



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0609-2010, **Version:** *

Res. No. 609

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to amend the Penal Law by classifying certain sexual assaults as class A felonies.

By Council Members Vallone, Jr., Cabrera, Koppell, Koslowitz, Palma, Vacca, Eugene and Koo

Whereas, Perpetrators who commit any sexual assault crime inflict immeasurable pain on many victims;
and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, there were 248,300 sexual assaults in 2007; and

Whereas, In response to the magnitude of this problem, on April 8, 2009, President Obama proclaimed April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in order to raise awareness about this issue; and

Whereas, Under the current New York State Penal Law, most of the egregious sex offenses including rape in the first degree, criminal sexual act in the first degree, aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree, and course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree are class B felonies that carry a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison; and

Whereas, Given the reported high rate of recidivism by convicted sex offenders released into society, defendants charged with committing such predatory crimes should be subject to harsher sentences; and

Whereas, In order to begin to address this issue, Assemblymember Michael Cusick and Senator Andrew Lanza introduced legislation (A.7402/S.479), which would amend the Penal Law by increasing the punishment available for the crime of rape in the first degree; and

Whereas, If enacted, the bill would increase the crime of rape in the first degree from a class B felony to an A-I felony, which carries a sentence of life imprisonment without parole and renders the perpetrator

ineligible for parole or conditional release; and

Whereas, Rape and sexual assault have a lifelong impact on victims, and perpetrators of these heinous crimes should be subject to the most serious punishment; and

Whereas, Passing legislation to increase the punishment for serious sexual assaults is significant progress in the right direction; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to amend the Penal Law by classifying certain sexual assaults as class A felonies.

SA
12/3/10
LS# 847
Res. 300/2006