



LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP 2026

New York State Senate
Democratic Majority



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2026 Legislative Wrap Up Summary

The 2026 legislative session concluded as one of the most prolific and impactful terms under the leadership of the Senate Democratic Majority. As the cost of living and exorbitant utility bills continue to saddle everyday New Yorkers, and new threats to civil liberties and fundamental values rock the State, the Democratic Majority took bold and decisive action. With over 1,500 bills and a \$260 billion budget passed, this chamber enacted stronger ratepayer protections, stood up for the immigrant community, advanced modern consumer protection policies to deal with algorithmic pricing, and passed nation-leading legislation to pause hyperscale data centers that threaten our environment and grid—all while continuing to deliver essential funding to our healthcare, transportation, and education systems. Additionally, in the face of an unprecedented arms race for control of Congress, the Senate Democrats responded with a constitutional amendment that would allow for mid-decade redistricting to occur, keeping New York on level ground in the fight for our democracy.

BUDGET

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-27 budget prioritized working families by striving to lower everyday costs and protect the essential services New Yorkers rely on most. As deep cuts from Washington began to reshape the financial landscape of New York, this budget struck a careful balance between fiscal responsibility and economic opportunity. It continued to make key investments in the bedrock social programs that keep hundreds of thousands of people afloat, while taking stock of future needs so that our state may continue to prosper, and tackling the emergent crises issues of this moment.

Accordingly, the SFY 2026-27 made historic progress in the following:

Protecting our Immigrant Neighbors. During these unprecedented times where civil liberties are being wantonly abridged, and families disappeared from their homes, the Senate Democratic Majority took rapid action to reinforce constitutional protections and strengthen recourse for victims. The Immigration Package in this year’s budget included New York State Bivens Act/New York Civil Rights Act to ensure every New Yorker can enforce their constitutional rights; codified Plyler v. Doe to ensure that every child will have the right to an education, regardless of immigration status; banned law enforcement from using masks to conceal their identity; expanded “sensitive locations” to empower more private institutions to adopt their own policies to deny immigration officials entry; dissolved 287 (g) and Intergovernmental Service Agreements exclusively for immigration purposes; prohibited information sharing between local and state agencies and federal officials for the purposes of immigration enforcement, and allocated an additional \$10 million for the Office of New Americans.

Lowering the Cost of Utilities. Although the Senate Democratic Majority has been at the forefront of the utility fight for several years, this session marked a major victory for ratepayers. Thanks to the Senate Democratic Majority’s leadership, this year’s enacted budget included major wins on affordability, and corporate accountability by requiring excess revenue be returned to ratepayers, increasing oversight on executive salaries and costs passed on to consumers, and establishing a blue-ribbon commission to study the cause of rising rates and recommend solutions. It also reformed the rate setting process to be fairer and more transparent, and invested millions towards ratepayer relief, including \$2.75 million for the Public Utility Law Project (PULP), \$200 million for EmPower Plus, \$40 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, and \$1 billion in POWER Rebates which will grant checks of up to \$200 for ratepayers in the state.

Investing in Public Education. This year’s budget continued the storied legacy of the Senate Majority as the “education conference.” By delivering a record total of \$39 billion in school aid funding, with \$27.4 billion total for Foundation Aid, the Senate Democrats secured a 2% due minimum in Foundation Aid and drives additional school aid based on students experiencing homelessness or in foster care.

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Funding Universal Pre-K. Three years after the Senate Democrats' first major breakthrough on UPK, this year's budget significantly increases UPK funding by \$561 million, or 52.5 percent, totaling \$1.6 billion, which will bring the per pupil reimbursement rate for 4-year-olds to a minimum of \$10,000 per child. It also explicitly requires that all school districts provide programming to all eligible 4-year-olds by the 2028-29 school year.

Advancing Universal Childcare. As the affordability crisis continues to hamstring families, this year's budget makes historic investments into childcare programming and puts us further on the path to true universality. This year's wins include \$2.4 billion total for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), a nearly 40 percent increase over last year, with the potential to add 100,000 seats. This includes \$630 million in supplemental CCAP—\$475 million for New York City and \$155 million for the rest of the State's counties—to further support local childcare access. It also provides \$66 million total for childcare pilots in three upstate counties—Broome, Dutchess, and Monroe—while injecting \$73 million total to launch the first 2-Care program in New York City with a full phase-in starting in the 2028-2029 school year. Lastly, it provides \$205 million total in state funds to expand 3-K to all five boroughs.

Delivering for Higher Education. As the stewards of the most comprehensive public higher ed system in the country, the New York Senate Majority proudly delivered record investments to our SUNY and CUNY campuses. This included expanding the New York Opportunity Promise Scholarship to all campuses offering associates degrees in high-demand fields at CUNY and SUNY. It provided an additional \$200 million for CUNY critical maintenance, for a total of \$514.2 million, delivered \$100 million for SUNY research facilities, and secured \$200 million for SUNY critical maintenance, for a total of \$795 million. Importantly, this budget continues key resources for community colleges, including an additional \$9 million for SUNY community college operating support, for a total of \$442.3 million, and \$6 million for CUNY community college operating support, for a total of \$234.7 million.

Investing in Green Infrastructure and a Sustainable Future. Thanks to Senate Democratic Leadership, this year's budget secured an additional \$1 billion in Sustainable Futures funding to power the next round of clean green infrastructure projects. It also includes a record high EPF investment with an increase of \$25 million over last year, for a total of \$450 million, and \$750 million total in clean water funding, with a commitment to spend \$3.75 billion over the next five years. As we continue our transition away from fossil fuels, this budget includes ASAP Solar, which reforms the interconnection process to make it faster and cheaper to bring new solar projects online.

Continuing to Lead on Tier Six Reform. The Senate Democratic Majority continues to tackle Tier Six reform, with this year's budget including key changes to support union workers like lowering the retirement age for teachers with 30 years of service from 63 to 58 for teachers; capping contribution rates across income levels; and increasing the caps on overtime included in the Final Average Salary calculation to 25 percent (currently capped at 15 percent) for police and fire and \$30,000 (currently capped at just below \$22,000), with a 3 percent increase annually after enactment for other retirement systems (excluding teachers).

Supporting Municipalities and Investing in Local Services. This budget contains nimble responses to ongoing challenges facing local governments and directly addresses New York City's budgetary crisis. In line with the Senate Democrats' ongoing commitment to make the wealthy pay their fair share, this year's budget advances a pied-à-terre tax, generating approximately \$500 million annually in recurring revenue for the City, in addition to \$1.5 billion in direct assistance and \$695 million in Miscellaneous Financial Assistance. Outside of NYC, this budget invests over \$1 billion in total local municipal assistance, an increase of 25 percent over last year, to deliver unrestricted general-purpose support to cities, towns, and villages across New York State. This budget secures \$715.2 million in base Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM), adds \$100 million for a total of \$150 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA), and adds \$165 million for a total of \$185 million in Miscellaneous Financial Assistance (MFA) for big upstate cities.

Investing in Healthcare Systems. Amid devastating federal Medicaid cuts, this year's budget delivers \$750 million in new targeted healthcare investments, including \$400 million (up to \$800 million gross) for hospitals and \$250 million (up to \$480 million gross) for nursing homes, and adds \$10 million (up to \$20 million gross) for FQHCs, providing \$40 million (up to \$80 million gross) total. It also maintains \$500 million in operating funding for financially distressed hospitals, providing \$2.1 billion total state share, and reinvests \$8 million in the Daniel's Law Pilot Program, establishing non-police, peer-led crisis response teams to assist individuals experiencing mental health or substance use emergencies.

Delivering Affordable Housing. This year's budget modifies the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SE-QRA) to set time limits for an environmental impact statement to be reviewed and completed and to create exemptions for certain housing projects, parks and trails, water and sewer infrastructure improvements, New York City public schools for the purpose of complying with the existing class size mandate, and green infrastructure upgrades. It also expands the rent increase exemption for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (SCRIE/DRIE) by including the homeowner's exemption for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (SCHE/DHE) and raising the income eligibility in all programs from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and continues funding bedrock programs like HAVP, Block by Block Infill Housing Program, RESTORE, and NYCHA.

SESSION

Fighting for Utility Reform: In addition to budget wins, the Senate Majority passed measures to equip the Public Service Commission (PSC) with resources to better evaluate the impact of utility providers' actions on ratepayers, preventing utilities from unfairly profiting at the expense of the communities they serve. Also included is legislation that would authorize the PSC to consider non-economic damages when determining penalties for utilities; require utilities to return excess revenue to ratepayers; and mandate that utility providers notify ratepayers of a proposed rate hike via text, email, and/or their monthly utility bill. This body further advanced legislation to protect ratepayer access to utilities, ensuring such services are provided in a manner that is equitable, affordable, and imposes no undue financial burden. This year's efforts establishing protections for customers related to service termination and overdue payment, prohibiting utilities from terminating services during extreme weather events, providing direct and timely financial relief to ratepayers affected by utility misconduct, automatically re-enrolling individuals and households who continue to meet the eligibility requirements for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and restricting retroactive service charge increases for small non-residential customers. (*S.1012A, S.5553C, S.1847, S.7328A, S.7165A, S.1896, S.5593, S.7693, S.1327, S.1329, S.1553, S.2011, S.120A, S.8019, S.8908, S.904B, S.8710, S.1701, S.3734B, S.1966, S.8062A, S.7683, S.3734, S.7693*)

Strengthening Voter Engagement and Securing Election Integrity: This year, the New York State Senate Majority advanced legislation to improve voter access to registration and the ballot box. This includes establishing secure automatic voter registration at more state agencies, authorizing counties to open county-wide and portable polling places, permitting voters to register at a secondary residence, and modernizing absentee ballot applications so military and overseas voters can apply online. In the face of federal attempts to undermine democracy, the New York State Senate is working to safeguard election workers and modernize our election system against interference and abuse. This session, Senate Democrats cracked down on deceptive practices that suppress or intimidate voters by increasing penalties for violations of the elective franchise, ensuring that bad actors face real consequences. This includes banning foreign-influenced political spending that dilutes the will of the voters, criminalizing deceptive practices and raising penalties for voter suppression, and preventing discriminatory challenges to voter eligibility at the polls. This year, the Democratic Conference also took steps to better protect election workers who are targeted, intimidated, or even doxxed online simply for doing their jobs. All of these measures send a clear message: in New York, democracy is strong. (*S.324, S.1085, S.3233A, S.8646A, S.88A, S.569, S.568, S.1036, S.7689B, S.3231, S.6259, S.8604, S.5711C*)

Protecting the Right to an Abortion and Contraception: The New York State Senate further advanced reproductive healthcare access through practical support and legal protections. This includes expanding the Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program to cover more costs associated with care, like lodging, translation services, and childcare, and ensuring that insurance companies do their part to fund this program in light of federal restrictions; requiring SUNY and CUNY to maintain emergency contraception vending machines and allowing pharmacists to inject certain contraception and bill insurance for dispensing birth control. Furthermore, Senate Democrats moved to prohibit the use of reproductive health decisions as evidence in court and prevent abortion medication from being considered an act of criminal diversion, to ensure New Yorkers can exercise their reproductive rights without fear of judicial retribution. And building off of last year's wins, the Senate Democratic Majority passed legislation to expand prescription label privacy protections, allowing prescribers to request the patient's name and address be excluded from medication abortion labels, not just the prescriber's identifying information. (*S.135, S.9815, S.2058, S.1703, S.8869, S.8860, S.8544, S.8656A*)

Ending Surveillance Pricing and Unfair Practices: This year, Senate Democrats advanced comprehensive legislation to help reduce costs for New Yorkers by prohibiting unfair and onerous pricing and subscription processes. Included in the legislation are measures to address discriminatory pricing practices by prohibiting the use of algorithms and device information to determine prices; require no mandatory fees be hidden from the total advertised price of any good or service; and establish an anti-trust regulatory framework for retail grocery procurement to prevent large dominant retailers from using their market power to secure preferred pricing contracts over smaller competitors. (*S.8616A, S.8623B, S.8483C, S.363A, S.8563*)

Expanding Access to IVF and Fertility Treatment: This year, the Senate Majority Conference passed legislation to expand access to fertility care, protecting families from exorbitant out-of-pocket costs by improving insurance coverage after the first two rounds of IVF to grant more flexibility and prevent needless delay, and directing the Department of Health to develop a supplemental Medicaid payment to federally qualified health centers for reimbursement for uncovered fertility drugs. The Senate also took steps to ensure same-sex couples have equitable access to fertility treatment, and to broaden coverage for egg freezing beyond instances of medically-caused infertility, allowing all New Yorkers to have greater control over their family planning. (*S.3155, S.8257A, S.8866, S.4497*)

Supporting Renewable Energy, Advancing our Climate Goals: The future of New York State depends on clean energy for climate resiliency and economic security. That is why the Senate Majority is working to bolster our grid with renewable power, and provide opportunities for ratepayers to make the transition affordably. The Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act sets a new target for distributed solar energy capacity, revives the NY-SUN program, and directs the Public Service Commission to advance reforms to the utility interconnection process to ensure timely and cost-effective integration of new small-scale solar energy projects. The Solar Up Now New York (SUNNY) Act allows the use of small plug-in and portable solar generation devices in residential and commercial buildings, so home and business owners can supplement their own power banks with clean, affordable energy. The Senate also passed legislation to assist school districts in converting to renewable energy systems, and require large state-funded construction projects to use renewable energy. Simultaneously, the Democratic Majority is focused on ensuring an affordable transition for consumers by passing legislation that supports the creation of rebates for installing energy-efficient heat pumps and for switching to electric landscaping equipment. In pursuance of our CLCPA goals, the Senate passed legislation to better plan for the decommissioning of our most polluting fossil fuel facilities, enhance public participation in environmental justice communities during the citing of new polluting facilities, shed light on corporate emissions to hold industry accountable to their climate promises, and ban acts to disable, remove, or interfere with emission control devices. (*S.5111, S.4513, S.9072A, S.9074, S.6570A, S.8512B, S.2482, S.7898A, S.1668, S.1574*)

Upholding Access to Vaccines: As federal leadership threatens vaccine development and guidance, the Senate Majority fought to expand access and protect evidence-based health care. This means ensuring New York's childhood and adult immunization practices are founded on sound, medical reasoning, and common sense protections to ensure that children attending public summer camps are immunized and protected from the same health risks as required when they go to school. To eliminate any financial barriers to this essential health care, Senate Democrats advanced measures requiring insurance companies to cover the cost of COVID-19 and other established vaccinations, as well as reimburse healthcare providers for the full cost of vaccination. The Conference authorized more medical professionals to administer immunizations, including pharmacists, nursing students, and medical assistants, to give New Yorkers additional opportunities to protect themselves and their families from the spread of illness. As a result of the Senate's longstanding leadership on vaccine access, two bills have already been signed into law this year that will root children's immunization recommendations in science, and require insurance coverage for all vaccinations recommended by the State Department of Health (*S.8853, S.8496C, S.3958A, S.8334A, S.5852, S.7025B, S.5706A, S.5340B, S.9598, S.9599*)

Standing up for Worker Protections: In an effort to continuously raise the floor for all workers throughout the state, Senate Democrats once again advanced several bills that would increase wages and benefits across industries. Notably, Democrats passed legislation that would suspend business licenses for employers that are convicted of wage theft, increased the Temporary Disability Insurance benefit to eventually align with the state's Paid Family Leave program, and fought to extend at least 40 hours of annual paid sick leave to domestic workers. Senate Democrats further advanced legislation to expand coverage and awareness of employees mental health services, and ensure timely and quality treatment for injured workers. (*S.2078, S.172, S.4515, S.381, S.998, S.6217*)

Keeping Healthcare Affordable, Accessible: The Senate Democratic Majority once again advanced key measures to bring down the cost of pharmaceuticals, which included passing the New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act, allowing the State to enter into partnerships with drug manufacturers to secure more generic alternatives to prescription medications and keep costs down. The Senate also passed legislation banning drug manufacturer pay-for-delay agreements, which are known to hike prices for consumers, and establish a wholesale prescription drug importation program which would allow New York to import pharmaceuticals from outside the US at lower prices. In order to further cut costs for life saving prescriptions, the Senate also passed legislation to require insurance to cover the difference between generic and brand-name medication when there is a supply issue with the generic drug, prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from discriminating against providers in the 340B prescription drug program, and ensure patients benefit from prescription drug rebates. The Senate also moved to expand eligibility and coverage for preventative screenings for breast cancer, diabetes, and prediabetes, as well as blood glucose monitoring devices for children, limit copays for physical and occupational therapy services, and passed legislation to include implants, crowns, root canals and certain other medically necessary procedures under Medicaid. (*S.4850, S.6551A, S.7280, S.634B, S.8592A, S.5045A, S.1618, S.3203, S.371, S.9497, S.1913, S.2128, S.3566*)

Preserving Consumer Privacy: The Senate Majority also fought for consumer privacy protections to prevent the unauthorized use and exploitation of personal data. This includes legislation regulating data brokers to uphold consumer control over their own data, as well as allowing consumers to cancel digital subscriptions directly on the service's mobile application and request deletion of their personal financial data once unsubscribed. The Senate also passed the Biometric Privacy Act to prohibit private entities from profiting off the sale or disclosure of biometric information, and to regulate how such information is collected and stored. (*S.9088A, S.4391, S.4413A, S.1422A*)

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Regulating Data Centers: This year, the Senate Democratic Majority passed comprehensive legislation to address the environmental, economic, labor, and community impacts of large-scale data center development. The Responsible Data Center Development Act is an omnibus bill bringing together multiple efforts to ensure that communities hosting new data centers actually benefit from their technological and economic advancement—rather than shouldering the climate risks and cost burdens. This landmark legislation: establishes a one-year moratorium on new large data center permits, giving breathing room to regulate this fast-growing industry the right way; regulates water usage and provides a utility buffer to prevent ratepayers from bearing the cost of data center energy bills; and requires grid modernization to strengthen New York’s energy resiliency. (*S.10642*)

Redistricting: In response to the harrowing efforts by Republicans across the country to rapidly redraw congressional lines to more easily keep their majority in House of Representatives, the New York State Senate Majority advanced a constitutional amendment that gives voters the choice for us to engage in mid-decade redistricting, while ensuring our process conforms with current jurisprudence. This proposal helps keep New York on strong constitutional footing and even ground in the existential fight for our democracy.

