



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Senator Gallivan Announces Legislation to Fight Gang Violence

JIM RANNEY May 9, 2017

| ISSUE: **GANG VIOLENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) says the New York State Senate has approved legislation to fight the deadly criminal behavior of gangs throughout New York. The bill (S2410), co-sponsored by Senator Gallivan, creates the “Criminal Street Gang Enforcement and Prevention Act” to better prosecute gang violence and stop gang recruitment through proactive community outreach.

“As a former State Trooper and Sheriff of Erie County, I have seen the devastating impact gang violence can have on communities,” Gallivan said. “This legislation imposes stricter penalties and provides the resources to help law enforcement agencies better track gang activity across the state. It also cracks down on gang recruitment and supports efforts to educate young people about the dangers of gang involvement.”

Gang violence in urban and suburban areas throughout New York has increased, demonstrating a need for a more comprehensive method of tackling gangs. This bill would not only strengthen the legal options available to prosecute street gangs, but would also help address many root causes of gang recruitment and growth.

For the first time ever, the legislation legally defines criminal street gangs in New York’s penal statutes, giving prosecutors more options when charging offenders. Classifying and identifying this type of criminal activity will also help law enforcement better track gangs. Penalties are increased and new felonies are created for individuals who benefit from gang activity, participate in gang activity, and recruit youth or adults to participate in gang activities.

A new Criminal Street Gang Prevention Fund would also be established to support violence prevention and gang deterrence services provided by not-for-profit organizations. The measure would be funded partially through forfeited assets obtained following convictions for gang activity.

In addition, schools would consult with the state Division Criminal Justice Services to implement a model curriculum focused on gang violence prevention. This will help educators interact in a positive manner with children and their parents to assist in developing positive values, self-esteem, knowledge, and skills that can lead to productive,

gang-free, and drug-free lives.

The bill is sponsored in the Assembly by Codes Committee Chair Joseph R. Lentol (D, North Brooklyn).

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**2017-S2410**

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- Introduced
  
- ○ In Committee Assembly
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- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
- 

Enacts the New York state criminal street gang act

January 13, 2017

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Martin J. Golden**

Do you support this bill?