"Raise the Age" plan becomes a battle at the Capitol

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The state Assembly today said it included the "Raise the Age" plan in its one-house budget that would raise the age to 18 for criminal responsibility for juveniles charged in New York.

The move by the Democratic-led Assembly was expected, and the measure is backed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The question will be whether the Republican-led Senate, which didn't include the bill in its one-house budget, would agree to the change as part of negotiations in advance of the fiscal year that starts April 1.

"It is past time that we end the treatment of 16 and 17 year olds as adults in our criminal justice system," Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, D-Bronx, said in a statement. "The Assembly budget proposal provides a thoughtful framework that will implement balanced, age appropriate, support-based reforms for processing juveniles charged with crimes."

Cuomo introduced the proposal Jan. 19 as part of his 2015-16 budget proposal. The plan would, over the next three years, no longer treat 16 and 17 year olds convicted of crimes as adults and instead move them into juvenile detention facilities.

"By raising the age, New York can become a national leader on juvenile justice reform," said Melanie Hartzog, who heads the Children's Defense Fund in New York.

New York is one of two states in the country that has a law in which 16 and 17 year-olds charged with felonies are sent to adult prisons.

"Raising the age of criminal responsibility will reduce recidivism and costs to the state," Cuomo said an email to supporters yesterday that announced a new online petition for the measure. "Youth processed as adults have 26 percent higher likelihood of re-incarceration than their peers who are processed as juveniles — in other words, when we process minors as adults, they are more likely to commit more crime again in the future."

The Assembly proposal, like Cuomo's plan, would originate proceedings against most youth under 18 in state Family Court and allow prosecutors to move them to criminal court in the most severe cases.

"Our justice system does more damage than good when teenagers are confined alongside older, more serious offenders," Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, D-Binghamton, said in a statement.
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Great idea by the secular Progressive Leftist Democrats who are running New York State and New York City into the ground.

In NYC, under Mayor Bill "I Overslept Because I was Stoned" DeCommio, murders are up 20% year over year. This latest stroke of "genius" will ensure immunity for 17 year old murderers who are Gang members of the Bloods, the Crips and MS13.

The level of idiocy that reigns in New York is impossible to over estimate because it’s infinite.

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