



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

## Senator Lanza Announces New Law To Allow Pets on Public Transportation in a State of Emergency and Evacuation

ANDREW J. LANZA October 2, 2018

| ISSUE: **PROTECT PETS & PEOPLE, EMERGENCY AND HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS, STATE OF EMERGENCY, PETS, ANIMAL WELFARE**

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*Last year we worked together to ensure that pets could be transported on MTA buses and trains in the event of a state of emergency evacuation order. This bill expands the scope, ensuring that the same companion animal measures are in place for all public transportation provided through the Port Authority. This law will help ensure that the lives of residents, defenseless pets and emergency personnel struggling to assist with evacuations are not unnecessarily jeopardized.*

Senator Andrew Lanza announced today that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has signed legislation (S.7112/A.4956) to authorize pets boarding any public transportation service in the event of a state of emergency and evacuation. This legislation expands existing law to include Port Authority Public Transportation and is consistent with current emergency operation plans pertaining to the needs of animals and pet owners.

"For many New Yorkers, their pets are members of their families, and no one should be forced to abandon them in the event of an evacuation," Governor Cuomo said. "I'm proud to sign this commonsense, humane legislation to bring comfort to pet owners in times of

distress."

During Superstorm Sandy, many pet owners refused to evacuate when requested because they could not take their companion animals with them to safety. This situation to refuse evacuation not only jeopardized the lives of residents and defenseless pets, but also the emergency personnel struggling to evacuate them.

Senator Andrew Lanza said, "I thank Governor Cuomo for signing this bill into law. Last year we worked together to ensure that pets could be transported on MTA buses and trains in the event of a state of emergency evacuation order. This bill expands the scope, ensuring that the same companion animal measures are in place for all public transportation provided through the Port Authority. This law will help ensure that the lives of residents, defenseless pets and emergency personnel struggling to assist with evacuations are not unnecessarily jeopardized."

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal said, "Pets are like family, and no one should be expected to leave a beloved family member behind to fend for themselves in a natural disaster. This law will ensure that all New Yorkers - both two- and four-legged - can escape to safety on all available means of public transportation, including those operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey."

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RELATED LEGISLATION

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**2017-S7112**

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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 domestic companion animals be permitted to board any public transportation or public transportation service in the event of a state of emergency and evacuation

December 08, 2017

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Andrew J. Lanza**

Do you support this bill?