



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anthony H. Palumbo

Long Island Senate and Assembly Republicans Introduce Bills in Response to Horrific Dismemberment Crime

ANTHONY H. PALUMBO March 12, 2024



Legislation Would Make Body Dismemberment Bail Eligible;
Strengthen Use of Ankle Monitors in Certain Situations

Albany, NY – Senators Anthony Palumbo and Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, along with Assemblyman Mike Durso and members of the Senate and Assembly Republican Conferences announced the introduction of legislation in response to the horrific case in Babylon after body parts were discovered in a recreational park and several other locations, including a local neighborhood.

The suspects in the case were released under New York's notoriously flawed bail laws after being charged with the concealment of a human corpse by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office as part of their ongoing investigation, and ordered to remain in Suffolk County with GPS ankle monitors.

The newly proposed bills would make the crime of body dismemberment/concealment of a human corpse a bail eligible class E felony (**S.8751**); and would strengthen the use of electronic location monitoring (**S.8778**). in the most heinous cases, such as this one.

"I don't think anyone would argue that a world where people charged with the crime of body dismemberment can walk back out onto the streets is a good place, yet here in New York, that is the world in which we are living thanks to Democrat's failed criminal justice policies. Measured in changes to the law, and proposed revisions, let alone the societal impact due to a skyrocketing increase in crime, bail reform has to be regarded as one of the worst bills ever passed in New York State history. Having to introduce new legislation to hold people charged with the crime of body dismemberment/concealment of a human corpse merely reminds us of the severe shortcomings of the law and the priorities of the legislators who wrote it.," **said Senator Anthony Palumbo, SD 1, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary and Codes Committees and a former Suffolk County Prosecutor.**

"We must address the glaring gaps in our bail laws that allow individuals suspected of heinous crimes to walk free without appropriate safeguards. Despite GPS monitoring being intended as a less restrictive alternative to custody, New York State's bail reforms categorize it as a custodial condition similar to pre-trial detention, with the same time limitations

before an individual must be released. While New York's bail reforms still need a comprehensive overhaul, this horrific case in Babylon underscores yet another glaring loophole in the law that needs to be corrected immediately. Members of the community should not have to fear that those credibly suspected of such depraved acts may be released back into the community with no way to monitor them. My proposed legislation seeks to rectify this by ensuring that GPS monitoring is not treated the same as truly holding a suspect in custody," **stated Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, 9th Senate District.**

"To have to explain to members of the Babylon community, my constituents, that those suspected of chopping up a human being can be arrested and just walk free is horrifying. I was not in office when dangerous bail 'reforms' were passed, but I will fight like hell to undo broken policies that provide criminals more protection than they provide our communities. Our police and prosecutors are expected to do their jobs in a criminal justice system where the deck is stacked against them. The case in Babylon generated headlines not only for the gruesome details involved, but because it showed how obviously broken our criminal justice system is. I'm proud to introduce legislation that addresses a glaring loophole in the state's bail laws, and strengthens the tools that prosecutors need to ensure our neighborhoods are safe from dangerous criminals," **said NYS Assemblyman Mike Durso, 9th Assembly District.**

"How many more horrifying examples of criminal activity do we need to see before we start fixing what's broken," Assemblyman McGowan said. "As a former prosecutor, I can't imagine the level of frustration within the Suffolk County DA's Office after making major arrests and watching the suspects walk directly out of Bail Reform's revolving door. It's never been clearer that New York must get back to the standards of law and order that existed before

2019's misguided 'reforms'. When heinous, violent crimes are committed, pre-trial detainment needs to be considered for the protection of the people we serve. I want to commend my colleagues for introducing these bills and I proudly support them," **Assemblyman John McGowan, 97th Assembly District.**

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