Standing Up for LGBTQ+ Rights: New York will always be a haven for LGBTQ+ individuals, which is why the Senate passed legislation to ensure our public resources are informed-by and accessible to the LGBTQ+ community. This includes establishing an LGBTQ+ crisis hotline and website, so individuals in need can seek compassionate support, and strengthening protections for queer families by clarifying that a judge may not prohibit a parent from undergoing gender reassignment when making a determination in a child custody case. The Senate also passed legislation to improve hospital transparency, so individuals know ahead of time the care that can and will be provided at certain healthcare facilities, and to authorize pharmacists to dispense HIV pre and post exposure prophylaxis medication, ensuring LGBTQ+ New Yorkers have equitable access to life-saving healthcare. (*S.9093, S.9764, S.3486, S.10467*)

Defending Victims, Strengthening Public Safety: The 2026 session included legislative action to crack down further on gun violence and keep weapons out of the wrong hands by establishing a 3 day waiting period before licensed gun dealers can deliver a firearm to the purchaser, preventing those with certain criminal convictions from purchasing ammo, and strengthening firearm storage laws. The Senate also made it easier for individuals to voluntarily waive their right to purchase a firearm if they consider themselves at-risk. In addition to passing a legislative package dedicated to survivors, the Senate also passed standalone legislation to make it easier to issue non-driver IDs to human trafficking victims so they have more independence and opportunities to utilize state services. Furthermore, the Senate advanced bipartisan legislation to criminalize benefitting off labor trafficking ventures, and establish a sex trafficking awareness and prevention program within the DMV, to disrupt illegal operations and save lives. (*S.9338A, S.7236, S.9629, S.1026A, S.10022, S.8624, S.2399A*)

Protecting First Responders: Recognizing the essential role of first responders in keeping our communities safe, the Senate Democratic Majority is committed to ensuring the availability of proper resources and training, providing benefits for responders and their families, and finding innovative ways to assist with recruitment and retention. In this year’s budget, Senate Democrats prioritized public safety officer mental wellbeing by championing critical incident leave for law enforcement, so they can take time to recover when they are involved in traumatic events. The Majority Conference further established a first responder peer support program, and first responder safety zones to protect responders from roadway accidents. To incentivize this noble work, Senate Democrats passed legislation to increase the volunteer firefighter / ambulance worker real property tax credit and allow this benefit to be received simultaneously with first responder income tax exemptions, as well as provide volunteer EMTs and firefighters with academic credit for their service. (*S.5407A, S.4804, S.6233A, S.6019, S.7367A*)

Supporting Farmers and Expanding Access to Healthy Food: The Senate Democratic Majority focused on passing legislation that prohibits banks from charging service fees on benefits card transactions, so every dollar of state and federal support goes toward putting food on the table. Senate Democrats also supported efforts to subsidize health food retail establishments in underserved areas, expand access to healthy school meals, keep harmful additives and dyes out of groceries, and support food stores and farmers markets in the essential role they play in our communities. While we continue to combat food insecurity and improve access to nutritious meals across the state, it is imperative that these products are safe and free of toxins. That is why the Democratic Conference passed the Food Safety & Chemical Disclosure Act and the Baby Food & Infant Formula Safety and Transparency Act, so New Yorkers can trust in what we feed to our families. This Conference also advanced legislation to connect young people with careers in agriculture, expanded property tax exemptions and tax credits for farm operations, and supported agricultural tourism as an essential line of revenue for many farms. (*S.592A, S.593A, S.3665, S.6848, S.9656, S.6017, S.7638, S.3336, S.1239F, S.6848, S.1239F, S.8701A*)

2026 Senate and Assembly Bills Tally

Year	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Senate Bill Introductions	9,038	8,139	8,441	7,571	9,008	7,246	8,398	6,616	8,073	6,812
Senate Bills Reported to Calendar	1,821	2,024	1,898	1,859	1,923	1,790	1,018	1,830	2,143	2,228
Senate Bills Passed*	1,621	1,742	1,679	1,648	1,636	1,559	796	1,555	1,542	1,895
Senate Bills Died on Calendar	200	282	219	211	289	231	222	275	601	335
Assembly Bill Introductions	1,868	8,626	9,310	7,817	9,902	8,032	10,041	8,434	9,673	8,524
Assembly Bill Reported to Calendar	1,111	1,091	1,122	1,100	1,405	1,179	828	1,259	1,576	1,258
Assembly Bills Passed	951	1,023	987	1,026	1,245	1,054	581	1,099	1,113	998
Assembly Bills Died on Calendar	160	68	135	74	154	125	247	160	423	269
Bills Passed Both Houses	759	855	805	896	1,009	892	413	935	641	606
Bills Passed by Democratic Conference Members*	1,474	1,565	1,540	1,465	1,503	1,428	714	1,383	210	151
Bills Passed by Republican Conference Members*	147	178	139	183	133	131	82	172	1,160	1,475

*Includes Assembly bills
handed down to the Senate
Third Reading Calendar

Aging

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Elder Financial Exploitation Public Awareness Campaign****S.8072B (Cleare, Fahy, Rolison) / A.8447A (Seawright)**

This bill directs the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to establish an elder financial exploitation public awareness campaign aimed at providing information to prevent, identify, report, and protect seniors against financial exploitation. The campaign will utilize public forums, social media, and mass media.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 138-0**Elder Abuse Prevention Training for Senior Service Providers S.3180A (Sanders, Ashby, Cleare, Gonzalez, Hinchey, Jackson, Myrie, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb, Weber) / A.582A (Steck)**

This bill requires the Director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), in cooperation with the New York State Police and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), to develop a program to train senior service providers to detect and report elder abuse—including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse—and compile and provide material to senior center employees and contractors, as well as establish and implement written procedures related to elder abuse detection and resources.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 136-0**Statewide Senior Transportation Services****S.8689 (Cleare, Addabbo, Rolison) / A.10055 (Zaccaro)**

This bill authorizes the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to establish, operate and maintain senior transportation services, or to contract with counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts or public or private nonprofit corporations, associations, institutions, or agencies concerned with aging, for the operation and maintenance of such programs.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 128-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Verification Process

S.4805 (Ryan, Jackson, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.4984 (Buttenschon)

This legislation requires the State Department of Taxation and Finance to verify income for the senior tax exemption on behalf of individual applicants. The bill also allows the State Department of Taxation and Finance to extend the program enrollment period for property owners who fail to enroll in the permissible time frame. It also authorizes the Department of Taxation and Finance to send a payment directly to property owners equal to the difference between the tax bill the property owner actually received and the tax bill the property owner would have received had he or she enrolled in the program in a timely manner.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Not-for-Profit Guardian Initiative

S.8654B (Cleare, Ashby, Palumbo, Rolison) / A.9295B (Lavine)

This bill creates a statewide program supporting not-for-profit guardians. A guardian is a person or an agency that the court appoints to make decisions on behalf of another person, typically because the person is unable to make decisions regarding their wellbeing, medical care, life responsibilities, or finances. Not-for-profit guardianship agencies employ people with multiple areas of expertise to serve the individual needs of adults who lack decision-making capacity.

Proponents: Association on Aging New York, Center for Elder Law and Justice, Lifespan of Greater Rochester, LiveOn New York, Project Guardianship

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martins, Ortt, Rhoads)

Assembly Vote: None

Master Plan on Aging Online Dashboard

S.9091 (Cleare, Ashby, Fahy, Gallivan, Helming, Rolison) / A.10168 (Seawright)

This bill requires the State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to maintain a public state Master Plan on Aging (MPA) dashboard on its website, which would include real-time information and updates on each MPA proposal and whether it has been implemented or funded.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Independent Senior Housing Resident Freedom Act****S.6453 (Cleare) / A.3601 (Seawright)**

This bill would clarify that residents living in independent senior housing can obtain the same assistive technologies, personal care, and home care services as they could if they were living in a private home. Additionally, it would clarify that a licensed or certified home care agency, personal care program, long term home health care program, or managed long term care program is able to perform outreach to residents of independent senior housing as well as arrange for and provide home care services to such residents.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 138-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Food Date Labeling

S.7618B (Hinchey, Addabbo, Brouk, Bynoe, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Kavanagh, Krueger, May, Serrano) / A.7291-B (Reyes)

This bill directs DAM to standardize the date labeling practices on food products. This bill requires any food manufacturer, processor, or retailer who is required to place date labels on food to use specific, uniform terms and labels one year after going into effect. The labels must indicate either a safety date or a quality date rather than a sell by date. The bill also requires that any date placed on a food product must be determined using scientifically valid methods approved by DAM in consultation with the Department of Health, and requires DAM to conduct educational and outreach efforts to inform the public, food retailers, and donation organizations about the new date labeling system.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates; NYSAC; ReFED

Opponents: Farm Bureau

Senate Vote: 53-7 (Ashby, Borrello, Ortt, O'Mara, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 136-2

Prohibits the Use of Certain Food Color and Additives in the Production of Food for Sale

S.1239F (Kavanagh, Sepúlveda, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Jackson, Martins, May, Myrie, Oberacker, Rhoads, Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Weber, Weik) / A.1556E (Kelles)

This bill prohibits food additives and food color additives potassium bromate, propylparaben, and red dye No. 3 from being purchased or sold and directs the Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) to catalogue all substances that are "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS). This bill requires private companies to share the results of their internal studies with DAM on GRAS substances on a publicly available website. All data establishing whether or not a substance is GRAS must be found using publicly available data and not trade secrets.

Proponents: Consumer Reports; New York State Academy of Family Physicians; Weill Cornell Medicine

Opponents: American Beverage Association; National Confectioners Association; Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 106-32

Baby Food and Infant Formula Safety and Transparency Act

S.8701A (Hinchey) / A.9026A (Torres)

This bill directs DAM to create heavy metal testing standards for infant formula and baby food in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH). Any baby formula or food products that exceed those thresholds will be considered adulterated and will be banned from being sold in the state. Currently when DAM considers a product adulterated, it will issue product recalls and any additional regulatory actions required to protect consumers and hold the manufacturer/seller accountable. This bill requires manufacturers to test each production batch of baby food or infant formula for toxic heavy metals. These tests must occur at least once a month by an accredited independent laboratory. All tests are required to be readily available to DAM upon their request and publicly available to consumers through a QR code located on the baby food or formula product.

Proponents: Consumer Reports

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 140-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Tucker’s Law**

S.197 (Martinez, Addabbo, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Tedisco, Webb, Weber) / A.3050 (Lunsford)

This bill enacts “Tucker’s Law,” which removes the language that limits the term of imprisonment to up to two years for committing Aggravated Animal Cruelty, defaulting to the Class E felony sentencing of up to four years. This bill also removes language that makes the penalty a definite sentence, which would allow for sentences of multiple counts of animal cruelty to be “stacked.” Under current law, if a defendant is serving multiple sentences in the same facility, those sentences are added together and the defendant serves either the total sentence or two years, whichever is less.

Proponents: NYS Humane Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Brisport and Salazar)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the New York State Youth in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship Summer Employment Program

S.592A (Hinchey, Ashby, Borrello, Cleare, Fahy, Helming, May, Oberacker, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb) / No Same As

This bill directs DAM to establish a summer youth employment program to focus on teaching economically and socially disadvantaged students about the agricultural industry, alternative career paths, and agricultural and entrepreneurial work experience. To incentivize program uptake and support farms otherwise facing hardship in providing competitive wages and transportation to their employees, this legislation creates a new program to help match students with farms and other agricultural businesses for summer employment. The bill provides a subsidy to farms that demonstrate financial hardship in order to support paying for the summer wages and transportation of participants.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Garden Protection Act

S.879A (May, Oberacker, Comrie) / A.2122A (Kelles)

This bill creates the “Garden Protection Act” which prevents local governments from adopting ordinances and rules or regulations that prevent individuals from cultivating a home vegetable garden, native plant garden, or pollinator garden.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-12 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Ryan, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

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Prohibits Misrepresentation of or Collection of Certain Fees for Petroleum

S.1783C (Hinchey, Webb) / A.6825A (Woerner)

This bill requires sellers of liquified petroleum gas to provide a description of each fee on a customer's bill, limits or prohibits certain fees, prohibits a seller from passing governmental fees to consumers, and ensures consumers get rebates on any gas the consumer paid for that the seller later resells. These prohibited fees include any fees associated with the removal of propane tanks and termination of service other than labor costs, fees associated with maintenance/malfunction of a rental tank (and not caused by the consumer) or hidden rental fees.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows Police and Animal Control Officers to Bring a Civil Action for the Mistreatment of a Companion Animal

S.3073A (Gianaris, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gallivan, Harckham, Jackson, May, Murray, Palumbo, Rolison, Ryan, Stavisky, Webb) / A.2555A (McDonald)

This bill authorizes police, animal control officers, or an agent of a humane society to petition a civil court to inspect the person's property for evidence of companion animal mistreatment, to which an animal care hearing would be scheduled within ten days of the issuance of the inspection to determine whether mistreatment has occurred, which could lead to a court-ordered forfeiture of a companion animal and an appeals bond totaling the cost of care of the animal by a shelter for at least 90 days.

Proponents: ASPCA; District Attorneys Association of the State of New York; Humane Society of the United States; NYS Animal Protection Federation; NYS Sheriffs' Association; The Humane Society

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Transfer-On-Death Process for Farming Implements

S.3277 (Skoufis) / No Same As

This bill avoids probate for transferring ownership of farming implements to a beneficiary by allowing family farms to file a document with DAM. Farming implements explicitly exclude personal property that is attached to, fastened to, connected to, or built into real property or that becomes an addition to, component of, or capital improvement to real property, and does not include buildings or improvements to real property. This bill considers farming equipment such as tractors, machines, parts and associated auxiliary equipment exclusively used for farming and timber harvesting to be farming implements for the bill's purposes.

Proponents: Farm Bureau

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Farm Ownership Succession Planning Program**S.4755A (Bailey, Helming, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb) / A.338 (Cruz)**

This bill establishes the Farm Ownership Succession Planning Program to create a succession planning toolkit for farmers and prospective farmers, assembles a taskforce to assist the program in reaching people in a protected class, and provides information on farm viability.

Proponents: Farm Bureau**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Puppy Mill Pipeline Act of 2026****S8252C (Gianaris) / A.8653C (Rosenthal)**

This bill amends the Puppy Pipeline Act of 2022, which sought to prevent the selling of dogs, cats, and rabbits by online pet shops, “puppy mill” breeders, and brokers. The bill eliminates “pet dealers” from the law and replaces them with the term “pet breeder.” This change is primarily technical. Since December 2024, pet dealers have not been allowed to sell dogs, cats or rabbits in New York through retail stores. A “pet breeder” is now defined as anyone who breeds animals on their residential property and sells more than 25 animals per year directly to a consumer; pet breeders are subject to various regulations and penalties for non-compliance.

Proponents: ASPCA**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders

Analyst: Abisha Vijayashanthar

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Harmful Contaminants Test Strip Program

S.9221 (Ryan) / A.9001 (Steck)

This bill directs the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to create a program to distribute free drug test strips. These test strips detect the presence of harmful contaminants such as medetomidine, benzodiazepine, and nitazenes. It also directs OASAS, in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop and conduct a public awareness campaign on the dangers of these harmful contaminants and the availability of test strips.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Requires School Facilities and Libraries to Stock On-Site Opioid Antagonists

S.9272A (Fernandez, Oberacker) / A.8814A (McDonald)

Current law allows school districts, public libraries, boards of cooperative education services, county vocational education and extension boards, charter schools, and non-public elementary and secondary schools to receive and possess opioid antagonists for individuals experiencing an overdose. It also allows trained employees to administer opioid antagonists. This bill would require these facilities to keep, maintain, and ensure employees trained to administer opioid antagonists are available.

