner of sanitization and chemicals used for cleaning.

- Changes in the ways used bedding is allowed to be transported, stored, or sold.
- Requiring annual inspections of bedding manufacturers.
- Requiring label reform to include notices that the bedding was used and sanitized.
- Instituting penalties for non compliance of the above amendments.

For more information about bed bugs visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vector/vector-faq1.shtml>