



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

New Law Gives Prosecutors More Tools to Combat Hate

Jim Ranney

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ISSUE:

- [hate crimes](#)



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed legislation allowing prosecutors to increase penalties against those who make bomb threats against community centers.

This legislation was in direct response to the significant number of bomb threats called into Jewish Community Centers in New York and across the country. It will make it clear that individuals that falsely make bomb threats to a community center can be charged with a public order offense which is, at a minimum, a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

Previously, this charge pertained to offenses that took place on highways, transportation facilities, schools, places of amusement, parks, playgrounds, and hallways, lobbies and other portions of, apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence. This bill (A.7198A/S.5512) expands that list to include community centers.

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan said, "We should not tolerate acts of racism or hatred, or those cowards who make unfounded threats on community spaces. This legislation clarifies and extends the penalties for these appalling actions. Cracking down on threats to public spaces will create a greater sense of security and safety for our children and our families. I am pleased that Governor Cuomo took swift action in signing this bill into law."

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said, "The recent wave of hate and vitriol that has swept this state and this nation is intolerable and in New York, we stand strong with our values of tolerance, kindness and empathy. This new law will ensure that any individual who seeks to instill fear into New Yorkers will be served justice - I commend Governor Cuomo for signing this legislation to protect everyone across New York State."

related legislation

2017-S5512

- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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[Includes community centers in the definition of "public place"](#)

April 04, 2017

Senate Floor Calendar

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Do you support this bill?