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association, NYSUT

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 131-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Hospital Substance Use Disorder Treatment Requirements

S.489 (Fernandez, Ashby, Helming, Oberacker, Rolison, Webb) / No Same As

This legislation expands hospitals' duty to distribute educational materials on treatment and recovery services to people with, or at-risk for, substance use disorder (SUD) to include information regarding harm reduction and overdose/syringe exchange programs. It also requires hospitals to arrange referrals for a specific date with a specific inpatient/outpatient SUD treatment program. Lastly, it directs hospitals to offer treatment, including medication assisted treatment, to an individual when deemed necessary within 72 hours of SUD diagnosis.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Martinez)

Assembly Vote: None

Judicial Diversion Program Urinalysis Confidentiality**S.1819A (Fernandez, Harckham) / A.2630A (Kelles)**

This bill requires that the Judicial Diversion Program keep the participant urinalysis results process private and confidential. This program allows felony offenders with SUD who face non-violent charges to seek treatment for SUD. Successful completion of the program allows the offender to avoid jail, probation, and/or receive a lesser conviction. The bill also prohibits disclosure of these results to the court or any adverse party, unless the tested individual consents. Finally, the bill prohibits using results indicating non-prescribed substance use as evidence in a criminal action against the tested individual.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-24 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Approval Standards for Overdose Response Services**S.4640A (Fernandez) / No Same As**

This bill authorizes the Department of Health to establish standards for approval of onsite overdose response services. The guidelines will require entities to maintain a supply of unexpired opioid antagonist nasal spray and employ two individuals trained in identifying opioid overdoses and using opioid antagonists. It adds sporting or event centers, theaters, concert venues, and amusement parks to the list of entities that must establish these guidelines.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-9 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Certain Entities to Stock Opioid Antagonists with AEDs**S.5779 (Fernandez, Oberacker, Rhoads) / A.6014 (McDonald)**

This bill requires school districts, public libraries, and various educational environments and schools to provide and maintain opioid antagonists, including naloxone nasal sprays, by every automated external defibrillator (AED). It also requires entities with collaborative agreements with an emergency health care provider to maintain an AED to stock and store opioid antagonists nearby. Finally, it requires these entities to participate as an opioid antagonist recipient, allowing any trained employee to administer an opioid antagonist for individuals experiencing an overdose.

Proponents: New York State Academy of Family Physicians

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

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Individual Counseling Rate Enhancement Act

S.8363A (Fernandez, Addabbo) / A.8734A (Steck)

This bill requires a Medicaid reimbursement rate enhancement for individual psychotherapy services provided by a mental health counselor, clinical social worker, or psychologist delivered in an Article 32 clinic. The enhanced rate must be equal to at least the reimbursement rate established by OASAS. The rate must take effect April 1 of the following year the bill is enacted and include a service rate of 50%.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

In-Home Substance Use Disorder Treatment Certification

S.1812 (Fernandez, Webb) / A.4118 (Reyes)

This legislation directs OASAS to develop a statewide operating certification process for entities seeking to provide in-home based SUD treatment services. Applicants must show that they can meet the General Service Standards for Chemical Dependence Outpatient and Opioid Treatment Programs, which contains programmatic, operational, Medicaid reimbursement, workforce, and recordkeeping requirements for SUD outpatient programs certified, licensed or funded by OASAS.

Proponents: Aware Recovery Care

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Problem Gambling Advisory Council

S.3632 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Webb) / A.2151 (Kelles)

This bill establishes a council to help identify issues affecting those suffering from a problem gambling disorder and recommend ways to make prevention and treatment more accessible throughout New York.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Treatment Court Expansion Act

S.4547 (Ramos, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Sutton, Webb) / A.4869 (Forrest)

This bill expands the number of defendants who can participate in judicial diversion programs, modify court procedures relating to program eligibility, and provide more court discretion related to admission to and conditions of judicial diversion. It also expands access to various methods of treatment/recovery, including peer support, medications, and counseling.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Topher's Law: Integrated Intensive Addiction and Mental Health Pilot

S.4747A (Cleare)

This bill establishes a pilot program to support two three-year demonstration programs providing intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to individuals with these issues who have had multiple and frequent treatment episodes. The services provided will also include mental health counseling services for families, peer supports, and transportation assistance.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Intensive Addiction and Medical Services Integrated Services Pilot

S.4953 (Harckham, Cooney, May, Webb) / A.1712 (Woerner)

This legislation establishes a 3-year intensive addiction recovery and medical integrated services pilot program to support two programs that provide these services for individuals experiencing significant addiction and medical issues.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Banks
Analyst: Bobbi Barnett
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Requires Disclosures in Advertisements of Virtual Tokens

S.5473 (Comrie) / A.391 (Vanel)

This bill creates restrictions on advertising for virtual tokens. Virtual tokens are a digital asset that exists on a blockchain that can be used as a form of digital currency. The Department of Financial Services currently regulates virtual currencies in New York State. The bill creates restrictions on advertising, including that no person can advertise any statement or representation relating to a virtual token for compensation without disclosing the compensation for the advertisement and prohibits statements or representations that are false, misleading, or deceptive.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Expands the Banking Development District Program

S.8357 (Sanders) / A.9574 (Anderson)

This bill allows certain banks and credit unions participating in the Banking Development District (BDD) Program to utilize reciprocal deposits to secure deposit insurance for state deposits placed under the program. The bill also allows the Comptroller to promulgate rules and regulations regarding the deposit placement program, including contract requirements establishing the duration and amount allowable under the program on a per-institution basis and reporting requirements on the impact of reciprocal deposits on a participating bank's lending activities.

Proponents: Comptroller (Departmental), NY Bankers Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Prohibits Charging a Fee for Change in Frequency of Mortgage Payments

S.9514A (Kavanagh, Fahy) / A.9588B (Torres)

This bill prohibits mortgage loan servicers registered with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) as well as other DFS-chartered entities like banks or other entities that directly or indirectly service, administer, or process payments on a mortgage loan, from charging a borrower a fee for making payments on a monthly, semi-monthly, or biweekly schedule or for changing the frequency of mortgage payments. The bill also disallows servicers from prohibiting mortgage payments on a monthly, semi-monthly, or biweekly basis. The bill does not apply to federally chartered banks, credit unions, and other mortgage lenders.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York Mortgage Bankers Association

Senate Vote: 38-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattered, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 95-40

VOIDS UNSOLICITED MAIL-LOAN CHECKS**S.9570A (Skoufis) / A.9494A (Santabarbara)**

This bill strengthens the existing prohibition on lending institutions issuing mail-loan checks other than those provided in response to a request or application, and also voids checks that do not comply with the bill. “Mail-loan checks” are checks that lending institutions mail to consumers in the hopes of the consumer cashing them, which provides the consumer with immediate money, and results in the consumer entering into a loan with the lending institution that mailed the check. The bill states that no lender may issue a mail-loan check without an affirmative request by the person to whom it is issued. The bill further states that any debt, interest, fee, or other obligation arising from a mail-loan check issued in violation of the above rule shall be null and void and unenforceable.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

PROHIBITS FEES FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER CARD**S.9656 (Sanders) / A.3304B (Tapia)**

This legislation prohibits state-chartered banks, credit unions, and operators of automated teller machines (ATMs) overseen by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) from charging fees, except for interchange fees, for using electronic benefit transfer cards. The bill defines electronic benefit transfer cards to include any medical assistance card, food stamp assistance card, public assistance card, or any other identification, authorization card or electronic access device issued by the State or a social services district which entitles a person to obtain public assistance benefits under a local, state or federal program administered by the State. This section applies to all contracts for benefit cards made by a government agency six months after the bill is signed into law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 44-14 (Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffio, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 100-45

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**ESTABLISHES A RIGHT OF ACTION FOR THOSE INJURED BY MORTGAGE SERVICERS****S.70 (Kavanagh, Addabbo, Brisport, Jackson, May, Myrie, Ramos, Sanders, Webb) / A.3348 (Dinowitz)**

This bill creates a private right of action for those who are injured by a mortgage servicer’s failure to comply with foreclosure proceeding rules and regulations. Under this bill, a person injured may bring an action or assert a counterclaim and may recover \$1,000 per violation, treble actual damages, and costs and expenses including reasonable attorneys’ fees if awarded damages or injunctive relief. A mortgagee and mortgage servicer will be jointly and severally liable for any recoveries by an injured mortgagor in any action brought pursuant to this legislation.

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Proponents: Center for NYC Neighborhoods; Empire Justice Center; Grow Brooklyn; Legal Aid Society of Rockland County; Legal Aid Society of NYC; Long Island Housing Services, Inc; Mobilization for Justice; New Yorkers for Responsible Lending; New York Legal Assistance Group; Western New York Law Center

Opponents: New York Bankers Association; New York Mortgage Bankers Association; New York Credit Union Association

Senate Vote: 38-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits State-Chartered Banks from Investing in Private Prisons

S.114 (Cleare, Brouk, Jackson, May) / A.4144 (Reyes)

This bill prohibits any state-chartered banking institution from providing financing for or investing in the stocks, securities, or other obligations of any institution, company, or subsidiary that owns or contracts with a government to manage or run a prison.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Public Bank Feasibility Study

S.1996 (Sanders) / A.7306 (Vanel)

This bill establishes a temporary commission to conduct a feasibility study on the formation and control of a state-owned public bank. This bill requires the commission to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature between six and seven months after the bill takes effect reporting on its findings.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: NY Bankers Association

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Directs DFS to Analyze the Check Cashing Industry's Financial Stability and Registration Process

S.8279 (Sepulveda, Jackson, Persaud) / A.8761 (Cruz)

This bill directs DFS to analyze their current system for licensing check-cashing companies, for establishing new locations or relocating existing ones, and report on costs and processing times.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Increases the Maximum Amount a Bank Can Hold Under the Community Bank Deposit Program**S.8406 (Sanders) / A.9573 (Vanel)**

The Community Bank Deposit Program allows the Department of Tax and Finance and the Comptroller to deposit up to \$250 million of State funds in community banks that have a history of meeting their communities' needs. In order to participate in the program, community banks must have a demonstrated history of lending for community needs in small business, farm, community development, and home mortgage lending. Increasing the amount that these banks can hold in State deposits enables them to increase their lending activity to individuals and small businesses in their communities. This bill raises the amount of money any one bank branch can hold in state deposits under the Community Bank Deposit Program (CBDP) from \$20M to \$30M.

Proponents: Comptroller (Departmental); New York Bankers Association**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Creates Consumer Protections for Cryptocurrency Kiosks and Cashier Crypto Exchanges****S.9891B (Sanders, Cleare) / A.10899C (Vanel)**

This bill creates a framework for the regulation of crypto kiosks and cashier crypto exchange operators. Crypto kiosks are electronic terminals or retail locations that enable a consumer to exchange money for virtual currency. A cashier crypto exchange is a method of exchanging virtual currency for funds, where the funds are collected at the retailer acting as an agent or processor for the transaction. Currently, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) requires issuers of virtual currency to obtain a license to operate in New York and approves any new products issued by those currency issuers--including crypto kiosks and exchanges. The bill would create new disclosures and transaction limits to prevent potential scams and frauds.

Proponents: AARP**Opponents:** CoinFlip**Senate Vote:** 59-2 (Ortt, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Enacts a Safe Harbor for Commercial Lending Disclosure Estimates

S.4604 (Sanders) / A.4810 (Vanel)

This bill explicitly removes any liability on a commercial lender as a result of the actual annual percentage rate charged by the lender differing from the estimated annual percentage rate disclosed by the provider acting in good faith and in conformity with consumer lending disclosure statutes and any applicable Department of Financial Services rules and regulations.

Proponents: Secured Finance Network

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 132-10

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Allows Credit Unions, Savings Banks, Savings and Loan Associations, and Federal Saving Associations to Hold Municipal Deposits

S.3066 (Sanders, Ashby, May, Mayer, Parker, Ramos, Skoufis, Walczyk) / A.4818 (Vanel)

This bill would allow credit unions, savings banks, savings and loan associations, and federal savings associations to accept and secure municipal deposits. Under current law, the ability to hold municipal deposits is reserved for commercial banks.

Proponents: New York Credit Union Association

Opponents: New York Bankers Association; Independent Bankers Association of New York

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Several bills have been introduced in different committees to regulate mechanisms to provide advance payments for earned, unpaid wages before a scheduled payday. This includes S.3332A (Cooney), which provides for disclosures, fee caps, and limitations on debt collection, as well as S.8939 (Brouk), which regulates the extension of credit based on earned or anticipated income and limits interest rates to usury levels. Several states have acted on earned wage access (EWA) programs. The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has, under different presidential administrations, issued contradictory interpretations of how EWA is subject to federal lending regulations.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Budget and Revenue
Analyst: Gabriel Paniza
(518) 455-3594

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Imposes a Wholesale Tax on Vapor Products, Requires Licensing of Vapor Distributors and Creates a Vapor Products Directory

S.4527B (Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Jackson, Kavanagh, Parker, Sanders, Sepúlveda) / A.4619B (Solages)

This bill changes the taxation of vapor products from a point of sales tax to a bifurcated distributor level tax dependent on the vapor product. The two tax rates would be \$0.32 per milliliter on closed system products, and an 8 percent tax on the wholesale price of all other types of vapor products allowed in the state. Vapor product distributors would require licenses, and any vapor product dealer who might take possession of vapor products from a manufacturer must obtain a vapor product distributor license as well. The Department of Tax and Finance (DTF) would be given inspection powers to enforce this new distributor level tax. The bill also creates a directory of vapor products. Manufacturers of vapor products or importers of products into the state would be mandated to provide DTF with a list of the vapor products they sell into New York, including information on what kind of vapor product it is, whether the manufacturers has applied for authorization for sale by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the status of such application, and a certification that the product is not a flavored vapor product, or is a flavored vapor product that has received premarket sale approval by the FDA.

Proponents: Altria

Opponents: African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Nurses Association - New York, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Miss Abbie's Kids, NAACP New York State Conference, New York Chapter American College of Physicians Services, New York School-Based Health Alliance, New York State Academy of Family Physicians, New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (District II), New York State Parent Teacher Association, New York State Public Health Association, New York State Radiological Society, Parents Against Vaping (PAVe), Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Senate Vote: 52-8 (Fahy, Griffo, Hinchey, Krueger, May, Mattera, Murray, Ryan)

Assembly Vote: 135-6

Increases the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Credit

S.6233A (Martinez, Bailey, Baskin, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Ryan, Webb) / A.6790A (McMahon)

This bill increases the value of the volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers tax credit from \$200 to \$800 per individual and would allow individuals who claim the property tax exemption to also claim the credit, which is currently prohibited. Additionally, the bill clarifies which localities are eligible to offer a volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker property tax exemption at local option.

Proponents: Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 133-0

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Amends the Apportionment Factor for Corporate Franchise Taxes for Professional Employer Organizations

S.8746 (Cooney) / A.11453 (Lunsford)

This bill requires that, for the purposes of apportioning business income for calculating the corporate franchise tax due by a professional employer organization (PEO), any wages, benefits, and other employee expenses disbursed to or for the benefit of the PEO client's worksite employees, the related employment taxes not be treated as a reimbursement for the PEO and instead be apportioned to the PEO's client or to a combined group return.

Proponents: Greater Rochester Chamber, Paychex

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 138-3

Exempts Admission Charges to Stand-Up Comedy Shows from Sales Taxes

S.9407 (Gonzalez, Bottcher, Gianaris, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano) / A.10429 (Powers)

This bill provides a sales tax exemption to any admission charge for a stand-up comedy performance. Tickets for dramatic or musical arts performances are already exempt from the sales tax. Currently, this does not include comedic performances such as stand-up comedy. This bill aims to extend the sales tax exemption for comedy performance tickets while still requiring these theaters to collect sales taxes on food, refreshment or merchandise.

Proponents: National Independent Venue Association, SAG-AFTRA, Writers Guild of America East, AsylumNYC, Chelsea Music Hall, City Winery LLC, CAVEAT, Greenpoint Comedy Club, Helium Comedy Club, New York Comedy Club, The Stand

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Exempts Certain Oral Hygiene Products from the Sales Tax

S.985A (Brouk, Liu) / A.2444A (Woerner)

This bill exempts toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, from the sales and compensating use tax. Currently drugs, medicines, medical equipment and related services, and certain medical supplies are exempted from the sales tax. That exemption does not include items that are considered cosmetics or toilet articles notwithstanding the presence of medicinal ingredients, and oral hygiene products currently fall under this category of non-exempt products.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Imposes a Noise Tax on Non-Essential Helicopter and Seaplane Flights in New York City**S.1140A (Gonzalez, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson, Krueger, Salazar) / A.5891A (Carroll R)**

This bill establishes a new noise tax equal to \$50 per seat ticket, or \$200 per flight, whichever is higher, on non-essential helicopter flights conducted by helicopter and seaplane operators in New York City that originated and ended in New York State. There would be an exemption for non-essential flights conducted using models of helicopters or seaplanes that meet certain requirements to be considered a quiet aircraft. The Department of Tax and Finance, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, would be responsible for creating the registry of what models meet the criteria for being considered a quiet aircraft. The Senate included this bill in the SFY 2026-27 One-House budget proposal, but it was not included in the Adopted Budget.

