



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin S. Parker

## Senator Kevin Parker Informs on New and Upcoming Legislation for 2025: What You Need to Know

KEVIN S. PARKER January 13, 2025

As we enter 2025, New Yorkers will see several important laws take effect that will impact various aspects of life, from economic opportunities to public health and environmental protection. Below is an overview of some of the key legislation and changes that will begin this year:

### **Equal Rights Amendment**

New Yorkers voted to include the Equal Rights Amendment in the state constitution, expanding protections against discrimination based on race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This is a historic step toward ensuring greater equality for all.

### **Jaywalking Decriminalization**

A new law passed in September 2024 will make jaywalking legal, allowing pedestrians to cross streets outside of designated crosswalks. This law is set to take effect in February 2025.

### **Minimum Wage Increase**

Effective January 1, 2025, the minimum wage in New York City will rise by 50 cents, reaching \$16.50 per hour. In the rest of the state, the minimum wage will increase to \$15.50 per hour.

Another 50-cent increase is scheduled for 2026, with future adjustments tied to inflation to ensure fair compensation for workers.

### **Congestion Pricing in New York City**

Beginning January 5, 2025, New York City will implement congestion pricing as a strategy to reduce traffic and encourage the use of public transportation. Vehicles entering certain areas of Manhattan will be subject to a \$9 toll, except those on the FDR and West Side Highway.

### **FARE Act Implementation**

The FARE Act will eliminate broker fees for renters, helping to reduce financial burdens for those seeking rental housing. This law will go into effect 180 days after its passage.

### **COVID-19 Paid Leave Update**

The COVID-19 quarantine leave law will come to an end on July 31, 2025. However, employers will still be required to provide paid sick leave for COVID-19 quarantine or isolation orders to support workers affected by the pandemic.

### **Expanded Paid Prenatal Leave**

Starting January 1, 2025, New York will provide additional paid leave for pregnant workers to attend prenatal appointments and care. This measure is part of the state's paid sick leave program, ensuring that expectant mothers have the support they need during this critical time.

### **Prenatal Vitamins Coverage**

Legislation S.1965-A/A.3865-A will require commercial health insurers in New York to cover the cost of prenatal vitamins when prescribed by a healthcare provider. This important step ensures better access to essential healthcare for expectant mothers, improving maternal

health across the state.

### **Local Law 97: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction**

Starting January 1, 2025, Local Law 97 will impose stricter regulations on greenhouse gas emissions for large buildings, with the goal of significantly reducing emissions to combat climate change. This initiative is a crucial step in New York's commitment to sustainability.

### **Retail Worker Safety Law**

Starting March 4, 2025, the Retail Worker Safety Act will require retail employers to implement workplace violence prevention plans, providing greater protections for workers in the retail industry.

These newly enacted laws represent a variety of significant changes aimed at fostering a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable New York. As your senator, I remain dedicated to advocating for policies that uplift our communities, protect our rights, and build a better future for all New Yorkers.

Stay informed and engaged—2025 brings important progress, and I look forward to continuing to serve you.

**Senator Kevin Parker**