

First 100 Days Legislative Update
from Assemblyman Steve Otis

Week of January 28th

1. The Child Victims Act

I was very pleased that legislation to provide expanded avenues for justice for victims of childhood sexual abuse passed both houses of the Legislature on January 28th. I have been a co-sponsor of the Child Victims Act ([A.2683](#)) since joining the Assembly in 2013. The legislation will allow victims of childhood sexual abuse to seek justice by allowing them more time to pursue legal recourse as adults by changing the statute of limitations to seek criminal charges against perpetrators and expanding the ability of a victim to seek a civil claim. This legislation will open up the criminal and civil process to pursue charges or claims through the courts. The bill had passed the Assembly in recent years but had never passed the Senate before this year. The Governor supports the measure.

2. Protecting New Yorkers from Gun Violence

The Assembly and Senate passed common-sense gun reforms to reduce gun violence in New York State by keeping guns out of the hands of those that have demonstrated that they pose a risk. There is no doubt that firearms are in broad circulation throughout our country. Most of these common-sense reforms are focused on keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals or making sure loopholes in the background check process are closed. The other measures keep guns out of schools and prohibit the use of bump stocks, the device used in the Las Vegas mass shooting that allows a legal weapon to function as an illegal fully automatic weapon by firing 500 rounds per minute.

The measures adopted were:

- The Red Flag Bill ([A.2689](#)), which would allow a court to issue an extreme risk-protection order (ERPO), prohibiting a person who is determined to be a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm for up to one year.
- Comprehensive Background checks ([A.2690](#)); this legislation removes loopholes in the background check process, especially for individuals who have never been reviewed for a firearms background check before. Another bill ([A.1213](#)) would allow New York to check on out of state applicants to authorize access to out of state mental health records as part of the firearm license application process.
- Preventing Guns In Schools ([A.1715-A](#)): a bill that would prohibit a school administrator from arming teachers or other school employees in K-12 schools in New York State. School resource officers, law enforcement and security guards are still allowed to carry firearms when authorized by the school.

- Banning bump stocks ([A.2684](#)), a bill that would prohibit the possession, manufacture, transport, shipment and sale of devices like the bump stock that accelerate the firing rate of firearms so they operate in a similar manner as machine guns;
- Municipal Gun Buyback Program ([A.2685](#)) for illegal guns: The program, which would be administered by the New York State Police, would allow individuals to report and turn-in illegal firearms. Those participating would be immune from certain criminal possession charges and would be able to collect a monetary reward.

This past week I also participated in the Assembly/Senate joint budget hearing on transportation and pressed MTA officials on the overcrowding problem on some New Haven line trains.