



NEWS

New York State
Public Employees Federation
AFL-CIO

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PEF URGES GOVERNOR TO SIGN WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

Albany - The New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) is urging the governor to help make work-sites across the state safer by signing the **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill (S.6441 Spano/A.9691 John).

“The governor has led the fight to reduce violence and crime in our communities,” said PEF President Roger Benson. “Now, he has the opportunity to extend that effort to public sector worksites.”

The **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill requires public employers with more than 20 employees to assess risk and develop a plan of action to prevent potential workplace violence.

“Each year, thousands of public employees working to provide services in state facilities and institutions are assaulted by clients in their care,” Benson said. “This bill would establish minimum standards to help prevent that.”

The governor vetoed a similar bill last year citing technical flaws, but sponsors of the bill have made revisions addressing the governor’s objections. “The benefits of this bill are very clear; stronger crime prevention efforts, reduced workers’ compensation and related costs, and improved quality of state operations,” Benson added.

The annual cost of violence in public worksites in New York state is estimated to be in excess of \$125 million in workers’ compensation and related costs.

PEF supports two more bills as part of its **Stop Workplace Violence Campaign**. The **Judi Scanlon** bill (S.207 Maziarz/A.2570 Hoyt) directs that an Office of Mental Health employee who is required to enter the residence of a person with serious mental illness can request to be accompanied by another employee for safety reasons. The **Workplace Injury Disclosure and Accountability** bill, (S.6480 Robach/A.9692 John) amends the Civil Service Law to require that the state Department of Civil Service prepare an annual report about injury rates among state employees due to workplace injuries in state agencies and the costs incurred by the state as a result of those injuries.

The Senate delivered the **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill to the governor on May 26 after it passed both houses of the Legislature. The governor has 10 days to sign it.

The New York State Public Employees Federation represents 54,000 professional, scientific and technical employees.