



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

Senate Passes Bill to Prevent Double-Bunking of Some Inmates

JIM RANNEY June 15, 2018

| ISSUE: **CRIME AND CORRECTION**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) announces the New York State Senate has passed legislation (S-8028) which would prohibit the double bunking of inmates within dormitory style State correctional facilities. Senator Gallivan, who is Chair of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections, sponsored the bill.

The practice of double bunking began in the late 1980's to address the increasing prison population at that time. The change in policy increased the number of inmates housed in medium security dormitories, typically constructed to accommodate up to 50 inmates, to

between 60 and 90 inmates.

"Maintaining a safe environment for those who work and live inside our correctional facilities is paramount," said Senator Gallivan. "Dormitory-style housing units allow for greater mobility and interaction, but as these facilities become overcrowded the risk to officers, staff and inmates increases. Preventing the use of double bunks will help reduce the threat of disturbances and ensure a safer environment for everyone."

The New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association Inc. (NYSCOPBA), which represents over 30,000 New York State employees and retirees from the Security Services Unit., supports the legislation.

"NYSCOPBA applauds the efforts of Senator Gallivan in introducing this critical piece of legislation," said NYSCOPBA President Mike Powers. "For years, NYSCOPBA has advocated for the removal of double bunks within the State's medium dorms in an effort to create a safer prison environment for our dedicated Correctional Officers and Sergeants. Currently, thousands of empty beds exist in DOCCS facilities that could absorb all double bunking and create a much safer environment for staff. Removing all double bunks in our medium dorms not only addresses the overcrowding epidemic and safety concerns but recognizes the extremely hazardous nature of the jobs that the men and women of NYSCOPBA perform."

According to DOCCS, approximately 50,000 inmates are housed in 54 facilities across the state.

The bill will be sent to the Assembly.

2017-S8028

- 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
-

Relates to the prohibition of double-bunked housing in correctional facilities

March 20, 2018

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Patrick M. Gallivan**

Do you support this bill?