

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5228

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. NOVAKHOV, BROOK-KRASNY, CHANG, NORBER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, the civil practice law and rules, the criminal procedure law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the criminal street gang abatement act of 2025; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "criminal street gang abatement act of 2025".

3 § 2. The penal law is amended by adding a new article 465 to read as  
4 follows:

### ARTICLE 465

#### CRIMINAL STREET GANG ABATEMENT

##### Section 465.00 Legislative findings and intent.

###### 465.05 Definitions.

###### 465.10 Criminal street gang activity; enhanced penalties.

###### 465.15 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention.

###### 465.20 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors.

###### 465.25 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors on school grounds.

###### 465.30 Statewide gang database.

##### § 465.00 Legislative findings and intent.

The legislature finds and determines as follows:

17 1. It is the right of every person, regardless of race, color, creed,  
18 religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, or handicap, to  
19 be secure and protected from fear, intimidation, and physical harm  
20 caused by the activities of violent groups and individuals.

21 2. The state of New York has seen an increase in violent street gangs  
22 whose members threaten, terrorize, and commit a multitude of crimes  
23 against the peaceful citizens of their neighborhoods. These activities,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 both individually and collectively, present a clear and present danger  
2 to public order and safety.

3 3. Gangs have expanded their criminal predations across every region  
4 in the state of New York. Furthermore, all of the nationally known gangs  
5 now exist throughout New York, and there has been a recent influx of  
6 hereto unknown criminal gangs as well. While gang membership in the past  
7 remained concentrated primarily in low-income communities, gangs have  
8 increasingly surfaced everywhere throughout the state, impacting the  
9 safety, prosperity, and quality of life for all New Yorkers.

10 4. The enactment of this article seeks to eradicate criminal activity  
11 by street gangs by focusing upon patterns of criminal gang activity, the  
12 chief source of violence created by street gangs.

13 5. Further, that an effective means of punishing and deterring the  
14 criminal activities of street gangs is through forfeiture of the  
15 profits, proceeds, and instrumentalities acquired, accumulated, or used  
16 by street gangs. These proceeds in turn, will provide a funding stream  
17 to implement proactive measures such as after-school programs to prevent  
18 youths from becoming gang members.

19 § 465.05 Definitions.

20 The following definitions are applicable to this article.

21 1. "Criminal street gang" means any ongoing organization, association,  
22 or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as  
23 one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal  
24 acts, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and  
25 whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in  
26 a pattern of criminal gang activity.

27 In order to secure a conviction, or a delinquent act, it is not neces-  
28 sary for the prosecution to prove that the person devotes all or a  
29 substantial part of such person's time or efforts to the criminal street  
30 gang, nor is it necessary to prove that the person is a member of the  
31 criminal street gang. Active participation in the criminal street gang  
32 is all that is required.

33 2. "Pattern of criminal street gang activity" means the commission of,  
34 attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of, a  
35 delinquent act, or conviction of two or more enumerated criminal acts,  
36 provided at least one of these criminal acts occurred after the effec-  
37 tive date of this article and the last of those criminal acts occurred  
38 within three years after a prior offense, and the criminal acts were  
39 committed on separate occasions, or by two or more persons.

40 3. "Criminal act" means conduct constituting any of the following  
41 crimes, or conspiracy or attempt to commit any of the following felo-  
42 nies:

