



# RIDE **SAFE** RIDE **SECURE**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PACKAGE

ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER ED RA

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# HOW WE GOT HERE



Recent headlines have highlighted violence on public transit, including the death of an **83-year-old veteran** who was pushed onto subway tracks in New York City by a man who was allegedly in the country illegally. Unfortunately, these incidents are becoming more frequent throughout the country, and the beginning of 2026 has seen an increase in **public transit violence** here in New York:

- Major crimes on subways and buses surged 17% through January 1 and February 14, 2026, when compared to the same period last year;
- Robberies increased 58% in the same time period; and
- Assaults increased 9%.

In order to reverse this trend now, the Assembly Republican Conference is providing solutions that will ensure New Yorkers ***Ride Safe*** and ***Ride Secure***.

# PENALIZE CRIMINALS



## ***Enhance Penalties for Public Transportation Crimes***

- Enhance penalties for crimes on public transportation:
  - Increase Assault Crime Penalties to Ensure Bail Eligibility: Increase the penalty, from a class A misdemeanor (Assault 3rd) to a class D violent felony (Assault 2nd), when a person intentionally or recklessly causes physical injury to another person in any place, conveyance, or vehicle used for public transportation or public transit, subway cars, train cars, buses, ferries, railroad, omnibus, marine, or aviation transportation; or any facility used for or in connection with service in the transportation of passengers, airports, train stations, subway and rail stations, and bus terminals.
  - Increase the penalty, from a class D violent felony (Assault 2nd) to a class B violent felony (Assault 1st), when a person intentionally causes serious physical injury to another in any place, conveyance, or vehicle used for public transportation or public transit, subway cars, train cars, buses, ferries, railroad, omnibus, marine, or aviation transportation; or any facility used for or in connection with service in the transportation of passengers, airports, train stations, subway and rail stations, and bus terminals (A.11053, Tannousis).
  - Protect from Crimes on Public Transportation: Enhance criminal penalties for offenses such as assault, weapons offenses, sex offenses, arson, robbery, drug sales, and others committed on public transportation property, and create additional crimes to address dangerous conduct on public transportation (to be introduced, Chang).

# PENALIZE CRIMINALS



## ***Prevent Dangerous Illegal Immigrants from Committing Public Transit Crimes***

- Ensure cooperation with federal officials by supporting the following legislation:
  - State-Federal Immigration Cooperation: Prohibit the governor from preventing state agencies/law enforcement from working with the federal government to enforce immigration laws (A.2261, Gandolfo).
  - NY CARES Act: Prohibit local government actions that would prevent the enforcement of federal immigration laws (A.5801, Chludzinski).
  - “Laken’s Law”: Require the state to notify ICE upon the arrest, conviction, or release of a non-citizen (A.2262, Gandolfo).

## ***Address Raise the Age Issues***

- Require violent felony offenses committed by 16- and 17-year-olds, including those committed on public transit, to be tried in Youth Part Criminal Court, ensure access to all records, and keep victims of crimes committed by a person under 18 aware of the final disposition of cases (A.4705, Barclay).

## ***Expand the Current Transit Ban Statute***

- Current law allows judges to ban certain convicted criminals from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for up to three years for rider-on-worker assaults and rider-on-rider sexual assaults. Expand this to include rider-on-rider assaults and to apply it to all transit authorities/agencies across the state (A.11063, Novakhov).

# PROTECT RIDERS



## ***Public Transportation Safety Grant Program***

- This proposal would provide \$100 million in grants to be administered by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), with \$50 million for New York City and \$50 million for counties outside New York City. DCJS would be required to establish and administer the grants, which would be intended for NYC to enhance transit protections such as barriers on subway platforms and for counties to disburse to the Sheriff's Department or other municipal law enforcement agencies to enhance safety at bus stations, train stations, or other public transit facilities (**A.10916, Reilly**).

## ***Retired Law Enforcement as Transit Marshals***

- Allow retired law enforcement officers to serve as transit marshals hired by local law enforcement (or transit authority if applicable) throughout New York State without current earnings limitations. Similar to federal air marshals, transit marshals would serve as peace officers and be deployed on bus and train routes throughout the state (**A.11054, Brook-Krasny**).

## ***"Penny for a Hero Good Samaritan Protection Act"***

- Protect individuals who intervene in emergencies to save lives from legal consequences, as long as their actions are reasonable, proportional, and in good faith (**A.4968, A. Brown**).