

Legislative Advocacy, Fall-2017

JUST was following eleven bills this past year. The majority did not make it out of committee. We provided a support letter to Assembly Member Weprin on his efforts to make sure state prisoners could have visitation restored after the Governor wanted to reduce it. The HALT (re: Solitary confinement) bill continues to add co-sponsors and gain advocates across the state.

We support the creation of a temporary state commission to look at upstate jail conditions, but will encourage Assembly Member Weprin to call for public hearings around the state as passage of his bill (A7959) will be an uphill battle. We encourage others in the IL network to add their voices to the call for public hearings.

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His bill that we are supporting:

A07959 (No same as in Senate)

Sponsor, Weprin Co-sponsor, Ryan

Creates a temporary state commission relating to local correctional facilities in upstate New York; emphasis shall be placed on medical and mental health care, overcrowding, inmate deaths, use of force and solitary confinement.

http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A07959&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y

Other passed bills we are watching as they will be sent to the Governor:

A3053/S3982 (Publishing parole decisions on state website)
A4032A/S4770A (Relates to duties of certain parole officers)

Also watching closely - issues related to "Raise the Age" and how it will be implemented in the counties. Some will propose building new jails to only house youth. New regulations and implementation will be forthcoming.

http://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/counties-brace-for-impacts-as-raise-the-age-becomes-law/article_619b7345-3671-5fff-9fe0-9faffef9df06.html?utm_source=July+20%2C+2017+Newsletter&utm_campaign=July+20%2C+2017&utm_medium=email

<http://jije.org/2017/07/23/whats-next-for-new-yorks-young-people-under-raise-the-age/>

<http://raisetheagency.com/get-the-facts>

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/04/14/the-fine-print-in-new-york-s-raise-the-age-law#.WEMSUqCqB>