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Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 3

Bill #:SL-17

1 **Sponsors:** Lauren Andersen, DeAnna Faison, Justin Iorio, Joseph Mazzarella

2
3 **An Act To**

4 Amend § 120.16 of the New York State Penal Law to make hazing in the first
5 degree a class E felony.

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

7 **Purpose**

8 To increase the penalty for hazing in the first degree. Hazing is a problem that is on
9 the rise. Current legislation does not define or punish offenders of this crime
10 appropriately.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions**

14 **Class E Felony:** Ranges from no jail with probation or jail for up to 4 years.

15 **Section 2:**

16 § 120.16 Hazing in the first degree.

17 A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course
18 of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any
19 organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct,
20 including, but not limited to, ~~making physical contact with or requiring~~
21 ~~physical activity of such other person, which creates a substantial risk~~
22 ~~of physical injury~~ causing serious bodily injury or risk of death to such other person
23 or a third person and thereby causes ~~such~~ injury.

24 Hazing in the first degree is a ~~class A misdemeanor~~ class E felony.

25
26 **Justification**

27 Hazing is far too common on college campuses and an under reported incident.
28 95% of cases did not report their hazing experiences to university officials. While
29 not all hazing cases can be defined under this law, our efforts are intended to bring
30 justice to the worst offenders of this crime. This is an issue more prevalent than the
31 public eye realizes which is why attention must be brought to it.

32 **Fiscal Implications**

33 This bill will increase the sentence of this crime therefore costing the taxpayer more
34 money per year by minimal amounts. On average it costs 62,000 dollars a year to
35 house a prisoner in New York.

36 **Environmental Implications**

37 This bill does not include any direct environmental implications to the state.

38 **Effective Date**

39 This bill will go into effect on August 1, 2021.