

## Assembly passes anti-terrorism package

*New legislation will target terrorists and help prevent attacks*

The Assembly has passed a package of bills **sponsored/supported** by **Assemblymember (D-Somewhere)** to address the continued terrorist threat New York faces. The measures include legislation to ensure that state agencies coordinate their terrorism prevention operations, take powerful weapons out of the hands of terrorists, and put them and their supporters behind bars.

### *Helping law enforcement prevent terrorism*

**Assemblymember** pointed out that several terrorist prevention agencies — such as the Disaster Preparedness Commission, the Civil Defense Commission, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Task Force, Office of Public Safety, State Emergency Management Office, and Emergency Services Council — have been created or augmented since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, but little has been done to track their performance.

“A comprehensive, organized effort among agencies is the best way to protect our families from terrorists,” **Assemblymember** said. “Now that our country is at war, there is a heightened possibility of retaliation by terrorists. Yet, it’s not clear the governor’s office has put in place a streamlined plan to secure New York’s public safety. The public has no way of knowing if the agencies created to protect us from terrorism are working in an effective and coordinated way.”

The **Assembly’s/Assemblymember’s** measure would ensure that the work of these agencies does not overlap by requiring the governor to report to the Legislature within 90 days on how terrorism preparedness agencies are coordinating activities.

“We must be sure our families are getting results from these prevention and preparedness efforts,” **Assemblymember** said. “Government leaders must work together to sharpen preparedness strategies, and target resources in the most effective way.”

### *Protecting families from biological and chemical weapons*

“Since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, New Yorkers have become acutely aware that terrorism is a stark reality that can wreak havoc with our lives,” **Assemblymember** said. “Chemical and biological weapons are not just buzzwords we hear on the news — we need tougher laws to punish anyone who would unleash these weapons on our state.”

To protect New Yorkers from the danger of weapons of mass destruction, **Assemblymember’s/The Assembly’s** legislation would:

- make possession of chemical and biological weapons a felony carrying the punishment of life imprisonment without possibility of parole;
- require anyone convicted of a terrorist crime to submit a DNA sample for placement into a statewide databank; and
- make it a crime punishable by up to seven years in prison to send or place substances designed to resemble a chemical or biological weapon.

### *Stripping weapons away from terrorists*

**Assemblymember** noted that an important step to protecting New Yorkers from terrorists is to ban the sale of powerful .50-caliber or larger sniper weapons, which have been purchased by domestic and international terrorist organizations.

“These guns — which can penetrate an armored car, a manhole cover, concrete and bulletproof glass — are readily available at gun stores and on Internet sites,” said **Assemblymember**. “There is no good reason for a civilian to have a military-style weapon powerful enough to bring down a plane or helicopter.”

**Assemblymember’s/The Assembly’s** package also would:

- prevent the sale of dangerous weapons to terrorists by banning “straw” gun purchases — which are guns that are bought legally and then resold illegally, increase security at gun shops to prevent theft and require gun dealers to keep more stringent records;
- ban private ownership of all military assault weapons; and
- ban knives that are designed to look like innocuous items such as pens and combs.

### *Apprehending terrorists and their supporters*

**Assemblymember’s/The Assembly’s** terrorism package also includes legislation that will make it easier for law enforcement officials to catch terrorists and those who facilitate terrorism.

“Terrorists use very sophisticated tactics to plan their attacks against our families,” **Assemblymember** said. “We have to give the police and prosecutors more extensive tools to combat these activities and bring terrorists to justice.”

To help law enforcement officials crack down on terrorists and their supporters, **Assemblymembers/the Assembly’s** legislation would:

- require that tracer elements, or “taggents,” be placed in all explosive materials sold in New York;
- make money laundering to facilitate terrorism a felony;
- increase penalties for the facilitation of terrorism; and
- extend the statute of limitations for terrorist crimes, and eliminate the statute of limitations if the criminal could foresee the risk of death.

“These new laws represent a no-nonsense strategy to fight terrorism and protect innocent people from attacks,” said **Assemblymember**. “New York is sending a strong message that we are serious about fighting terrorism and will take necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of all New Yorkers.”