



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

Senator Gallivan Introduces Bill to Prevent Double Bunking of Some Inmates

JIM RANNEY March 23, 2018

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) and Assemblyman D. Billy Jones (D, Chateaugay) have introduced legislation (S-8028/A10173) which would prohibit the double bunking of inmates within dormitory style State correctional facilities.

The practice of double bunking began in the late 1980's to address the increasing prison population at that time. The change in policy increased the number of inmates housed in

medium security dormitories, typically constructed to accommodate up to 50 inmates, to between 60 and 90 inmates.

"The safety and security of correction officers, staff and inmates must be a priority in all of our facilities," said Senator Gallivan, who is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction. "By design, dorm-style settings allow for greater mobility of inmates. Preventing the use of double bunks will help limit the risk of disturbances and provide for a safer environment for everyone."

"In my 21 years as a corrections officer, I have direct experience with the risks associated with double bunking inmates," said Assemblyman Jones. "Overcrowded facilities put staff, our communities, and inmates at risk. Prohibiting double bunks will reduce the threat of disturbances and ensure a safer work environment for corrections officers."

"NYSCOPBA applauds Senator Gallivan and Assemblyman Jones for introducing a bill to alleviate overcrowding and to finally 'right-size' our medium facilities," said NYSCOPBA President, Michael Powers. "For years we have been asking the department to eliminate double bunks and transfer inmates to open beds. A more balanced inmate population will certainly lead to less violence and a safer environment for officers and inmates alike."

According to DOCCS, approximately 50,000 inmates are housed in 54 facilities across the state.

2017-S8028

- 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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Relates to the prohibition of double-bunked housing in correctional facilities

March 20, 2018

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Patrick M. Gallivan**

Do you support this bill?