43 Any of the felonies set forth in this chapter: sections 120.05, 120.10  
44 and 120.11 relating to assault; sections 125.10 to 125.27 relating to  
45 homicide; sections 130.25, 130.30 and 130.35 relating to rape; sections  
46 135.20 and 135.25 relating to kidnapping; section 135.65 relating to  
47 coercion; sections 140.20, 140.25 and 140.30 relating to burglary;  
48 sections 145.05, 145.10 and 145.12 relating to criminal mischief; arti-  
49 cle one hundred fifty relating to arson; sections 155.30, 155.35, 155.40  
50 and 155.42 relating to grand larceny; article one hundred sixty relating  
51 to robbery; sections 165.45, 165.50, 165.52 and 165.54 relating to crim-  
52 inal possession of stolen property; sections 170.10, 170.15, 170.25,  
53 170.30, 170.40, 170.65 and 170.70 relating to forgery; sections 175.10,  
54 175.25, 175.35, 175.40 and 210.40 relating to false statements; sections  
55 176.15, 176.20, 176.25 and 176.30 relating to insurance fraud; sections  
56 178.20 and 178.25 relating to criminal diversion of prescription medica-

1 tions and prescriptions; sections 180.03, 180.08, 180.15, 180.25,  
2 180.40, 180.45, 200.00, 200.03, 200.04, 200.10, 200.11, 200.12, 200.20,  
3 200.22, 200.25, 200.27, 215.00, 215.05 and 215.19 relating to bribery;  
4 sections 190.40 and 190.42 relating to criminal usury; section 190.65  
5 relating to schemes to defraud; sections 205.60 and 205.65 relating to  
6 hindering prosecution; sections 210.10, 210.15 and 215.51 relating to  
7 perjury and contempt; section 215.40 relating to tampering with physical  
8 evidence; sections 220.06, 220.09, 220.16, 220.18, 220.21, 220.31,  
9 220.34, 220.39, 220.41, 220.43, 220.46, 220.55 and 220.60 relating to  
10 controlled substances; sections 225.10 and 225.20 relating to gambling;  
11 sections 230.25, 230.30 and 230.32 relating to promoting prostitution;  
12 sections 235.06, 235.07 and 235.21 relating to obscenity; section 263.10  
13 relating to promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child; sections  
14 265.02, 265.03, 265.04, 265.11, 265.12, 265.13 and the provisions of  
15 section 265.10 which constitute a felony relating to firearms and other  
16 dangerous weapons; and sections 265.14 and 265.16 relating to criminal  
17 sale of a firearm; and section 275.10, 275.20, 275.30, or 275.40 relat-  
18 ing to unauthorized recordings; and sections 470.05, 470.10, 470.15 and  
19 470.20 relating to money laundering.

20 § 465.10 Criminal street gang activity; enhanced penalties.

21 1. Upon a finding by the trier of fact that a defendant is a member of  
22 a criminal street gang, or that a defendant, in the course of the  
23 commission of the underlying offense, actively participated in a crimi-  
24 nal street gang, the penalty for any felony or misdemeanor, or any  
25 delinquent act or violation of law which would be a felony or misdemea-  
26 nor if committed by an adult, shall be enhanced if the defendant was a  
27 member of a criminal street gang at the time of the commission of such  
28 offense and the court determines that the offense was committed with the  
29 intent to further such criminal street gang. Such finding shall be based  
30 upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

31 2. Such enhancement shall be as follows:

32 (a) A class A misdemeanor shall be deemed to be and be punished as if  
33 it were a class E felony;

34 (b) A class E felony shall be deemed to be and be punished as if it  
35 were a class D felony;

36 (c) A class D felony shall be deemed to be and be punished as if it  
37 were a class C felony;

38 (d) A class C felony shall be deemed to be and be punished as if it  
39 were a class B felony; and

40 (e) A class B felony shall be deemed to be and be punished as if it  
41 were a class A-II felony.

42 § 465.15 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention.

43 A person is guilty of gang solicitation, recruitment or retention when  
44 such person:

45 1. intentionally coerces, solicits, recruits, employs, causes, encour-  
46 ages, or conspires to cause another person to be or remain as a member  
47 of a criminal street gang that requires as a condition of membership or  
48 continued membership the commission of or participation in gang crimes;  
49 or

50 2. intentionally makes any communication, direct or indirect, consti-  
51 tuting a threat to person or property or to any associate or relative of  
52 the person being solicited, recruited or retained as a member of a crim-  
53 inal street gang that requires as a condition of membership or continued  
54 membership the commission of or participation in gang crimes.

