



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Tedisco

Tedisco & Santabarbara to Governor: We Demand Bail Reform Changes Must Be Made “In the Light of Day” NOT Hidden In Budget

Senator Jim Tedisco

February 28, 2020



In response to the Governor's statements that any changes to the controversial bail/discovery reform law should be made in the state budget, Senator Jim Tedisco (R,C,I,REF-Glenville) and Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara (D-Rotterdam) -- a bi-partisan duo in the state legislature and the most outspoken voices on bail reform -- are again teaming-up to demand any changes to the bail reform law to be publicly announced, discussed, debated and voted on outside of the state budget.

"When the Governor says it's easier to do 'difficult' legislation in the budget, what he's really saying is he can sneak through bad legislation that is opposed by much of the state by stifling debate and keeping the public in the dark. As Bob Woodward has said, 'in darkness democracy dies.' New York State is now in this dilemma of having a revolving door of danger and disaster through the secretive process of putting bail reform in the budget in the middle of the night and not properly and publicly vetting the legislation with all stakeholders and through the media to the public," said Senator Jim Tedisco.

"The legislature, public and media should demand total transparency with any new so-called bail reform. It should be presented publicly and then discussed, debated and voted on its own merits separately from the budget on the Floor of the Senate and Assembly and not passed in the middle of the night on March 31st as part of one of the final budget bills so legislators can hide behind the budget process," said Senator Jim Tedisco.

"If the Governor is serious about addressing the big problems caused by bail reform then he shouldn't repeat the same mistake last year—putting bail reform into the state budget where it doesn't belong," said Assemblyman Santabarbara. "The truth is, he's already waited far too long to take responsibility to do something about the growing concerns over public safety in New York State," Santabarbara said. "It's time for the Governor to take things a little more seriously. This is the top issue in the state and should be taken up in a bi-partisan bill, not in the state budget. He can start with (S.6861/A.9047) which I introduced months ago!"

Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santabarbara urge the Governor to call for passage of sponsoring legislation ([S.6861/A.9047](#)) which allows the courts to make an appropriate risk assessment based on a defendant's prior felony conviction(s), a failure to make a court appearance, or a subsequent arrest while awaiting a preliminary hearing or trial. The new law which took effect on January 1st, provides

no such discretion to judges.

Tedisco also is sponsoring the bill for a full repeal of the bail reform law ([S.6849](#)).

related legislation

[2019-S6849](#)

-
- 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
 -

[Repeals certain provisions relating to the issuance of securing orders to conforming changes](#)

November 13, 2019

In Senate Committee [Codes](#)

Sponsored by [James Tedisco](#)

Do you support this bill?