



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Hugh T. Farley

## SEN. FARLEY ANNOUNCES SENATE PASSES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM VIOLENT FELONS

SENATOR HUGH T. FARLEY May 17, 2016

| ISSUE: **CRIME AND CORRECTION**



State Senator Hugh T. Farley (R, C, I – Schenectady) reported that he and his colleagues in the New York State Senate recently passed legislation to protect communities from violent felons given early release from prison. Bill S2720 authorizes the State Board of Parole to require a violent felony offender to serve his or her maximum term if they pose an imminent threat to society and also authorizes the withholding of good behavior allowances.

Under current law, the Board of Parole does not have authorization to grant or deny a conditional release, and this becomes problematic when evidence exists that an inmate poses a danger to the community. In 2011, convicted serial rapist Robert Blainey, who had been released early from prison on parole due to merit time earned for good behavior, sexually assaulted and killed a woman in Utica, Oneida County. Prior to his release, Blainey was quoted in Parole Board transcripts stating, “Society is safer with me in prison. I can sit here and tell you people I'm not going to do it, I'm not going to do it, but it's not going to make a bit of difference.”

This measure would allow the state to deny inmates a conditional release with parole supervision if they pose an imminent threat to communities. It ensures violent felons serve their full sentence, without being given the opportunity to be released early due to good behavior in prison.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2015-S2720**

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- 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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Authorizes the state board of parole to require a violent felony offender to serve his or her maximum term, if release would pose an imminent threat to society

January 28, 2015

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Joseph A. Griffo**

Do you support this bill?