Proponents: Manhattan Borough President, Brooklyn Borough President, Hudson Classical Theater Company**Opponents:** Blade**Senate Vote:** 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cooney, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Decouples State from the Treatment of Gains under the Opportunity Zones Program****S.3340 (Gianaris, Brisport, Fahy, Jackson, Krueger, Parker, Ramos, Salazar, Skoufis, Stavisky, Webb) / A.3246 (Dinowitz)**

This bill decouples State and New York City personal income taxes from the federal exemptions on taxation of gains from investments in areas designated as federal Opportunity Zones and requires taxpayers to calculate their gains from such an investment without any special tax treatment or exemption. The Senate included this bill in the SFY 2026-27 One-House budget proposal, but it was not included in the Adopted Budget.

Proponents: Alliance for Quality Education, American Economic Liberties Project, ALIGN-NY, Citizen Action of New York, Communications Workers of America, District 1, CSEA, Jobs First, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Legal Aid Society, Long Island Progressive Coalition, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness, NYPIRG, NYS Council of Churches, NYSUT, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY, Reinvent Albany, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Strong Economy For All Coalition, Tenants PAC, The Chinese-American Planning Council, United University Professions**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Imposes 100 Percent Tax on Payouts from The Anti-Weaponization Fund****S.10585 (Gianaris, Fahy, Parker, Ramos) / A.11503 (Bores)**

This bill establishes a separate assessment on any income received by a resident personal income taxpayer, be it an individual, estate or trust, on any distribution, payment, or transfer from the federal anti-weaponization fund established pursuant to the settlement agreement in *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service (IRS)*. Any such income would be taxed at 100 percent, and this rate cannot be reduced by any deduction, exemption, or credit otherwise allowed under the law.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Children and Families

Analysts: Janine Smith and Jessica Keenan
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Expands Record Access by the New York City Department of Investigation****S.8205A (Brisport) / A.8248A (Hevesi)**

This legislation amends provisions governing the disclosure of certain foster care, child protective services (CPS), Family Assessment Response (FAR), and Justice Center records to expand the New York City Department of Investigation's (DOI) access to such records for investigations within its statutory authority. It authorizes DOI to obtain additional child welfare and oversight records, removes certain existing approval requirements for access to identifying information, and permits the disclosure of specified FAR records to prosecutors and their investigators for use in related criminal proceedings.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Remote Training for Child Welfare Personnel**S.5437A (Cleare) / A.893A (Hevesi)**

This legislation amends existing law governing training requirements for child welfare personnel employed by social services districts and authorized agencies. Child welfare personnel include caseworkers providing preventive, foster care, and adoption services, as well as personnel engaged in permanency planning, family rehabilitation, adoption services, and court-related proceedings. It states that, effective April 1, 2027, required training courses may be satisfied through distance-learning methods that ensure participants remain in attendance for the duration of the course and are afforded the opportunity to communicate with and ask the instructor questions.

Proponents: Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 134-0

Establishes a State-Funded Supervised Visitation Program**S.9498 (Mayer, Brisport, Harckham, Myrie, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Skoufis) / A.65B (Hevesi)**

This bill establishes a statewide supervised visitation initiative administered by the Office of Victim Services (OVS), in consultation with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. This legislation mandates that each county and New York City conduct and submit annual assessments detailing the local need for supervised visitation services to ensure effective implementation to OVS. These assessments must outline plans to address those needs, the types of services offered, the estimated number of children and families to be served, projected fee waivers, and estimated costs. Counties may also suggest partnerships with private nonprofit organizations and, where appropriate, collaborate across counties to deliver services more efficiently.

Proponents: Women's Bar Association of the State of NY; Office of Court Administration (OCA)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 133-5

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Adjusts Child to Caregiver Ratios in Family Day Care Homes

S.9728 (Brouk, Harckham) / A.10025 (Clark)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to modify supervision requirements for caregivers in family and group family day care homes. It lowers the age threshold for infants needing enhanced supervision from under 2 years to under 18 months. Specifically, the staffing ratio changes from one caregiver per two children under 2 years old to one caregiver per two children under 18 months old. This requirement applies to both family day care homes and group family day care homes.

Proponents: Friends of Recovery New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Establishes Center for Fatherhood Initiatives

S.5228A (Bailey, Brouk, Fernandez, Liu, Rhoads) / A.1211A (Dais)

This legislation establishes the Center for Fatherhood Initiatives within the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to support programs promoting engaged and responsible fatherhood. The Center will award grants to initiatives that strengthen parenting skills, attitudes, and self-sufficiency, with a focus on marginalized communities. The OCFS Commissioner will oversee the administration and operation of the Center and promulgate rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Inspections of Childcare Facilities

S.6225 (Rivera, Borrello, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Salazar) / A.3899A (Alvarez)

This legislation enhances safety and transparency in child day care settings by requiring more transparent public display of household member counts, access rights for parents and relatives, and contact information for complaints. It mandates visual inspections of all rooms and closets, broadens overdose prevention training for staff, and permits providers to keep and use opioid antagonists like naloxone, with liability protection when used in good faith. The bill also ensures that overdose prevention information is included in statewide education programs for both providers and families.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Consideration of an Individual's Use of Reproductive Health Services in Certain Court Proceedings

S.8860 (May, Harckham) / A.10697 (Rajkumar)

This legislation amends the Domestic Relations Law to prohibit courts, in custody, visitation, and related family court proceedings, from considering a parent's reproductive health history or a parent's procurement or attempted procurement of reproductive health services when determining the best interests of the child. Under this legislation, "Reproductive health services" encompasses medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services related to human reproductive health, including pregnancy and termination of pregnancy, provided in any medical or clinical setting. The prohibition applies to proceedings in which courts make custody or visitation determinations, including habeas corpus and matrimonial actions such as annulment, separation, or divorce.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walcyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Courts from Considering Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Reassignment in Child Custody Cases

S.9764 (Sepulveda, Jackson, Liu, May, Salazar) / No Same As

This legislation prevents a court from considering the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of the parties when determining the best interests of the child in making a custody determination. It also prevents the court from prohibiting a party in a child custody proceeding from undergoing gender reassignment.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-16 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Information Disclosure to Parents and Caretakers during a CPS Investigation - “Parental Bill of Rights”

S.551 (Brisport, Addabbo, Bailey, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, May, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb, Weber) / A.1234 (Walker)

This legislation requires, at the point of initial contact when a child protective investigation is initiated, that a child protective services worker notify parents or caretakers of specific information, both orally and in writing. The information must include that the parent or caretakers are not required to permit the worker entry into the home, to speak with the worker, the interview or examine a child, to sign releases of information or undergo drug testing, as well as information about seeking the advice of an attorney and the specific allegations in the report. Current law requires child protective services to initiate an investigation into a report accepted by the State Central Registry within 24 hours. There are statutory requirements that must be met, including an evaluation of the environment of the child named in the report and any other children in the same home and a determination of the risk to such children if they continue to remain in the existing home environment.

Proponents: NYSCADV; Bronx Defenders; Brooklyn Defenders; We Are Revolutionary; New York City Bar Association; Parent Legislative Action Network; JMACforFamilies; Schuyler Center

Opponents: Civil Service Employees Association; NY Public Welfare Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Custodial Interrogation of Minors

S.878C (Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton, Webb, Zellner) / A.2620B (Hevesi)

This bill amends current law enforcement practices when taking a child or youth into custody and the interrogation of juveniles. Significant changes include a requirement that an officer must make every reasonable effort, prior to transporting the child, to notify the child’s parent or person legally responsible for the child that the child has been taken into custody. Current law requires that law enforcement immediately notify a parent or person legally responsible without defining what constitutes immediate notice. Current law also does not strictly prohibit law enforcement from transporting a child prior to notification. In addition, this bill mandates that a juvenile cannot be questioned until that juvenile has consulted with legal counsel in person, by telephone, or by video conference. This legal consultation cannot be waived by either the child or the child’s parent or custodian.

Proponents: Alliance for Quality Education; Center for Appellate Litigation; CASES; Equality NY; Families Together in NYS; Latino Pastoral Action Center; LAS; National Association of Social Workers- NYS Chapter; The Ali Forney Center; The Arthur Project; The Children’s Defense Fund- New York; The Children’s Law Center; The Gault Center; Urban Justice Center Freedom Agenda; Urban Youth Alliance International; Westchester Children’s Association

Opponents: NYPD; New York State Sheriffs’ Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Cities 1

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Requires Biannual Certification of Cooling Towers**

S.8472A (Cleare, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Persaud, Salazar) / A.9058A (Wright)

This legislation requires biannual certification of cooling towers and increased penalties for violations related to cooling towers in New York City. Currently the certification is once per year instead of the two times per year proposed in the bill. It also expands recordkeeping timelines.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-4 (O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Lung Presumption for New York City Deputy Sheriffs

S.9881 (Jackson, Addabbo) / A.11031 (Pheffer Amato)

This legislation provides certain Deputy Sheriff members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) a rebuttable statutory presumption that a qualifying partial or total disability or death related to a lung disease was incurred in the performance of duty. Generally, presumptions of this kind are only afforded to current members.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-2

Heart Presumption for New York City Deputy Sheriffs

S.9882 (Jackson, Addabbo) / A.11028 (Pheffer Amato)

This legislation provides certain Deputy Sheriff members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) a rebuttable statutory presumption that a qualifying partial or total disability or death related to a heart disease was incurred in the performance of duty.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-2

Requires Body Armor Worn by New York City Emergency Services Personnel be Replaced Every Five Years

S.10186 (Jackson, Addabbo, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.79 (Pheffer Amato)

This legislation requires that body armor worn by New York City emergency services personnel who provide emergency medical services (EMS) must be replaced every five years.

Proponents: Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics, and Fire Inspectors FDNY (Local 2507)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Extends NYC Joint Bidding for One More Year

S.10195A (Bottcher) / A.11455 (Burke)

This legislation extends New York City's legislative ability to use joint bidding on contracts for public work projects for one more year.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 127-0

Green Roof Tax Abatement Extender for New York City

S.10365 (Liu) / A.11378 (Rozic)

This legislation extends the Green Roof Tax Abatement program in New York City for four years.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 128-0

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Allow Housing Programs to Provide an Artist Preference in New York City

S.9652 (Bottcher) / A.10479 (Powers)

This legislation allows New York City and state housing programs to provide an artist's preference without violating the New York City Human Rights Law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits the Sale of ATVs and Off-Highway Motorcycles in New York City

S.2436A (Krueger, Chan, Fernandez, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson) / No Same As

This legislation prohibits any corporation, partnership, firm, sole proprietorship, or other entity or person from selling, leasing, renting, or attempting to sell, lease, or rent an off-highway motorcycle or an ATV to another person in New York City. Any entity or person who violates this section will be liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000 for a first violation. Each subsequent violation within a one-year period will result in a civil penalty of \$2,000.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes New York City Community Improvement Projects**S.4040 (Comrie, Jackson) / A.5362 (Hyndman)**

This legislation establishes a legal framework for property owners to petition for and create localized improvement projects, particularly focused on shared infrastructure like driveways and sewer systems and enhanced sanitation and security.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Requires Notice to Neighbors of Construction Sites****S.6847 (Comrie, Jackson, Persaud) / A.8431 (Zaccaro)**

This legislation requires the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) to issue a bulletin to homeowners who live next to construction sites, informing them of their rights.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 40-19 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Notification Requirements to Affected Residents in New York City in Cases of Serious Health Threats to Cooling Towers and Water Systems****S.8688A (Cleare) / No Same As**

This legislation requires notification by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to residents who are potentially affected by a serious health threat to their cooling towers and water systems.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY****Queens Storm and Ground Water Study****S.4557A (Sanders) / A.7992A (Hyndman)**

This legislation directs the City of New York to conduct an analysis of stormwater and groundwater issues in Southeast Queens.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** 136-2

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Local governments received significant additional financial assistance this session as they confront budget deficits, numerous macroeconomic uncertainties and headwinds, and federal spending cuts, so the Senate will continue monitoring their fiscal health.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Cities 2
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

**Public Notice Requirements Prior to Discontinuation of Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies in Cities
S.8283A (Ryan C) / A.8680A (Burke)**

This legislation requires a city that seeks to cease fluoridation of its public water supply to publish a public notice, including the date of such discontinuance, in local newspapers and on the City's website and social media pages at least 90 days prior to discontinuing such fluoridation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Griffo)

Assembly Vote: 136-2

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Civil Service and Pensions

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Increases Benefits for Uniformed Sanitation Members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System

S.4667A (Jackson) / A.5843A (Pheffer Amato)

This bill eliminates the offset equal to 50% of the primary Social Security benefit in the normal service, early service, and vested retirement benefits for Tier 3 sanitation members in the original, revised, modified, and enhanced plans (i.e., the 22-year plans) of the New York City Employees' Retirement System.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-2

Increases Benefits for Uniformed Correction Members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System

S.4706A (Jackson) / A.5548A (Pheffer Amato)

This bill eliminates the offset equal to 50% of the primary Social Security benefit in the normal service, early service, and vested retirement benefits for Tier 3 correction members in the original, revised, and enhanced plans (i.e., the 22-year plans) of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Prohibits Executive Agency Outsourcing During a Hiring Freeze

S.4773 (Ryan, Comrie, Jackson, Murray, Weber) / A.1396 (Eachus)

This bill prohibits any Executive agency, department, division, commission, bureau or any other entity from circumventing a hiring freeze by using contractors, subcontractors, or other third parties to fill roles that would ordinarily be performed by the positions subject to the freeze.

Proponents: CSEA, AFL-CIO, PEF

Opponents: ACENY, NYS Council of Professional Geologists, American Council of Engineering Companies of NY

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 143-1

Broadens the Scope of Terms That Are Subject to Arbitration During Collective Bargaining Negotiations for Deputy Sheriffs

S.4894 (Jackson, Harckham, Skoufis) / A.9665 (Cashman)

This bill would allow Deputy Sheriffs to arbitrate non-compensation issues including job security, disciplinary procedures and actions, deployment or scheduling, or issues relating to eligibility for overtime compensation. It would also allow arbitration to occur prior to a collective bargaining agreement having been expired for 12 months or longer and without exhaustion of all other impasse resolution procedures.

Proponents: NYSUPA, AFL CIO, NYS Police Benevolent Associations

Opponents: NYS Sheriffs' Association

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 134-1

Increases The Mandatory Retirement Age For Tier 2 and 3 NYPD Members

S.5053B (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Chan, Martinez) / A.1396 (Eachus)

This bill increases the mandatory retirement age for Tier 2 and 3 New York Police Department (NYPD) members from age 62 or 63 to 65. Currently, active NYPD members who reach the age of 62 or 63 are generally required to retire, though they may continue to serve the minimum amount of time to become eligible for Normal Service Retirement, so long as that does not require them serving past 65 years of age.

Proponents: Detective's Endowment Association, New York City Sergeants Benevolent Association, Police Conference of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Establishes An Optional Twenty-Five Year Retirement Plan For Certain Public Safety Dispatchers

S.7635B (Ryan, Ashby, Bynoe, Fahy, Gallivan, Harckham, Jackson, Martinez, Mattera, Palumbo, Parker, Rhoads, Rolison, Salazar, Skoufis, Tedisco, Webb) / A.9162A (Pheffer Amato)

This bill permits the state, counties, and municipal emergency services departments that participate in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (NYSLERS) to elect to provide members employed as public safety dispatchers, public safety telecommunicators, 911 operators, communications officers, police communication technicians, emergency services operators, emergency services dispatchers, or any similar title that is responsible for receiving and managing emergency calls and dispatching appropriate emergency services the option to retire upon completion of 25 years of creditable service with a benefit of 50 percent of their final average salary (FAS).

Proponents: CSEA

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Optional Twenty-Five Year Retirement for Certain New York Power Authority Employees

S.9068A (Griffo, Jackson, Martinez, Mattera, Rhoads, Ryan, Skoufis, Zellner) / A.10263A (Buttenschon)

This bill would allow any employee with the job title mechanic, technician, electrician, equipment operator, power plant operator, utility security officer, or lineperson employed by the New York Power Authority to retire after twenty-five years of total creditable service with a pension annuity equal to fifty percent of the member's final average salary.

Proponents: International IBEW Local 2104

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Death Gamble Benefit for Certain Judges

S.9276 (Sepulveda) / A.10355 (Tapia)

This bill modifies the in-service death benefit for retirement eligible state-paid judges or justices of the Unified Court System and housing judges of the Civil Court of the City of New York. The in-service death benefit would be the value of the pension reserve as if the member had retired on their date of death and allow their beneficiaries to select either a lump-sum death benefit or the monthly retirement benefit, whichever is greater, rather than their beneficiaries receiving a one-time lump sum death benefit.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

25-Year Retirement Plan for Tier 4 And 6 New York City Water Supply Police

S.9356 (Kavanagh, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.10414 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill establishes a twenty-five year retirement plan for members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) for Water Supply Police. Participants will receive a retirement benefit equal to 50 percent of Final Average Salary (FAS) for the first 25 years of credited service, plus 2 percent of their FAS for each additional year of credited service, exceeding 25 years, up to a maximum of 5 additional years. Plan participants would be required to pay additional member contributions equal to 6 percent of compensation for all service on and after the starting date of the plan until the later of one-year after the effective date of the plan or 30 years of credited service as a Water Supply Police member.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Brisport)

Assembly Vote: 137-2

Optional Twenty-Five Year Retirement Program for EMT Members

S.9378 (Jackson, Addabbo) / A.10579 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill would allow eligible Tier IV and Tier VI EMT Members who opted out of the EMT twenty-five year retirement plan another opportunity to rejoin the plan by filing an application with the New York City Employee's Retirement System (NYCERS) within one hundred and eighty days of the effective date of this act.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-1

Prohibits Falsely Impersonating Union Representatives

S.9577A (Ramos, Harckham, Hinchey, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.10835A (Griffin)

This bill empowers the Attorney General to bring an action against any individual or organization planning to or that has falsely impersonated an employee organization or its representative. In order for an act to be considered false impersonation, there must be specific intent to deceive the recipient of the communication, by fraud, misrepresentation, material omission, or other deception that results in harm to the recipient or the employee organization. The communication may be verbal, written, or electronic. Violations are punishable by a fine of one thousand dollars per incident, though this amount may be reduced based on court's discretion on the defendant's conduct.