55 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention is a class E felony.

56 § 465.20 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors.

1 A person is guilty of gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of  
2 minors when such person:

3 1. intentionally coerces, solicits, recruits, employs, causes, encour-  
4 ages, or conspires to cause another person under eighteen years of age  
5 to be or remain as a member of a criminal street gang that requires as a  
6 condition of membership or continued membership the commission of or  
7 participation in gang crimes; or

8 2. intentionally makes any communication, direct or indirect, consti-  
9 tuting a threat to a person under eighteen years of age, to property, or  
10 to any associate or relative of a minor being solicited, recruited or  
11 retained as a member of a criminal street gang that requires as a condi-  
12 tion of membership or continued membership the commission of or partic-  
13 ipation in gang crimes.

14 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors is a class D  
15 felony.

16 § 465.25 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors on school  
17 grounds.

18 A person is guilty of gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of  
19 minors on school grounds when such person:

20 1. while on school grounds, intentionally coerces, solicits, recruits,  
21 employs, causes, encourages, or conspires to cause another person under  
22 eighteen years of age to be or remain as a member of a criminal street  
23 gang that requires as a condition of membership or continued membership  
24 the commission of or participation in gang crimes; or

25 2. while on school grounds, intentionally makes any communication,  
26 direct or indirect, constituting a threat to a person under eighteen  
27 years of age, to property, or to any associate or relative of the minor  
28 being solicited, recruited or retained as a member of a criminal street  
29 gang that requires as a condition of membership or continued membership  
30 the commission of or participation in gang crimes. For the purposes of  
31 this section, "school grounds" shall be defined as provided for in  
32 subdivision fourteen of section 220.00 of this chapter.

33 Gang solicitation, recruitment or retention of minors on school  
34 grounds is a class C felony.

35 § 465.30 Statewide gang database.

36 1. The superintendent of the division of state police is hereby  
37 authorized to develop and maintain a statewide gang database consisting  
38 of identification information pertaining to gang members. For the  
39 purpose of this section, "gang member" or "criminal street gang member"  
40 shall mean an individual who is a member of a formal or informal group,  
41 club, organization, or association of three or more individuals who  
42 participate, or agree to participate, in criminal activity.

43 2. In developing and maintaining the statewide gang database estab-  
44 lished pursuant to subdivision one of this section, the superintendent  
45 of the division of state police shall:

46 (a) create a uniform reporting format for the entry of pertinent  
47 information regarding the report of an arrested criminal street gang  
48 member or organized gang affiliates into the statewide gang database;

49 (b) notify all state and local law enforcement agencies that reports  
50 or arrested criminal street gang members or organized gang affiliates  
51 shall be entered into the statewide gang database as soon as the minimum  
52 level of data, to be specified by such superintendent, is available to  
53 the reporting agency;

54 (c) develop and implement a policy for notifying state and local law  
55 enforcement agencies of the emergence of new organized criminal street

1 gangs, or the change of a name or other identifying information, sign or  
2 symbol of an existing organized criminal street gang;

3 (d) compile and retain information regarding organized criminal street  
4 gangs and their members and affiliates, in a manner that allows the  
5 information to be used by state and local law enforcement agencies, and  
6 other state agencies, as deemed appropriate by the superintendent of the  
7 division of state police, for investigative purposes;

8 (e) compile and maintain a history data repository relating to organ-  
9 ized criminal street gangs and their members and affiliates in order to  
10 develop and improve techniques utilized by law enforcement agencies and  
11 prosecutors in the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of  
12 members and affiliates of organized gangs;

13 (f) create a quality control program regarding confirmation of organ-  
14 ized criminal street gang membership and organized gang affiliation  
15 data, timeliness and accuracy of information entered into the statewide  
16 gang database and performance audits of all agencies entering informa-  
17 tion;

18 (g) determine which law enforcement agencies may benefit from access  
19 to the statewide gang database, and notify them of its existence; and

20 (h) cooperate with all law enforcement agencies wishing to gain access  
21 to the statewide gang database, and facilitate their entry into and  
22 continued access to the database system.

