

Fraudulent Kosher Labelling Bill Passes Assembly

A bill that would "throw the book" at first-time and repeat violators of kosher food labelling laws passed the New York State Assembly last week. The bill, sponsored by Assemblymembers John Duane (Democrat—Queens) and Rhoda Jacobs (Democrat—Brooklyn) and cosponsored by Assemblyman Döv Hikind (Democrat—Brooklyn), would increase the fine for a first violation of the kosher statutes to \$1000. Additionally, a new section of the law would be enacted providing for fines of up to \$10,000 for a second offense or subsequent offenses within a ten-year period.

"Recent joint investigations by the State Attorney General and the Department of Agriculture have turned up a wide range of significant violations which have caused great harm to the kosher consumer," said Assemblyman Duane, a freshman legislator from Eastern Queens. "Nonkosher

meat has been intentionally labelled as kosher, meat products have been certified by

uncertified 'shochets' and hotels billing themselves as kosher have served guests

pork and nonkosher chicken during the Jewish holidays.

"This bill will put new teeth into the existing law and severely penalize those who seek to make a quick buck at the expense of kosher consumers."