Proponents: PEF, CSEA, NYSUT, AFL-CIO, DC37

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

**Eliminates The Overtime Calculation Limit for Tier 6 Members of the New York City Transit Authority
S.10189 (Gounardes) / A.11154 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill eliminates the overtime cap for Tier 6 employees of the New York City Transit Authority. As a result, all of the covered New York City Transit Authority members' earnings, including overtime, would be included in the calculation of their final average salary, providing such members with increased pension benefits.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-1

**Court Officer Tier VI Benefit Enhancement
S.10590 (Jackson) / A.11387 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill allows Tier VI uniformed court officers or peace officers employed by the Unified Court System into the age 55 retirement plans already in place for other similar employees. Under this bill, a court officer would be eligible to retire at age 55 if they have worked for 30 years. This bill also reduces the normal retirement age for these members from age 63 to age 62 and lessens the reductions in benefits for those who retire prior to normal retirement age.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 139-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Forfeiture Of Benefits After Domestic Violence Conviction

S.6750 (Webb, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, Rhoads, Rolison, Zellner) / A.5223 (Reyes)

This bill entitles a retiree in a state retirement system to change their option election or select a new beneficiary if their beneficiary is convicted of a domestic violence related offense for which the retiree is a complainant. Retirees in this situation would have 180 days after the date of conviction to request a change. If the member elects to change their payment option, a new benefit shall be calculated.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Extends World Trade Center (WTC) Performance of Duty Disability Retirement Benefits to Qualifying New York City Transit Workers and Retirees

S.7529 (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Chan, Cooney, Jackson, Martinez, Mattera, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Sutton, Weber) / A.8499 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill provides that any active or retired member of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS), employed by the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA), who participated in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations and subsequently becomes physically or mentally incapacitated as the result of an injury sustained in the performance of their duties during WTC operations participation shall be paid a performance of duty disability retirement allowance. The performance of duty disability retirement allowance is equal to three-quarters of the member's final average salary.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Competitive Examination Credits for Military Spouses and Surviving Spouses

S.8423A (Scarcella-Spanton) / A.8722A (Pheffer Amato)

This bill creates new credits on civil service examinations, for original appointments and promotion, for military spouses and surviving spouses. A "military spouse" is defined as any spouse of a member of a veteran or non-disabled veteran. A "surviving spouse" is defined as the spouse of a member of any branch of the armed forces who served and subsequently died due to a cause attributed to their military service. Military spouses would receive three points for original appointment and one-and-a-half points for promotion, while surviving spouses would receive six points for both original appointment and promotion.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Codes

Analysts: Damara Fredette and Gabrielle Bruno
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Provides Restoration Services for Criminal Defendants Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial

S.1004B (Brouk, Bailey, Fahy, Fernandez, Murray, O'Mara, Rivera, Walczyk, Webb) / A.5567B (Simon)

This bill provides for restoration services, which includes medication support and rehabilitation services, for defendants assessed to be mentally incapable of standing trial but who may become mentally competent with appropriate treatment. A court can order appropriate medical treatment where a defendant has a substantial probability of restoration to competence within a reasonable period of time.

Proponents: New York State Association of Counties, New York State Bar Association, New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 46-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Tedisco, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 83-49

Study Of Personalized Firearm Technology By The Division Of Criminal Justice Services

S.1455B (Kavanagh, Fernandez) / A.1191B (Bores)

This bill directs the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to conduct a study on the technology of “personalized” firearms, such as programmable features which makes the firearm usable only by the lawful, authorized owner, then establish standards and criteria to certify that a firearm is “personalized.” Firearms certified as “personalized” will be listed on a roster available on the DCJS website.

Proponents: Everytown for Gun Safety

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 92-49

Requires Inclusion Of Sworn Statements From Interpreters Affirming The Accuracy Of Non-native English Speaker Witnesses In Criminal Matters

S.4525 (Bailey) / A.1422 (Cruz)

This bill requires accusatory instruments which are in a language other than English, to be accompanied by: the statement of facts in the witness' primary language, an English translation, and, an affidavit by the interpreter certifying the accuracy of the translation and the interpreter's qualifications.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 83-53

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Prohibits Purchase of Ammunition When a Person is Prohibited from Firearms Possession

S.7236 (Gianaris) / A.7983 (Dinowitz)

This bill prohibits the purchase of ammunition for individuals who are already prohibited by law from possessing a firearm. It creates the same legal standards for purchasing ammunition as for purchasing firearms.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 48-11 (Ashby, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 89-45

Requires Each Law Enforcement Agency in the State to Adopt a Tattoo Policy for Officers

S.8021C (Hinchey) / A.8492C (Weprin)

This bill directs the heads of all state and local law enforcement agencies to establish and implement a tattoo policy for their officers. At a minimum, the policy may allow officers to have arm, leg, back, or torso tattoos, and may require those tattoos to be covered while on duty, and prohibit face, hand, and neck tattoos.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Brisport)

Assembly Vote: 138-2

Requires Covered Online Platforms to Provide a Process for Law Enforcement to Submit Search Warrants and to Comply Within Seventy-two Hours

S.8217B (Hinchey, Rhoads, Salazar) / A.8022A (Steck)

This bill directs online platforms, defined as public or semi-public websites or applications, to establish a process for law enforcement to contact them when there is a search warrant. This process should include a staffed hotline 24 hours a day and staff acknowledging receipt of the search warrant. The covered platforms must comply with the submitted search warrant within 72 hours of receipt. The Attorney General has the authority to enforce compliance.

Proponents: None

Opponents: Etsy

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

“Prevention Of Damage to Critical Infrastructure Act of 2026:” Criminalizes Junk Dealers and Scrap Businesses from Buying or Selling Materials from Critical Infrastructure Providers

S.8302D (Comrie) / A.8675C (Braunstein)

This bill modifies the current crime of criminal tampering to include materials from critical infrastructure providers, such as tubing, cable, or wiring. It also criminalizes any purchase or sale of materials from critical infrastructure providers where the material has the name or logo on it. Lastly, it adds requirements to junk and scrap businesses to document any transactions which involve tubing, cable, or wiring, to include the date of the transaction and the ID presented.

Proponents: AT&T, Spectrum, The Broadband Association, US Telecom, Verizon, Wireless Infrastructure Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Brisport, Gonzalez)

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Victims Protection and Child Sex Buyer Accountability Act**S.8609A (Myrie, Hinchey, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.9214A (Paulin)**

This bill raises the age of the patronized person in certain prostitution-related crimes, from 15 to 18 and from 13 to 15 years old. For the aggravated patronizing a minor, the bill raises the age from 17 to 18. By raising the age of the patronized person in these felonies, it penalizes anyone who is paying for sexual contact with a person who is a minor, legally incapable of consenting to sex. For the B felony crime of promoting prostitution, a person commits this crime when they advance or profit from prostituting any person under the age of 15. It also expands the criminal conduct considered “compelling prostitution” to include any manipulation or abuse of power or authority by the trafficker.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 131-0**Allows Defendants to Enter Pleas to Lesser Offenses with Agreement of Prosecutor and Court****S.8944 (Myrie, Gianaris, Sepulveda) / A.10024 (Romero)**

This bill authorizes a criminal court, with the prosecutor’s consent, to accept a guilty plea to a lesser charge when the reduction is warranted in the interest of justice, based on the specific circumstances of the offense and the defendant’s background. The bill permits prosecutors to offer reduced level pleas even in cases where current law would otherwise require a defendant with prior felony convictions to plead to a more serious offense. Under this alternative plea framework, both the prosecutor and the court must agree to the disposition, and the court must place its reasoning on the record, including the nature of the conduct, the strength of the evidence, and the defendant’s history and character.

Proponents: District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, Judge Zayas (Chief Court Administrator)**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 37-24 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 105-36**Francesco’s Law****S.9629 (Bottcher, Addabbo, Bailey, Baskin, Brouk, Bynoe, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Martinez, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton, Webb, Zellner) / A.1962B (Anderson)**

This bill establishes the violation of failure to safely store firearms when accessible to a minor or prohibited person, and that minor or prohibited person does access the firearm. This bill also establishes the new misdemeanor crime of failure to safely store rifles, shotguns, and firearms when accessible to minors and prohibited persons. This crime is committed when a person leaves a rifle, shotgun, or firearm in a location knowing that a minor or prohibited person could gain access to it, and a minor or prohibited person does gain access to such firearm. Lastly, it directs the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) to collect and publish data related to injuries and deaths of minors related to improper firearms storage.

Proponents: Mental Health Association of New York State, New York State School Boards Association, The Trevor Project, Brady United Against Gun Violence, Everytown**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 41-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 88-47

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Modifies the Evidence Rules for Admission of Business Records in Grand Jury Proceedings

S.9758 (Myrie) / A.7896A (Bores)

This bill modifies the rules of admitting business records into grand jury proceedings to align with business records evidence rules from civil court proceedings, so that business records can be admitted when accompanied by certification of authentication by the records' custodian instead of requiring a live person to testify as to their authenticity.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Adds Ammunition to the List of Prohibited Items to Purchase with Certain Criminal Convictions

S.626 (Stavisky) / A.202 (Paulin)

This bill adds ammunition to the felony offense of criminal purchase or disposal of a weapon, where an individual knows they are prohibited from purchasing or disposing of a firearm because of a prior conviction, and they purchase or acquire one anyway.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 43-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

No Citizen Is Above The Law Act

S.2453 (Gianaris, Fahy, Jackson, Salazar, Stavisky) / A.7271 (Chandler-Waterman)

This bill allows for the pause of the statute of limitations for both criminal and civil actions during any period in which the defendant serves as President of the United States. The time spent in office would not be counted when calculating the limitations period for filing criminal charges or civil claims.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Categorizes the Assault of New York City Department of Buildings and Department of Housing Preservation and Development Employees as a Class D Felony

S.5110A (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Jackson, Lanza, Liu, Mattera, Palumbo, Parker, Ramos, Rhoads, Skoufis) / A.1872A (Pheffer Amato)

This bill adds to the Class D felony assault victim list the employees of New York City Department of Buildings and Department of Housing Preservation and Development who perform compliance and inspection related duties. Any person who tries to prevent one of these employees from performing their lawful duties or anyone who causes physical injury to one of these employees could be charged with a Class D felony assault, punishable by up to 7 years in prison.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Allows Criminal Defendants to Challenge Certain Criminal Convictions and Sentences**S.6319B (Myrie, Bailey, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Jackson, May, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano) / A.7422C (Walker)**

This bill allows defendants to apply for vacatur of a judgment of conviction where the offense has been decriminalized. It also allows defendants to challenge their guilty plea where they allege constitutional rights violations. Lastly, it allows defendants to apply for a reduction in their sentence with a misdemeanor conviction where the sentence exceeds one year, a sentence which may trigger immigration status consequences.

Proponents: Vocal NY**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Three Calendar Day Waiting Period for Firearm Delivery****S.9338A (Gianaris) / A.1210C (Paulin)**

This bill establishes a three-calendar day waiting period before a licensed firearm dealer can deliver a firearm to the purchaser, including in circumstances where the purchaser is immediately cleared through a background check.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 43-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Rap Music On Trial Act****S.9632 (Bailey) / A.123 (Cruz)**

This bill creates a presumption that a defendant's artistic expression, such as music lyrics, poetry, dance, visual arts, or film, is not admissible as evidence against the defendant. The prosecutor may overcome this presumption by showing that the artistic work is literal, refers to the specific crime, or is relevant to a disputed fact.

Proponents: Screen Actors Guild Federation of Television Radio Artists**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Establishes the Crimes of Benefitting from a Labor Trafficking and Sex Trafficking Venture and Creates a Civil Cause of Action for Victims of These Ventures

S.9960B (Myrie, Addabbo, Bynoe, Cleare, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Palumbo, Persaud, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis) / A.11323A (Rosenthal)

This bill creates the new crimes of benefitting from a labor trafficking venture, benefitting from a sex trafficking venture, and aggravated benefitting from a sex trafficking venture. A labor or sex trafficking venture is any collaboration of people benefitting in any way, including anyone managing or assisting others, from the labor trafficking or sex trafficking of any victim. It also allows victims to sue their traffickers or their traffickers' estates for damages, to include punitive damages where the defendants were willful in their criminal conduct.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Using the Defense of Victim's Voluntary Intoxication in Sex Offenses

S.10632 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Helming, Jackson, Krueger, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Myrie, Oberacker, Palumbo, Ramos, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb, Weber, Zellner) / A.101 (Dinowitz)

This bill establishes that a victim's voluntary intoxication cannot be a defense to a sex crime and that the defendant knew or should have known that, at the time of the offense, the victim was clearly intoxicated and was temporarily incapable of giving consent to any sexual contact.

Proponents: District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, Justice Without Exclusion, Safe Horizon

Opponents: Brooklyn Defenders Services

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Technical Corrections to Clean Slate

S.6492 (Myrie) / A.10951 (Cruz)

This bill makes technical clarifications in the Clean Slate Law to ensure that criminal cases with multiple non-criminal violations, all seal-eligible, will be eligible for sealing.

Proponents: Office of Court Administration

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Securing Customer Assets Against Malfeasance Act – S.C.A.M. Act**S.8594B (Myrie, Comrie, Fahy, Krueger, Parker, Sepulveda, Skoufis) / No Same As**

This bill enhances the penalties for fraud and bribery crimes by lowering the monetary value threshold so that the most serious offenses are Class B felonies, carrying a potential 25-year prison sentence. It establishes crimes related to virtual currency, commonly known as “cryptocurrency,” and labels virtual currency as “property” in larceny crimes and “monetary instrument” in money laundering related crimes. It also creates a new crime, “structuring,” when a person attempts to evade required financial reporting by moving smaller amounts of money on different days.

Proponents: District Attorneys

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Commerce, Economic Development And Small Business

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Small Business Compliance Guide

S.6023 (Baskin, Hinchey) / A.11046 (Buttenschon)

This bill requires the Empire State Development Corporation's Division of Small Business to develop and publish a small business compliance guide by January 31 each year. The guide will serve to inform small businesses about relevant statutory and regulatory changes in user-friendly terms and provide contact information for the relevant state agencies in connection with such changes. The guide will be posted to the Division of Small Business's website, and a public awareness campaign regarding the guide will be developed.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Kitchen Incubators

S.3561 (Cleare, Borello, Jackson, Webb) / A.1330 (Cruz)

This bill directs the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) in consult with the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Office of New Americans to study and examine the economic impact of the creation of kitchen incubators, as well as evaluate their impact on minority and immigrant entrepreneurship. Kitchen incubators are licensed commercial spaces that are certified for food production with shared ovens, ranges, and other equipment that can be rented by entrepreneurs to assist in the development and manufacturing of food products for commercial purposes.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Skoufis, Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Creates a Plan to Develop Harriman Campus

S.1613A (Fahy) / A.5918A (Romero)

This bill directs the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD), in conjunction with the Office of General Services (OGS), to set aside seven acres of the Wadsworth Labs site for ESD to study how it can be used for mixed-use development. This bill also directs ESD and OGS to create a master plan for the Harriman Campus redesign that will identify locations for mixed-use development, repurpose the ring roads and allow the campus to reintegrate with the surrounding neighborhoods, and analyze the Wadsworth Project's parking needs.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows Bed and Breakfasts to Sell Various State Alcohol Products**S.2051 (Webb) / A.5935 (Carroll P)**

This bill expands the ability of farm cideries, breweries, farm breweries, distilleries, and wineries, to sell any of their own alcoholic products produced on premise as well as NYS-labeled cider, liquor, beer, and wine at a bed and breakfast (B&B) that is on or adjacent to their establishment under the same permit. Additionally, this bill permits the issuance of a liquor license to a freestanding B&B to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption to all persons, not just the B&B's overnight guests.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Vacant Commercial Storefront Registry****S.6626A (Baskin, Fahy) / A.7556A (Romero)**

This bill directs the Division for Small Business to maintain an online registry of vacant commercial storefronts to be promoted to prospective small business owners looking to buy or lease a storefront. The registry shall include the address of the vacant commercial storefront; the seller's contact information, leasing party, or agent authorized to rent or sell the vacant storefront; and information regarding the storefront's potential uses.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Small Business Regulatory Clearinghouse****S.7332 (Ryan, May, Murray, Rhoads) / A.6810 (Griffin)**

This bill requires those State agencies that regulate small businesses to maintain a section on their websites where small businesses can get easy access to the information they need, provide feedback to the agency and seek assistance in complying with regulations.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Consumer Protection

Analyst: Nayram Gasu
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Prohibits the Use of Surveillance Pricing**

S.8623B (May, Brouk, Gianaris, Harckham, Kavanagh, Rivera, Sepulveda, Sutton) / A.9349B (Torres)

This bill updates New York’s surveillance pricing disclosure law to prohibit the use of surveillance pricing to set the price of, advertise, promote, or offer a specific good or service to a consumer in New York. The bill also prohibits collecting, using, retaining, or disclosing personal data for the purpose of facilitating surveillance pricing. This bill allows for certain discounts from the definition of surveillance pricing (including “bona fide custom discounts”), however, no business can offer a bona fide custom discount without clearly and conspicuously disclosing any eligibility conditions or criteria for receiving such discount before offering the discount. In addition, such bona fide custom discount must be offered uniformly to consumers who meet the disclosed eligibility conditions. Entities are also permitted to market a bona fide custom discount to a consumer for purposes of attracting a new customer or reengaging an existing customer, unless the consumer has opted out of such communications.