23 § 3. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 2 of section 1349 of the civil prac-  
24 tice law and rules, as added by chapter 655 of the laws of 1990, and  
25 subparagraph (i) as amended by chapter 206 of the laws of 2018, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (h) ~~All~~ Except with respect to a circumstance to which paragraph (i)  
28 of this subdivision applies, all moneys remaining after distributions  
29 pursuant to paragraphs (a) through (g) of this subdivision shall be  
30 distributed as follows:

31 (i) seventy-five percent of such moneys shall be deposited to a law  
32 enforcement purposes subaccount of the general fund of the state where  
33 the claiming agent is an agency of the state or the political subdivi-  
34 sion or public authority of which the claiming agent is a part, to be  
35 used for law enforcement use in the investigation of penal law offenses  
36 or law enforcement assisted diversion;

37 (ii) the remaining twenty-five percent of such moneys shall be depos-  
38 ited to a prosecution services subaccount of the general fund of the  
39 state where the claiming authority is the attorney general or the poli-  
40 tical subdivision of which the claiming authority is a part, to be used  
41 for the prosecution of penal law offenses.

42 Where multiple claiming agents participated in the forfeiture action,  
43 funds available pursuant to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be  
44 disbursed to the appropriate law enforcement purposes subaccounts in  
45 accordance with the terms of a written agreement reflecting the partic-  
46 ipation of each claiming agent entered into by the participating claim-  
47 ing agents.

48 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 1349 of the civil practice law and rules  
49 is amended by adding a new paragraph (i) to read as follows:

50 (i) If the defendant against whom a forfeiture action is commenced is  
51 identified as, or is declared or adjudged by the court to be a member of  
52 a "criminal street gang", as defined in section 465.05 of the penal law,  
53 all moneys remaining after distributions pursuant to paragraphs (a)  
54 through (g) of this subdivision shall be distributed as follows:

55 (i) seventy-five percent of such moneys shall be deposited to a sepa-  
56 rate account of the local school district wherein such defendant

1 resides, which the superintendent of such district shall establish for  
2 the receipt of all such moneys, and said moneys shall be utilized by the  
3 superintendent exclusively to develop, implement and/or maintain  
4 instructional programs designed to deter or prevent youths from associ-  
5 ating with, or becoming members of, criminal street gangs, including but  
6 not limited to, (A) after-school sports or recreational programs, and/or  
7 (B) after-school scholastic or academic programs;

8 (ii) fifteen percent of such moneys shall be deposited to a law  
9 enforcement purposes subaccount of the general fund of the state where  
10 the claiming agent is an agency of the state or the political subdivi-  
11 sion or public authority of which the claiming agent is a part, to be  
12 used for law enforcement use in the investigation of penal law offenses;  
13 and

14 (iii) the remaining ten percent of such moneys shall be deposited to a  
15 prosecution services subaccount of the general fund of the state where  
16 the claiming authority is the attorney general or the political subdivi-  
17 sion of which the claiming authority is a part, to be used for the pros-  
18 ecution of penal law offenses.

19 Where multiple claiming agents participated in the forfeiture action,  
20 funds available pursuant to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph shall be  
21 disbursed to the appropriate law enforcement purposes subaccounts in  
22 accordance with the terms of a written agreement reflecting the partic-  
23 ipation of each claiming agent entered into by the participating claim-  
24 ing agents.

25 § 5. The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or so much thereof  
26 as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the division of criminal  
27 justice services out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general  
28 fund to the credit of the local assistance account, not otherwise appro-  
29 priated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of developing a  
30 grant program in consultation with the department of education and the  
31 state police for schools to receive gang prevention programs. Such  
32 moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on  
33 vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of the division of  
34 criminal justice services in the manner prescribed by law.

