

Opinion editorial

# Lawmakers' lunatic grab for power over New York's DAs

By Post Editorial Board

Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Photo: Getty Images

As the legislative session nears its end in Albany, state lawmakers have launched a surprise grab for power over New York's district attorneys. It's a terrible idea.

The bill would create a commission to monitor DAs, with members named by the Legislature. It would receive complaints — including anonymous ones — about prosecutorial misconduct and investigate them.

What's the need? DAs already answer to the governor and the courts, each of whom has slapped down abuse from time to time. That's why both the City Bar Association and the state District Attorneys Association have come out against the bill.

The Brooklyn DA and several other county DAs have set up conviction-integrity units to review claims of past wrongful convictions. Other county offices have created screening procedures that have exonerated people wrongfully charged by the police.

In short, the commission would be a \$5.5 million redundancy and a hoax on the taxpayers, allowing legislators the ability to anonymously inject themselves into law-enforcement investigations.

Lawmakers shouldn't have any such power. State Sen. Todd Kaminsky (D-LI), a former federal prosecutor, warns the bill would have a chilling effect on local prosecutions of public-corruption cases.

Why would Senate Republicans, normally supportive of law enforcement, support this nonsense? Some speculate that it's retaliation, because several DAs agreed to serve on Gov. Cuomo's Moreland Commission probing lawmakers' corruption.

Maybe it's something else — LSD in the Albany water supply? But whatever the reason, it's a bad one.