Proponents: American Economic Liberties Project; AARP; Community Service of Society of New York; DC37; LiveOn New York; Local 33 RWDSU/UFCW; Small Business Majority; SEIU Local 1199

Opponents: American Advertising Federation; American Association of Advertising Agencies; Association of National Advertisers; Digital Advertising Alliance; Electronic Transaction Association; Expedia; NY Bankers Association; Business Council; NYSHTA

Senate Vote: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 100-42

Requiring Reporting from Private Arbitration Organizations

S.926 (Kavanagh, Cleare, Jackson) / A.3318 (Dinowitz)

This bill requires private arbitration organizations that administer or are otherwise involved in at least 50 consumer arbitration cases annually to publicly disclose case information that may indicate their potential conflicts of interest, from the preceding five years, on a quarterly basis. This information must be made accessible via a computer-searchable database hosted on the organization’s website and available in paper form upon request. These requirements are applicable only to consumer arbitrations initiated on or after January 1, 2027, and explicitly exclude arbitrations between consumers and those arising from collectively bargained agreements. The bill prohibits private arbitration organizations from administering a consumer arbitration if, within the preceding year, the organization has had a financial interest in any party or attorney involved in the arbitration, or if any party or attorney has had a financial interest in the arbitration organization.

Proponents: NYPIRG

Opponents: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

Senate Vote: 39-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 90-51

Labeling Requirements for Gas Stoves

S.1280B (Krueger, Addabbo, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.73B (Solages)

This bill requires manufacturers, distributors, and sellers of new gas stoves to affix a label on the stoves and packaging that clearly displays a warning message that gas stoves can release harmful air pollutants which can exacerbate respiratory illnesses, and that ventilation can reduce but not eliminate these emissions. This label must be prominently located and a size no smaller than the largest type size of other information on the label. A gas stove subject to this bill means a stove or range that utilizes natural gas or propane and is used for indoor food preparation, whether commercial or residential, and provides surface cooking, oven cooking, or broiling. The bill tasks DOS with adopting regulations for compliance, including by making a model label available online.

Proponents: Association of Asthma Educators; Clean and Healthy; Concerned Health Professionals of New York; Environmental Advocates NY; Firefighters Association of the State of New York; Greater NYC Black Nurses Association; HRPGreen; NY Sustainable Business Council; NYPIRG; NYS Nurses Association; NYU Grossman School of Medicine ;Smithsonian Magazine; Town of East Hampton; Town of Marbletown; Veterans Power America; Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force; American Lung Association; SEIU Healthcare; Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement; New York State American Academy of Pediatrics; NY Clinicians for Climate Action; NY Nest; The Climate Reality Project (NYS Coalition); Ulster County Executive; WE ACT for Environmental Justice;

Opponents: New Yorkers for Affordable Energy (NYAE); Northeast Hearth Patio

Senate Vote: 39-21 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattered, Murray, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan C, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 91-48

Requiring Bicycles Advertised for Sale or Resale to Have an Identifying Serial Number

S.1541A (May) / A.852B (Paulin)

This bill mandates that any bicycle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1989, and advertised for resale in New York must include, a photograph of the bicycle and at least the last four digits of its identifying serial number within the advertisement. This requirement applies to any person or entity that advertises a used bicycle for sale, including third-party sellers operating through online marketplaces. The bill authorizes the Department of State (DOS) to issue an initial written warning for failing to meet the new advertising requirements, and DOS is authorized to impose a civil penalty of up to \$250 for each noncompliant point of sale if the violation continues after the warning.

Proponents: PeopleforBikes

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 49-12 (Borrello, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mayer, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Skoufis, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 105-37

Requiring Gratuity Option Through Third-Party Food Delivery Services at the Time of Order Placement

S.4927B (Ramos) / A.7376B (Mitaynes)

This bill requires third-party food delivery platforms and grocery delivery platforms to present the option for consumers to pay gratuity at the time an order is placed, in a plain and conspicuous manner. The bill explicitly states that such platforms may offer consumers an additional opportunity to add, remove, or adjust gratuity after the order is placed, and does not require a gratuity. No third-party delivery service may reduce the compensation paid to a worker as a result of compliance with this legislation. Local Law 108 of 2025 enacted these provisions in New York City.

Proponents: DoorDash
Opponents: None Available
Senate Vote: 61-0
Assembly Vote: 138-0

Background Check Requirements for Youth Service Providers

S.5257C (Hinchey, Murray, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan) / A.6568B (Barrett)

This bill requires sex offender background checks to be conducted on any operator, employee, volunteer, or independent conductor who has direct responsibility for the supervision, instruction, care, or safety of minors, and has contact with minors through a youth service provider facility. A youth service provider is a business or entity that regularly provides instructional, recreational, or extracurricular services to minors (e.g. gymnastics, martial arts, sports training, tutoring, etc.). Further, this bill prohibits a person who is registered on a sex offender registry from owning or operating a youth service provider facility.

Proponents: None Available
Opponents: None Available
Senate Vote: 60-0
Assembly Vote: 128-0

Protections for Private Education Loan Borrowers and Cosigners

S.5598B (May, Cleare, Jackson) / A.4922C (Levenberg)

This bill requires private education lenders to disclose consumer rights and lender responsibilities to cosigners at the time of loan origination, including information about credit furnishing, how to cure delinquencies, and cosigner release requirements. This bill establishes new parameters for when cosigners can be removed from private education loans, including when a borrower has made a full year of payments within a twelve-month period. The bill prohibits a private education lender from permanently barring a borrower from seeking cosigner release and from imposing negative consequences on a borrower's loan while a cosigner release application is pending, such as negative credit reporting. The bill also prohibits loan acceleration clauses, establishes additional lender documentation and disclosure obligations, and puts new limits on collection activities.

Proponents: AARP New York; Consumer Reports; Margert Community Corporation; Mobilization for Justice; Teamsters Local 237; Western New York Law Center;
Opponents: None Available
Senate Vote: 55-5 (Borrello, Oberacker, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)
Assembly Vote: 140-0

Requiring Digital Electronic Equipment Manufacturers to Provide Repair Scores

S.6438C (Comrie, Fahy, Myrie) / A.3058C (Carroll R)

This bill requires original equipment manufacturers to make metrics available to retailers and DOS indicating the relative ease of repairing any digital electronic equipment sold or used in the state (referred to in the bill as the repair score and the detailed score). The original equipment manufacturers must print the repair score and detailed score on the electronic equipment's packaging. The original equipment manufacturer must also clearly display repair scores for such products on their website product listing pages and make the information publicly available to all potential purchasers on each product listing page.

Proponents: iFixit; Back Market; Consumer Reports; Delmartian Technologies LLC; Dutchess County Legislature; Healix Smartphone Solutions LLC; Maxtech Solutions; NYPIRG; Repair Tech Kings; Sustainable Hudson Valley; The Laptop Repair Shop of CNY; U.S. PIRG
Opponents: Information Technology Industry Council
Senate Vote: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)
Assembly Vote: 100-43

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

New Yorkers for Common Cents Act

S.8580A (Skoufis, Sanders) / A.9274A (McDonald)

This bill requires merchants engaged in in-person sales to round the final total of cash transactions to the nearest five-cent increment, reducing the use of pennies as change in retail transactions in the state. The rounding obligation applies only to cash payments and does not affect transactions completed by card, electronic transfer, or other non-cash instruments. A merchant must calculate the total price of goods or services by first totaling all prices, applying any discounts or deductions, and adding applicable sales or municipal tax. Marginal amounts gained or lost by merchants through upward or downward rounding shall not be treated as taxable income or losses, avoiding incidental tax consequences. The bill empowers the Department of Financial Services with permissive rulemaking.

Proponents: NFIB

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (O'Mara, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 133-4

Prohibits the Sale of 7-hydroxymitragynine Products (Kratom)

S.8925A (Ryan, Ashby, Fahy, Harckham, Murray, Palumbo, Rhoads) / A.9156B (Steck)

This legislation prohibits the knowing sale, offer or delivery of 7-hydroxymitragynine products in the state. "7-hydroxymitragynine" or "7-OH" refers to concentrated extracts of the potent alkaloid chemical found naturally in the kratom plant. The bill specifically prohibits 7-OH products as any substance, material, mixture, compound, preparation, extract, or finished goods that contain 7-OH at a level that exceeds 2% of total alkaloids or one milligram per serving.

Proponents: American Kratom Association

Opponents: Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Establishes Civil Legal Recovery Framework for Unauthorized Rental Vehicle Use

S.9501 (Comrie) / A.9381B (Dinowitz)

This bill authorizes a rental vehicle company to regain custody of a rental vehicle which is not returned at the end of the rental agreement, including through repossession. The rental company is required to attempt to contact the renter using the information provided at the time of the rental, which may include telephone, text message, or email. If the renter does not respond or return the vehicle within 24 hours of this notification, the company may proceed to locate and regain the vehicle. Rental companies must document every attempt to notify a renter regarding unauthorized use.

Proponents: Enterprise

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Bans Charging Subscription Fee for Car Functions After A Vehicle is Sold**S.9348A (Skoufis) / A.10411A (Magnarelli)**

This bill aims to prohibits manufacturers and dealers from offering subscription services or charging fees for functions that rely on hardware already installed at the time of sale and do not incur ongoing costs to maintain. The bill allows for on-going software updates, but bars manufacturers from charging for those that fix safety defects.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 57-3 (Borrello, Gallivan, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 138-3**Prohibits the Sale of Chatbot Toys****S.9408A (Gounardes) / A.11144B (Kassay)**

This legislation imposes a prohibition on the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of chatbot toys in New York State. A chatbot toy is a children's toy with an AI companion embedded within it, such as conversational AI embedded in robotic companions and stuffed animals.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 57-3 (Borrello, Gallivan, Martins)**Assembly Vote:** 140-0**Authorizing Insurers to Collect Social Security Numbers Solely for Aligning Donor Registration Status in the Donate Life Registry****S.9834 (Bailey) / A.10757 (Tapia)**

This bill facilitates organ donor registration through the insurance enrollment process by enabling insurers to collect and transmit social security numbers (SSNs) for the purpose of registering individuals in the New York State Donate Life Registry (the Registry). Currently, the Public Health Law requires that enrollment and renewal forms for major medical coverage include a standardized prompt asking applicants whether they wish to register with, or decline registration in, the Donate Life Registry. The bill amends this provision to require that insurers and corporations subject to this enrollment form requirement are also made subject to the new obligations established by this bill relating to collection of SSNs.

Proponents: Donate Life New York**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-3 (Chan, Lanza, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 139-0**Mobile App Disclosures Prohibiting Minors From E-Scooter Use****S.10239 (Comrie) / A.11284 (Berger)**

This bill requires electronic scooter (e-scooter) service platforms that operate digital networks of scooters to display the following warning clearly and conspicuously: "WARNING: NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS IS PERMITTED TO OPERATE OR RIDE AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER THROUGH THIS PLATFORM." The warning must appear either physically on the e-scooter itself, on the platform's website, or mobile app. Vehicle and Traffic Law §1282 bars persons under 16 years old from operating or riding as a passenger on an e-scooter. The labeling requirements are only for e-scooters used in connection with a platform. E-scooters sold for private use do not need to have this warning label.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Walczyk)

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Assembly Vote: 141-0

Standards for Non-Law Enforcement License Plate Readers

S.10227 (Cooney) / A.563A (Paulin)

This bill directs the Consumer Protection Division of the DOS to establish a minimum standards policy governing the use of automatic license plate reader (LPR) systems by non-law enforcement entities. The standards must include permissible uses of the automatic LPR technology, data sharing and dissemination provisions, prohibited uses, record retention and management, and training. The policy must be publicly posted by both DOS and entities using these technologies, and DOS must promulgate regulations for employee training programs for covered entities.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Twenty-First Century Anti-Trust Act

S.335 (Gianaris, Salazar, Gonzalez, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Ryan, Sepulveda) / A.2015 (Peoples-Stokes)

This bill modernizes New York's antitrust law by expanding it to explicitly prohibit abuse of dominance and monopsonistic conduct. It clarifies that even unilateral anticompetitive behavior, such as a company using its dominant market position to suppress competition or harm workers, can be unlawful. Abuse of dominance includes practices like leveraging power across markets or imposing restrictive contracts. Entities with a 40% market share as sellers or 30% as buyers are presumed dominant, and the bill allows for this dominance to be shown through both direct and indirect evidence.

The bill also imposes new premerger notification requirements similar to federal law, requiring parties to large mergers to notify the Attorney General and allow for review, especially regarding potential labor market harm. It strengthens enforcement by increasing penalties, creating a private right of class action, and upgrades violations to Class D felonies. It also grants the Attorney General rulemaking authority, subject to legislative veto, and mandates guidance on how market dominance will be evaluated, with a focus on protecting competition and the role of small and mid-sized businesses.

Proponents: New York City Bar; ALIGN; Institute for Local Self-Reliance; Teamsters Union; American Economic Liberties Project; American Booksellers Association; Yorktown Small Business Association; Main Street Alliance; American Independent Business Alliance; Pharmacists Society of the State of New York

Opponents: Partnership of New York City; Business Council; Business Council of Westchester; Bronx Chamber of Commerce; Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; Retail Council of New York State; Chamber of Progress; Food Industry Alliance of New York; HANYS; NY Bankers Association; NY Farm Bureau;

Senate Vote: 39-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cooney, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

New York Junk Fee Prevention Act**S.363B (Gianaris, Skoufis, Brisport, Brouk, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson, Krueger, May, Ramos, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.9604A (Torres)**

This legislation requires any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation that advertises or makes an offer to a consumer to disclose the total price the consumer must pay for the good or service being offered or advertised. The disclosed price must include all mandatory fees associated with the transaction, except where there are variable fees that cannot be determined at the time of the offer. In such case, the entity must disclose the variable fee, reason for its variable nature, and any and all mandatory fees. Where a consumer is purchasing or leasing a good or service, the entity must additionally disclose to the consumer any tax, duty, custom, or fee amounts levied by any government or government-created special district prior to accepting payment. Government-imposed charges need not be included in the advertised or offered total price, but must be disclosed before payment is accepted.

This legislation requires that disclosures of the total price, fees, charges, or any component of the total price shall not be false or misleading and must be displayed prominently and stand out from any other accompanying text or visual elements so total price is easily noticed, read and understood. The bill grants the Attorney General enforcement authority, in addition to a private right of action.

Proponents: American Economic Liberties Project; NYPIRG**Opponents:** American Financial Services Association; Business Council; NFIB; CTIA; GNYADA; Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association**Senate Vote:** 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Manufacturer Disclosure and Transparency Act****S.488A (Fernandez, Addabbo, Jackson, Webb) / A.2289A (Gallagher)**

This bill requires that any pharmaceutical manufacturer doing business in New York that enters into a patent settlement agreement resolving or settling a patent infringement claim with another pharmaceutical manufacturer must comply with specific notification requirements when such agreements affect the commercial launch date of a drug or biological product. The manufacturer must send notice and the full text, along with any attachments and exhibits, of the patent settlement agreement to the Attorney General within 30 days of entering into the agreement. Within 60 days of receiving the disclosure requirements, the Attorney General must post such notice on its website in a format and manner developed by the Attorney General that is searchable by drug, cost, disease, and manufacturer for both the brand and generic drug for public review. The legislation specifies that such notices shall be considered public records.

Proponents: AARP**Opponents:** Business Council; New York Bio**Senate Vote:** 44-16 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None

New York Gift Certificate Scam Prevention Act

S.704A (Krueger) / A.7916A (Bores)

This bill establishes requirements for the packaging and record-keeping of gift certificates. Further, this bill requires that a merchant that displays a gift certificate for sale at a retail establishment must provide training to all employees whose duties regularly include the sale of gift certificates to consumers on how to identify and respond to gift certificate scams.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Biometric Privacy Act

S.1422A (Liu) / A.6031A (Simon)

This legislation establishes regulatory requirements for private entities that collect, possess, or use biometric identifiers or biometric information. Private entities must develop and publicly disclose a written policy detailing their retention schedule and guidelines for the permanent destruction of biometric data. Destruction must occur within 60 days of fulfilling the original purpose for collection or within three years of the individual's last interaction with the entity, whichever is earlier. The bill prohibits private entities from selling, leasing, trading, or profiting from biometric data and from disclosing it without consent, unless necessary for a financial transaction, required by law, or subject to a valid subpoena or warrant. Entities must protect biometric information using reasonable care and in a manner that is at least as protective as their handling of other sensitive information. Enforcement authority is granted to the Attorney General, who may adopt regulations, investigate violations, and seek civil penalties of up to \$20,000 per violation, with each unlawful act treated as a separate violation.