35 § 6. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new section  
36 700.75 to read as follows:

37 § 700.75 Roving interceptions.

38 In any case in which the designated offense is defined in subdivision  
39 eight of section 700.05 of this article, the requirements of this arti-  
40 cle relating to the specification of the facilities from which, or the  
41 place where, the communication is to be intercepted do not apply if:

42 1. In the case of an application for the interception of an oral  
43 communication:

44 (a) the application contains a full and complete statement as to why  
45 such specification is not practical and identifies the person committing  
46 the offense whose communications are to be intercepted; and

47 (b) the court finds that such specification is not practical; or

48 2. In the case of an application with respect to interception of a  
49 wire or electronic communication:

50 (a) the application identifies the person believed to be committing  
51 the offense and whose communications are to be intercepted and the  
52 applicant makes a showing of a purpose, on the part of that person, to  
53 thwart interception by changing facilities; and

54 (b) the court finds that such purpose has been adequately shown.

55 3. Interception of communications under an order issued pursuant to  
56 this section shall not begin until the facilities from which, or the

1 place where, the communication is to be intercepted is ascertained by  
2 the person implementing the interception order. A provider of wire or  
3 electronic communications service that has received an order as provided  
4 for in subdivision two of this section may move the court to modify or  
5 quash the order on the grounds that its assistance with respect to the  
6 interception cannot be performed in a timely or reasonable fashion. The  
7 court, upon notice to the applicant, shall decide such motion expe-  
8 ditiously.

9 § 7. Subdivision 8 of section 700.05 of the criminal procedure law is  
10 amended by adding a new paragraph (w) to read as follows:

11 (w) Any felony under article four hundred sixty-five of the penal law.

12 § 8. Section 60.22 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding  
13 a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

14 4. The limitations of this section do not apply to the prosecution of  
15 an offense defined in article four hundred sixty-five of the penal law.

16 § 9. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-ss to  
17 read as follows:

18 § 99-ss. Witness protection fund. 1. There is hereby established in  
19 the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of the  
20 department of taxation and finance a special revenue fund to be known as  
21 the "witness protection fund".

22 2. The witness protection fund shall consist of: (a) five percent of  
23 all the moneys received by the state pursuant to section 60.35 of the  
24 penal law and five percent of all the moneys received by the state  
25 pursuant to section eighteen hundred nine of the vehicle and traffic law  
26 from any court of the unified court system other than town or village  
27 courts;

28 (b) ten percent of all the moneys deposited to the credit of the state  
29 police seized assets account in each calendar year; and

30 (c) all other fees, fines, grants, bequests or other monies credited,  
31 appropriated or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursu-  
32 ant to law or any other moneys made available for the purposes of the  
33 fund.

34 3. Moneys of the witness protection fund, following appropriation by  
35 the legislature and allocation by the director of the budget, shall be  
36 made available to the division of criminal justice services for local  
37 assistance services and expenses of programs to provide witness  
38 protection services to witnesses of crimes.

39 4. The moneys of the fund shall be paid out on the audit and warrant  
40 of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the  
41 commissioner of the division of criminal justice services. At the end of  
42 each year, any moneys remaining in the fund shall be returned in the  
43 fund and shall not revert to the general fund. The interest and income  
44 earned on money in the fund, after deducting any applicable charges,  
45 shall be credited to the fund.

46 § 10. The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000), or so much thereof  
47 as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the witness protection  
48 fund, established pursuant to section 99-ss of the state finance law as  
49 added by section nine of this act, out of any moneys in the state treas-  
50 ury in the general fund to the credit of the local assistance account  
51 not otherwise appropriated, for local assistance services and expenses  
52 of programs to provide witness protection services to witnesses of  
53 crimes.

54 § 11. This act shall take effect on the first of November next  
55 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.