

# CAPITAL NEWS

1st  
District

## from Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### STATE LAW PROTECTS PUBLIC FROM IMPOSTORS

Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (R,C,I - Port Jefferson) today announced that legislation he sponsored to protect the public from individuals who illegally practice a licensed professional has been signed into law. The new law gives the New York State Education Department (NYSED) the resources needed to follow through on investigations of illegal practice of a profession and seek civil restitution and penalties from unlicensed individuals.

“People who would hold themselves out as licensed professionals when, in fact, they are not properly educated or experienced in that profession are committing a crime and placing the health and safety of unsuspecting consumers at risk,” said Senator LaValle. “The New York State Education Department oversees the licensure and practice of professions and should have the authority and resources needed to protect the public from the dangers of this deceptive practice.”

The unlicensed practice of a profession is a felony in the State of New York. However, while the NYSED has the power to investigate an alleged illegal practice, they did not have the authority to follow through with their investigation and impose penalties on violators. Under the law sponsored by Senator LaValle, the NYSED may now enforce specific sanctions against individuals illegally practicing a profession. The law gives the Department the power to issue cease and desist orders and to seek civil restitution and penalties from unlicensed individuals.

“This ‘Catch Me If You Can’ type activity puts the public at risk and must be stopped,” said Senator LaValle. “I am pleased that the new law will provide the State Education Department the resources needed to strengthen the threat of criminal prosecution and protect the integrity of licensed professionals.”