Proponents: NYS Bar Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requiring Delivery Service Apps to Maintain Insurance for Delivery Drivers

S.1162A (Krueger) / A.70A (Carroll R)

This legislation requires third-party food delivery platforms to carry a \$50,000 group insurance policy to cover bodily injury or death resulting from qualifying accidents involving delivery workers using certain two- or three-wheeled vehicles. The insurance must cover medical costs, lost wages, and other basic economic losses for drivers, pedestrians, and non-delivery cyclists involved in such accidents. It applies while the delivery worker is logged into the platform and working on behalf of the service, regardless of immigration or employment status, and is primary to any other coverage, without deductibles.

The bill prohibits insurers from denying coverage based on a driver's immigration status or vehicle registration compliance and restricts platform exclusions to cases involving intentional harm while intoxicated or drug-impaired. It also bars retaliation—such as deactivation or trip reductions—against delivery workers who file claims and prevents platforms from shifting the insurance costs to consumers in areas where delivery is not bike-based.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: DoorDash; Tech Net

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Retailers to Post Warning Signs of Biometric Data Collection and Cell Phone Tracking**S.2539C (Myrie) / A.1558C Rosenthal**

This bill requires any retailer that tracks a customer by use of the customer's cell phone, a store-installed camera, or any other electronic device, or that collects or shares a customer's biometric information, while the customer is in the retailer's establishment to conspicuously post a warning sign at each entrance indicating that such retailer engages in such activities. The warning sign must also provide information for how to opt out of such tracking or biometric data collection, if applicable. This bill exempts cameras and other technology solely intended for video surveillance to ensure store security.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** Food Industry Alliance of New York Inc; Business Council;**Senate Vote:** 55-5 (Borrello, Gallivan, Murray, Palumbo, Stec)**Assembly Vote:** None**Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness Act****S.8563 (Cleare, Jackson, Salazar, Sepulveda) / A.9212 (Lasher)**

This bill establishes an anti-trust regulatory framework to govern the pricing practices of grocery suppliers and retailers, focused on preventing large, dominant retailers from using their market power to secure preferred pricing contracts that smaller competitors may not have access to. For example, the bill requires suppliers to extend the same terms of sale for goods to all retailers and wholesalers who purchase on the same volume unit basis in reasonable contemporaneous transactions, and prohibits dominant retailers from imposing contractual conditions on suppliers so as to acquire excess inventory and thereby diminish availability of the good for other retailers.

Proponents: American Economic Liberties Project; Northeast Organic Farming Association of NY; National Grocers Association; National Supermarket Association; Small Business Majority; YAMA Action; Institute for Local Self-Reliance**Opponents:** Business Council; Independent Petroleum Marketers of New York**Senate Vote:** 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Consumer Wheelchair Repair Bill of Rights Act****S.4500B (Fahy, Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Jackson, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Sutton) / A.6569B (Bores)**

This legislation requires manufacturers of wheelchairs sold or used in the state to make available to independent repair providers and owners, on fair and reasonable terms and costs, any documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, or tools, including updates intended for use with such wheelchairs.

These requirements do not apply to parts no longer available to the manufacturer for wheelchairs that were delivered to the original owner more than five years ago. Furthermore, manufacturers are not required to divulge trade secrets. However, a manufacturer cannot refuse to make items available on the sole ground that the documentation, part, software, or tool itself is a trade secret.

Manufacturers are explicitly exempted from liability for faulty or otherwise improper repairs provided by independent repair providers or owners.

Proponents: Disability Rights New York; New York Association on Independent Living; Living Resources; Spina Bifida Association**Opponents:** Clinician Task Force; National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None

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Protecting Consumers and Jobs from Discriminatory Pricing Act

S.8616B (Gianaris, May, Addabbo, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, C. Ryan, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Sutton) / **A.9396B** (Solages)

This bill prohibits the use of electronic shelving labels (ESLs) and digital shelf displays to show product or service price, and requires the use of non-digital presentations of price, at food retail establishments (big box grocery stores and other big box stores selling groceries) and drug retail establishments (drug stores). The bill explicitly states this prohibition does not prevent grocery or drug stores from providing “bona fide discounts” (a term used by the Federal Trade Commission to describe genuine reductions in price), and certain “bona fide custom discounts” (such as promotional pricing, loyalty programs, and category-based—such as veterans and teachers—self-identification pricing). The bill also bans surveillance pricing in such food retail and drug stores, and requires disclosure of the use of any dynamic pricing which alters a price more than once per day.

Proponents: Chinese American Planning Council Inc; Community Food Advocates; LI Jobs With Justice; Met Council on Housing; NY Communities for Change; NYS Alliance for Retired Americans;

Opponents: Business Council, Partnership of New York

Senate Vote: 50-10 (Borello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O’Mara, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishing A Regulatory Framework for Data Broker Registration and Operations

S.9088-A Gonzalez / A.9642A Torres

The bill requires data brokers (entities that collect and sell consumers’ personal information to third parties without a direct consumer relationship) to register with the Attorney General, create a data-deletion mechanism for consumers, engage in periodic independent auditing and disclosures, and maintain comprehensive cybersecurity measures.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-10 (Borello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O’Mara, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

The Consumer Camera Privacy Act

S.9267 (May) / A.10687 (Torres)

This bill establishes a regulatory framework governing the collection, sharing, retention, and use of footage captured by internet-connected camera devices sold to consumers. This legislation prohibits manufacturers or operators of networked camera devices from enabling coordinated surveillance features on such devices as a default feature without first obtaining affirmative opt-in consent from the owner and requires disclosure of data rights for owners of such devices before any recording function is enabled on the networked camera device.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Electronic Security Association; New York Electronic and Life Safety Association;

Senate Vote: 41-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattered, Murray, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

Prohibiting the Sale of Xylazine**S.7668A (Fernandez) / A.1248C (Tapia)**

This bill prohibits businesses or individuals doing business with the state from selling 50 grams or more of xylazine without proof of the intended use for institutional or scientific purposes. It also bans these businesses and individuals from selling xylazine to minors under 21. The bill also requires anyone who knowingly sells, offers or delivers 50 grams or more of xylazine to retain sales records, proof of age, and proof of use from all purchasers. The bill imposes a civil penalty of up to \$3,000 for a first violation, and \$650 for each subsequent violation to be deposited in the New York State Drug Treatment and Public Education Fund.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Requiring Navigation Systems Utilizing GPS Technology to Identify the Height of Any Bridge or Overpass Along a Proposed Route**S.6197 (Parker, Fahy, Ryan) / A.3536 (Santabarbara)**

This bill requires electronic maps and navigation systems using GPS technology to also display the legal clearance of bridges and elevated structures along any route generated for a driver. GPS navigation products and dedicated commercial trucking navigation platforms would fall within the scope of this requirement. The bill applies to any such system offered for use or sale in the state.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 139-1

Washing Machine Microfiber Filter Act**S5605-D (Kavanagh, Fernandez, May) / A.4716D (Kelles)**

This bill requires that all new washing machines sold or offered for sale in the state utilize a microfiber filtration system effective January 1, 2030. All new machines sold for commercial use with a microfiber filtration system on or after January 1, 2030, must also have a label that describes the manner and frequency the owner should check the system and dispose the fibers, whoever, the label may be placed in a location not visible to users.

Proponents: Ocean Conservancy

Opponents: AHAM; Coin Laundry Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 115-28

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Public Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Codes and Consumer Protection. *New York's criminal and civil fraud statutes, practices, and impacts on consumers, workers, and businesses.* (March 4, 2026).

Corporations, Authorities And Commissions

Analyst: Alexandra Manoussos
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Repeals the Public Authorities Control Board Voting Restrictions

S.2459 (Comrie) / A.8569 (Braunstein)

This bill repeals the restrictions that were added to the Public Authorities Law late in the 2019-2020 Adopted Budget. The restrictions have two components: (1) restricting the legal authority of a PACB member solely to determine whether a public authority's application to the PACB has demonstrated that there is the commitment of funds sufficient to finance the acquisition and construction of the project subject to approval; and (2) granting full discretion to the Governor to immediately remove a member of the board they find to be acting, or threatening to act, beyond the scope of such legal authority.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-16 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Empire State Development Governance Structure Changes

S.4576A (Skoufis) / A.8570 (Braunstein)

This bill adds a six-month limit on having an "acting" president or acting chair of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) Board, similar to other larger authorities. This bill also requires that the President and Chair of ESD be separate offices and prohibits the same person from being appointed to both. This is intended to ensure that the ESD Board can act separately from the head of day-to-day operations. This bill would not affect current ESD appointments.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York Insurance Association

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martins, Palumbo)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Transparency Omnibus for Local Development Corporations

S.6165A (Skoufis) / A.173A (Paulin)

This bill expands Open Meetings Law and FOIL requirements to certain public or quasi-public not-for-profit corporations, increases oversight by requiring the Department of State to share relevant incorporation filings with the Authorities Budget Office (ABO), and authorizes the ABO to investigate such entities. It restricts the creation and operations of local development corporations (LDCs) to those that primarily perform governmental functions, shortens the maximum term for leasing public land from 99 to 25 years, strengthens public notice and disclosure requirements for property transactions, and imposes new contract standards between LDCs and public entities. The bill also broadens the definition of "local authority" under the Public Authorities Law to include certain nonprofit corporations that issue tax-exempt debt or provide tax benefits through development projects.

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: New York Conference of Mayors

Senate Vote: 37-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 98-47

Empire State Development Governance Structure Changes**S.9319 (Addabbo, Cooney) / A.8742 (Lunsford)**

This bill prohibits companies from using the words “mover,” “moving,” or “relocation service,” or any abbreviation or derivative, in their corporate name without the consent of DOT, based on whether the term is likely to mislead or confuse the public into believing that the entity is a duly licensed moving company.

Proponents: NYS Movers and Warehousemen’s Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 140-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Prohibits NDAs in Public Economic Development Contracts****S.373 (Gianaris, Comrie, May, Ramos, Webb) / A.409 (Solages)**

This bill prohibits any provisions in contracts for economic development projects by State or local entities that make any part of the terms of the contracts confidential or bind any parties into a non-disclosure agreement. This includes, without limitation, any agreements for tax incentives, payments in lieu of taxes, tax abatements, bonds, notes, loans, and grants or rebates provided by the State to private parties.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Comptroller and Attorney General Review of Real Property Disposals by a Public Authority or State Agency**S.2324 (Comrie, Jackson, Ramos) / A.5009 (Zinerman)**

This bill requires public authorities to receive approval from the Comptroller and Attorney General before disposing of real property with an estimated fair market value exceeding \$250,000 to a private entity when such sales are done by negotiation. This bill also requires State agencies to receive approval from the Comptroller and Attorney General before disposing of any public lands with an estimated fair market value exceeding \$100,000 to a private entity when the disposal is done by negotiation. Lastly, this bill prohibits the Office of General Services (OGS) from transferring any public land to a public authority without written notice being provided to the local state legislators with at least 30 days’ notice.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Beneficial Ownership Information on Disposal Notices**S.2555 (Comrie) / A.7223 (Bichotte Hermelyn)**

This bill requires a public authority to include the legal names of all beneficial owners to a receiving entity on required explanatory statements when the public authority makes a disposal of property by negotiation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Restrictions on Negotiated and Below Fair-Market Value Disposals by Public Authorities

S.2556 (Comrie, Webb) / A.7848 (Bichotte Hermelyn)

This legislation closes several statutory loopholes relating to property dispositions by public authorities. These provisions apply to both State and local authorities. This bill clarifies that exceptions for negotiated disposals only apply when a below-fair market value sale is actually occurring, and not for all circumstances where it could potentially occur. This bill also clarifies that public bidding requirements may be disregarded only when the disposal is expressly exempted in law from them, and not for any disposals an authority is authorized to make. Lastly, this bill provides that any Right of First Refusal clause must ensure that the property is transferred at or above fair market value at the time when such right is exercised.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Expands the Information Provided to the PACB Prior to Project Approval

S.3736 (Comrie, Webb) / No Same As

This bill requires that any project involving a loan submitted to the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) for approval include the conditions and dates for repayment of State appropriations and the repayment agreement, as well as any job retention/creation terms, the interest rate, and information on other contractual restrictions, security required, and the date on which principal would be repaid. The bill also requires grant applications before the PACB to include the terms and conditions, job retention/creation requirements, explanation of fund usage, description of ownership for any real property purchases, total project cost, and listing of fund sources/uses.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Allowing Water and Sewer Authorities to Address Stormwater in the Wastewater Context

S.4071B (May, Bottcher, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Harckham, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, Martins, Mattera, Mayer, Murray, Myrie, Palumbo, Ramos, Rolison, Salazar, Sanders, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.7467B (Rozic)

This bill expressly authorizes various water and sewer authorities to manage stormwater. This more clearly allows water authorities to bond for, charge fees for, and invest in these expenditures.

Proponents: Riverkeeper; Natural Resources Defense Council; Nature Conservancy; New York League of Conservation Voters; Brooklyn Borough President; Buffalo Sewer Authority; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; WNY Stormwater Coalition; NYC Council Members; Rise to Resilience

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Local Audits for IDAs and Municipal Non-Profits**S.5563 (Mayer) / A.7666 (Solages)**

This bill authorizes county comptrollers to audit projects and actions taken by a county, city, town, or village industrial development agency (IDA) located within that county. This would be in addition to the Office of State Comptroller's current authority to audit IDAs.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 56-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Food Retail Establishment Subsidization for Healthy Communities Act (FRESH Communities Act)****S.6017 (Baskin, Cleare, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Kavanagh, May, Myrie, Ryan) / A.8692 (Stirpe)**

This bill authorizes the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) to provide loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies and grants to businesses, municipalities, not-for-profit corporations or local development corporations for the purpose of attracting, maintaining or permitting the expansion of food retail establishments in underserved areas through its Empire State Development Fund. It requires ESD to evaluate economic viability of the proposals, establish performance evaluation indicators, and track and publish such indicators on its website. An appropriation was adopted in the 2026-27 State Budget allowing the State to implement a program, though no legislation accompanied it at the time of adoption.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-2 (Skoufis, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Prohibits Public Authorities from Contracting with Lobbyists to Engage in Lobbying****S.7681 (Comrie) / No Same As**

This bill prohibits state and local authorities, including their subsidiaries, from directly or indirectly retaining, contracting, employing, or designating a lobbyist to engage in lobbying within the state.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Requiring Senate Confirmation for Certain Executive Appointments

S.7858 (Salazar, Comrie, Brisport, Cleare, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Skoufis) / A.2653 (Shrestha)

Under current law, appointments for the executive director positions at the Dormitory Authority (DASNY), Thruway Authority, New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) are nominated by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation. However, nominees are deemed to have been automatically confirmed if the Senate fails to vote to confirm them within 60 days of its submission to the Senate if it was submitted during session, or within seven days if the Senate fails to vote after convening for session. This bill removes the automatic confirmation of these executive director positions in the instance that the Senate fails to vote on the nomination.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Toll Payer Reform

The Senate's SFY 2026-27 One House Budget included a proposal to enact reforms to toll payer fees and penalties, including a cap on fees, new penalty pathways, and violation fee waiver, bolstered by expanding access to the Toll Payer Advocate service and new reporting requirements. The Enacted Budget did not include this proposal and no legislation addressing these issues passed either House.

