

For Immediate Release: June 6, 2018

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Senate Passes Three Tedisco Bills to Protect Pets & People

All Three Tedisco Public Safety Bills Pass By a 61-0 Vote!

“Kirby & Quigley’s Law” passes State Senate to make it a felony punishable by up to 2 years in jail to harm pets during the commission of another felony

Tedisco also passes bills to address bridge crime of animal cruelty by prohibiting felony Buster’s Law animal abusers from owning pets again, require abusers receive psychiatric evaluations, and increasing penalties for animal cruelty, animal fighting and promoting animal fighting

Senator Jim Tedisco (R,C,I,REF-Glenville) today announced that the New York State Senate has passed three of his public safety bills to protect pets and people from violent criminals who would inflict pain and suffering on them.

“We have an obligation as a government to protect all members of our family, including those who have no voice. Unfortunately, there are some individuals who fail to see the value of our companion animals, resulting in animal abuse, cruelty and neglect, which occur far too often. Animal cruelty is a bridge crime and a top tier Group A offense for the FBI, when it comes to crime reporting and is on their criminal profile as those who are so dastardly as to harm our pets can and often do go on to hurt people,” said Senator Tedisco, Senate Co-Chair of Animal Advocacy Day, and the driving force behind the landmark passage of Buster’s Law in 1999.

The first Tedisco measure, “Kirby & Quigley’s Law” ([S.1680A/A.3038B](#)) which would make it a Buster’s Law felony punishable with 2 years in jail and a \$5,000 fine for harming a companion animal during the commission of another felony. “Kirby & Quigley’s Law” was named for two Montgomery County dogs that were truly members of the Krohn Family who were shot and killed during a burglary which is still an unsolved case. It passed the Senate by a vote of 61-0.

“The Krohn family are true heroes in helping to get this bill passed as they have turned their terrible tragedy into something positive to help others. There’s no question that anyone who would invade a home and assassinate two loving dogs in cold blood would harm a human being,” said Tedisco. “The Senate has passed ‘Kirby and Quigley’s Law’ six years in a row and now it’s time for the Assembly to bring justice to the Krohn family and to the memory of Kirby and Quigley by enabling this bi-partisan legislation to come to the Floor of the Assembly for a debate and up or down vote.”

The second Tedisco bill ([S.2501/A.6938](#)), prohibits those convicted of violating “Buster’s Law” animal cruelty felony statute from owning or possessing a companion animal and ensures convicted abusers receive a psychiatric evaluation, passed by a vote of 61-0.

The third Tedisco bill ([S.1712/A.8082](#)), which passed by a vote of 61-0, would increase penalties for violating “Buster’s Law” from the current two years in jail and a \$5,000 fine to four years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The bill increases prison time for those convicted of organizing the barbaric practice of animal fighting from four years to six years in prison and boosts fines from \$25,000 to \$30,000. It also increases the penalty for those who are knowingly present as a spectator at an animal fight from a misdemeanor with one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, to two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The bills were on the agenda for yesterday’s 8th Annual [NYS Animal Advocacy Day](#).

“These measures aren’t just about protecting our pets, they’re about keeping all members of our family safe from violence. Serial killers Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, and David “Son of Sam” Berkowitz as well as the Columbine High School shooters all started out as animal abusers before they began preying on people. There’s often a direct correlation between domestic violence and animal cruelty,” said Senator Tedisco.

All three public safety bills now move to the Assembly for consideration where “Kirby & Quigley’s Law” is being sponsored by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara (D-Rotterdam) and the other two bills are sponsored by Animal Advocacy Day Co-Chair Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF-Manhattan).

“Earlier this year, I passed ‘Suzanne’s Law – the Assault-Free School Zone Act’ ([S.2881/A.6582](#)) and ‘Jacobe’s Law’ ([S.1355B/A.8114B](#)), to protect some of our most vulnerable populations: our children and students from violence and bullying on school grounds,” said Tedisco. “Protecting the least of our creatures from those who go on to hurt parts of our human families is an important and significant accomplishment. And now we ask our Assembly colleagues to do the same!”

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