Tolling authorities like the MTA are also seeking modifications on the enforcement side of the toll collection equation, seeking additional tools to enforce unpaid bills and immobilize scofflaws' vehicles.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint public hearing of the Senate Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee and the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee. *Oversight of the Public Service Commission's processes related to rate case and generic proceedings, and the Department of Public Service's efforts to implement the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.* (September 30, 2025)

Crime Victims, Crime, And Corrections

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Prohibits Restraints During Interrogation of Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals****S.2667C (Salazar) / A.1670B (Rosenthal)**

This bill updates the current prohibition on the use of restraints while an incarcerated individual is in labor to all custody scenarios. Under the bill, restraints are prohibited whenever the individual is known to be pregnant, in labor or delivery, or is twelve weeks postpartum, regardless of the pregnancy outcome. The bill also prohibits correction officers in the individual's hospital room when receiving medical care, unless the medical staff requests the officer's presence because of a clear risk of danger to them by the individual.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 42-18 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 111-21**Lethality Assessment in Incidents of Domestic Violence****S.2280C (Webb) / A.4899C (Clark)**

This bill requires law enforcement officers to conduct a lethality assessment as part of the standardized domestic incident report form when responding to incidents of domestic violence. The lethality assessment component involves asking the victim a series of questions about their experiences and the behavior of the alleged offender to assess the risk of future violence. After completing the lethality assessment, the officer must advise the victim of the results and refer them to local domestic violence programs for support. Based on the assessment, the officer may file for an extreme risk protection order if there is credible information suggesting a likelihood of serious harm.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 128-0**Codifies Prison and Jail Visitation Programs****S.5037A (Sepulveda) / A.4603A (Weprin)**

This bill directs state and local correctional facilities to establish visiting policies for incarcerated individuals. The policies must include visiting hours that accommodate visitors traveling within the state, including evening hours starting at 6 p.m. and/or weekend hours. Visits must be of sufficient duration, with a minimum of one hour at local correctional facilities. Facilities must also establish an equitable policy to manage overcrowding during visitation, considering factors such as the distance traveled by the visitor, the frequency of the visitor's visits, recent occasions when the incarcerated person's visit was terminated due to overcrowding, and other individual circumstances limiting in-person visits.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 90-48

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Prohibits DOCCS Visitor Denial Based on Menstrual or Contraceptive Products

S.8353A (Salazar) / A.8840A (Hooks)

This bill prohibits State and local correctional facilities from denying entry, or contact visits, to a visitor based on the visitor's use of menstrual or contraceptive devices. This prohibition includes when body scan imaging detects the presence of menstrual or contraceptive devices. The bill further states that the potential visitor cannot be required to remove the menstrual or contraceptive device prior to the visit.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 102-37

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Office of the Inspector General Oversight of DOCCS Sexual Assault Complaints

S.429 (Salazar, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.7081 (Gibbs)

This bill authorizes the state Inspector General (IG) to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault against individuals housed in correctional facilities and other places operated by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). Most notably, this bill establishes the right for incarcerated individuals to report incidents of sexual assault directly to the IG, rather than through DOCCS.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Borrello, Oberacker, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Compassion and Reproductive Equity (CARE) Act

S.4583B (Salazar, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Liu, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.4879B (Kelles)

This bill requires that pregnant incarcerated individuals must receive comprehensive prenatal care, including necessary tests and treatments, and appropriate medical care during labor and delivery. Under the bill, incarcerated individuals are also entitled to treatment for opioid use disorder, psychological and psychiatric therapy, adequate hydration and nutrition, and safe housing conditions. Further, the bill requires the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Commissioner to establish rules and regulations for the treatment and care of pregnant and postpartum individuals in correctional facilities.

Proponents: American Academy of Pediatrics; The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; New York State Right to Life Committee.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Public Benefits Screening for Incarcerated Individuals**S.5265A (Bailey, Murray, Webb) / A.3399A (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill requires the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, to screen incarcerated individuals for eligibility for all public benefits 30 days before their release. Officials must assist eligible individuals in applying for the programs, if requested by the individual.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 41-12 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Lanza, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Mental Health Counseling for DOCCS Correction Officers****S.8061 (Skoufis, Griffo, Murray, Rolison) / A.8027 (Kay)**

This bill directs the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) commissioner to make mental health counseling available to DOCCS correction officers and civilian staff who work within state correctional facilities. The commissioner must also consult with the commissioner of the Office of Mental Health on these services.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY****DOCCS Reading Proficiency and Dyslexia Assessment****S.395 (Myrie, Ashby, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Gounardes, Jackson, Krueger, Rivera, Salazar, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.1325 (Simon)**

This bill requires the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to assess incarcerated individuals upon intake for reading proficiency and dyslexia. Further, DOCCS must develop procedures and policies to ensure that incarcerated individuals identified with dyslexia receive individualized educational assistance for programming.

Proponents: NYS Public Employees Federation**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Fair and Timely Parole

S.159 (Salazar, Rivera, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.127 (Weprin)

This legislation changes the Board of Parole standard of review by creating a presumption of release. This means the presumption would be that the incarcerated individual will be released from the correctional facility unless the Board finds that there is a current and unreasonable risk the person will violate the law if released.

While considering whether a person poses a current and unreasonable risk of violating the law if released, the Board must consider any and all evidence of rehabilitation and reform. Additionally, the Board cannot base their determination solely, or primarily, on victim impact statements, the seriousness of the offense, the type of sentence, length of sentence and recommendations of the sentencing court, the district attorney, the pre-sentence probation report, or consideration of any mitigating and aggravating factors.

Proponents: NAACP New York State Conference; 1199 SEIU; Columbia University Center for Justice; Law Enforcement Action Partnership; Vera Institute of Justice; NY ATI/Reentry Coalition: BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance), CASES, Center for Community Alternatives, Center for Employment Opportunities, Correctional Association of New York, exalt youth, EAC Network, Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice, Hour Children, Legal Action Center, Osborne Association, TASC of the Capital District, The Fortune Society, and Women's Prison Association; Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Hunter College, CUNY.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Earned Time Act

S.342 (Cooney, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb, Zellner) / A.1085 (Kelles)

This bill requires that incarcerated individuals who earn a time allowance have it be awarded on a pro rata basis over the course of the calendar year. The bill also amends the amount of time an incarcerated individual may receive off of their sentence for Good Behavior. A person serving an indeterminate sentence will receive one half off of the maximum term imposed by the court (currently one third off of the maximum term of an indeterminate sentence). A person serving a determinate sentence will receive one half of their prison term imposed by the court (currently one seventh off of a determinate sentence).

This bill expands eligibility for Merit Time to all incarcerated individuals, regardless of the crime of conviction. Under this bill, convicted violent felony offenders are eligible to apply for Merit Time allowance and are eligible to receive one half off of their minimum sentence if they are serving an indeterminate sentence. Violent felony offenders are eligible to receive one quarter off of their sentence if they are serving a determinate sentence.

Proponents: #HALTsolitary Campaign; 1199SEIU; Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU; District Council 9 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades; District Council 37; Local 22; Local 86 Union; Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW; New York State Nurses Association; New York State Laborers'; UAW Local 2325 - Association of Legal Aid Attorneys; United Federation of Teachers; Workers United New York New Jersey Regional Joint Board a/w SEIU; NYCLU; Center for Community Alternatives; RAPP; Common Justice.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Elder Parole

S.9846 (Cleare, Salazar, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.514 (Davila)

This bill expands parole eligibility to incarcerated individuals who are 55 years old or older and have served at least fifteen years of their sentence. The bill also mandates quarterly reports to various governmental bodies, providing information on parole interviews, outcomes, reasons for denials, and demographic data.

Proponents: NAACP New York State Conference; 1199 SEIU; Columbia University Center for Justice; Vera Institute of Justice; NY ATI/Reentry Coalition: BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance), CASES, Center for Community Alternatives, Center for Employment Opportunities, Correctional Association of New York, exalt youth, EAC Network, Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice, Hour Children, Legal Action Center, Osborne Association, TASC of the Capital District, The Fortune Society, and Women's Prison Association; Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Hunter College, CUNY.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks, And Recreation

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Allows Veterans to Fish for Free in State Parks

S.7277A (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Rhoads) / A.3233A (Eachus)

This bill directs the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to allow veterans to fish for free in State parks.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Renaming the Agency Buildings on the Empire State Plaza

S.9685 (Fahy) / A.10653 (Paulin)

This bill requires the Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in collaboration with the Office of General Services (OGS), to make recommendations to the Governor on renaming Agency Buildings 1-4 on the Empire State Plaza. The Governor would be required to select the new names of each building within 60 days of receiving the recommendation and after deliberate public engagement efforts. A similar bill was vetoed in 2025 due to concerns about the process for naming the buildings. While the 2025 bill authorized the Empire State Art Plaza Commission to recommend names based on major rivers in the State, this bill instead designates NYSCA to make recommendations based on a broader set of criteria and incorporates a public engagement component.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 138-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Considerations into the Arts & Cultural Affairs Law

S.115A (Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson, May, Myrie, Rolison, Salazar) / A.2607 (Cunningham)

This bill requires broader consideration by NYSCA of culture, access, diversity, equity, inclusion, and social and racial justice, and arts and culture policy generally. Changes include reforming NYSCA's composition by requiring consideration of diversity, equity, and cultural preservation and development; requiring NYSCA to evaluate potential funding grantees on the basis of how they use arts or culture to address racial and social justice; and directing NYSCA to engage with and support not-for-profit arts and culture organizations that conduct advocacy work on these issues.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Municipal Reporting of Parkland Alienation**S.1057 (Serrano, Hinchey) / A.8455 (Kim)**

The bill requires municipalities to report on compliance with parkland alienation conditions when acting pursuant to parkland alienation legislation and authorizes the Attorney General to enjoin parkland alienations where municipalities have repeatedly failed to adhere to alienation requirements.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** 2025- NYSAC**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Establishes a Program for Designating Arts & Cultural Districts****S.1062 (Serrano, Bailey, Cleare, Comrie, May, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rolison) / A.7737 (Kim)**

This bill directs NYSCA and the Department of Economic Development to develop guidelines and criteria for designating Arts and Cultural Districts for the purposes of promoting tourism and education. The bill defines an “Arts and Cultural District” as a geographic area of a city, town, or village with a concentration of arts or cultural facilities located within its boundaries.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** None**State Park Adopt-a-Trail Stewardship Program****S.1067A (Serrano) / A.7326A (Kim)**

This bill establishes a program within OPRHP for adopt-a-trail stewardship and authorizes OPRHP to enter into trail-specific stewardship agreements with any person or entity for the purposes of preserving, maintaining, or enhancing one or more State park trails.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Playground Equipment Cleaning After Pesticide Exposure****S.1380A (Serrano, Jackson, Webb) / A.1649A (Rosenthal)**

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a minimum buffer distance between playground equipment and pesticide applications. If a municipality or the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) sprays a pesticide within the regulatory buffer area of a playground, the municipality or OPRHP must clean all playground equipment as soon as possible, but in no event later than 24 hours following the application, in accordance with worker safety protocols to be developed by DEC and the Department of Health.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-1 (Ortt)**Assembly Vote:** None

Criminal Penalty Enhancements for Operating a Snowmobile While Severely Intoxicated

S.3256A (Cooney) / A.474A (Woerner)

This bill establishes new penalties for operating a snowmobile while having a blood alcohol percentage (BAC) of 0.18 percent or more (similar to how such intoxication is penalized for on-road vehicle operation as “aggravated”), in addition to the current penalties for operating a snowmobile while having a BAC of 0.08 percent or more. A first violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$700-\$1,000 and/or a jail sentence of up to 180 days. A second violation within ten years (or a violation if the person was convicted of operating a snowmobile under the influence of drugs during a ten-year period) is a Class E felony, punishable by a fine of \$1,000 to \$3,000 and/or imprisonment of up to three years. A subsequent violation (or a violation if the person was twice convicted of operating a snowmobile under the influence of drugs) within ten years is a class D felony, punishable by a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to seven years. In addition, the bill directs courts to consider prior convictions of operating a snowmobile, automobile, or vessel under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Proponents: NYS Snowmobile Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the New York State Park Police

S.9301 (Martinez, Addabbo, Bynoe, Chan, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Myrie, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton, Tedisco, Weber, Zellner) / A.10417 (Kim)

This bill restores the New York State Park Police as an independent law enforcement agency under OPRHP’s supervision, effectively reversing a 2019 executive memorandum issued by Governor Cuomo that transferred operational control of the Park Police to the Division of State Police.

Proponents: NYS Parks Police

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Greenway Trail Design Standards****S.1375 (Serrano) / A.7736 (Kim)**

This bill requires OPRHP to promulgate regulations establishing design standards for greenway trails, as opposed to relying on the existing technical guidance, which is not enforceable. The regulations will set forth best practices, including trail design specifications, road crossing treatments, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The bill also empowers OPRHP to deny new trail applications or trail modification applications for non-conforming designs, with an accompanying statement as to the reasons for denial.

Proponents: Parks and Trails NY

Opponents: NYS Snowmobile Association; Lewis County

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Disabilities

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Statewide Group Home Families Working Group

S.7794 (Fahy) / A.1130A (Santabarbara)

This bill establishes a working group to inform and advise the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) of important and relevant issues for individuals with developmental disorders (IDD) who live in group homes.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Traveling with Dignity Act

S.4042B (Harckham, Addabbo, Ashby, Helming, Hinchey, Liu, Martinez, Martins, May, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb, Weber) / A.6219B (Burdick)

This bill requires commercial venues with an occupancy greater than 2,500—including auditoriums, theaters, and arenas—to install and maintain adult changing accommodations accessible to individuals of any gender with physical disabilities. It also requires these venues to post information about these accommodations.

Proponents: Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health NYC, Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS, Inc.; NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation, NY Chapter of the National Changing Spaces Campaign

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 138-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Daycare Emergency Evacuation Plans for Children with Disabilities

S.1197 (Addabbo, Cleare, Fernandez, Martinez, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb) / A.3433 (Santabarbara)

This bill requires the owner and/or operator of a child daycare facility to establish and maintain an emergency evacuation plan for children with disabilities. A copy of the plan must always be maintained in a place within the school that is easily accessible to law enforcement, emergency responders, and daycare employees. Plans must be annually updated, and notice detailing the updated provisions must be provided to children, parents, and facility employees.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

OPWDD Resident Cash Accounts**S.4775 (Ryan, Addabbo, Helming, Murray, Webb, Weber) / A.4637 (Anderson)**

Current law permits OPWDD-maintained and certified residences to use cash accounts for the resident's personal expenses, including clothing, entertainment, and meals outside the residence. This bill requires OPWDD to develop uniform statewide policies for conducting audits to ensure these accounts are used appropriately.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Automatic EI Eligibility for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels****S.5538 (Baskin, Brouk, Fahy, Kavanagh, Rolison, Salazar) / A.6537 (McMahon)**

The bill makes infants and toddlers with elevated blood lead levels eligible for early intervention (EI) services.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 52-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Statewide Residential Families Committee****S.7484A (Mayer, Addabbo, Fahy) / A.8608 (Santabarbara)**

The bill requires the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council to establish a statewide committee to inform and advise OPWDD of important issues for individuals with developmental disorders who live in community residences, intermediate care facilities, or other similar residential facilities. The Committee must also make recommendations for statewide and regional priorities and goals for individuals living in residential facilities based on residents' input during public meetings.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**State Comptroller Access to Unsubstantiated Justice Center Reports****S.10070 (Fahy) / No Same As**

The bill authorizes employees of the Office of State Comptroller to access redacted reports regarding unsubstantiated claims of abuse or neglect of vulnerable persons investigated by the Justice Center for People with Special Needs for the purpose of auditing the investigations.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-1 (Martinez)**Assembly Vote:** None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

Commission on the Future of Service Delivery for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

S.4841A (Fahy) / A.6021B (Santabarbara)

This bill establishes a temporary commission to study the current system for providing services and support to individuals with IDD, identify areas for improvement, and develop recommendations for systemic reforms.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 134-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Review of Early Intervention Services

S.1222A (Rivera, Addabbo, Ashby, Brouk, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Cleare, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Helming, Jackson, Myrie, Rhoads, Rolison, Salazar, Skoufis, Webb) / A.283A (Paulin)

This bill directs the Department of Health to contract with an independent entity to conduct a comprehensive review of the Early Intervention Program. The study will review service delivery models and reimbursement rates, effectiveness of service delivery, and the implementation of individualized family service plans.

Proponents: New York State Alliance for Children with Special Needs, Citizens Committee for Children; Advocates for Children of NY, Children's Defense Fund, Citizens Committee for Children

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Independent Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities

S.4908A (Fahy, Addabbo, Ashby, Cleare, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Hinchey, Jackson, Martins, May, Mayer, Parker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Ryan, Salazar, Skoufis, Stavisky)

This bill creates a new form of independent housing for people with developmental disabilities focused on people who can and want to live independently. OPWDD will assist them with accessing services, resources, and opportunities for social engagement and recreation.

Proponents: Ranni Law Firm, Hudson Valley Parents Advocacy Committee

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Disabilities and Labor. Examining barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities in New York and assessing the effectiveness of existing state policies in promoting equitable employment opportunities (May 6, 2026).

Education

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Freedom to Read Act**

S.8630C (May, Bottcher, Gounardes, Harckham, Kavanagh, Liu, Myrie, Rolison, Salazar, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton, Zellner) / A.9537B (Simone)

This bill requires each board of education to adopt a written policy for the reconsideration of school library materials. This bill provides that no library material be removed or restricted, suppressed, or prohibited based solely on disagreement with the themes, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in it or because of the identities of the author, subject, or characters. This bill also provides that no library media specialist or other school employee can face disciplinary action for selecting, retaining, or recommending materials in reasonable reliance on the district's adopted policies.

Proponents: Abrams Books, American Independent Booksellers Association, Astra Publishing House, Authors Guild, Barefoot Books, Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers, Charlesbridge, Equality New York, Foreword Magazine, Frances Golden Library Agency Inc., Freedom to Learn Advocates, Fuse Literary, Hachette Book Group, Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Just Us Books Inc., Kirkus Reviews, Latinx in Publishing, Lee and Low Books, Live Oak Media, MacMillan Publishers, National Coalition Against Censorship, New York Civil Liberties Union, NYC Arts in Education Roundtable, NYS School Boards Association, Oblong Books, Penguin Random House et al, PEN America, Readers to Eaters, Seven Stories Press, Simon Schuster, The Eleanor Roosevelt Center, We Need Diverse Books, William Clark Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 51-10 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 114-27

Directs SED to Conduct a Study on Children Who Are Caregivers and Their Education

S.6273A (Bailey, Brouk, Cooney, Jackson, May, Persaud, Webb) / A.3595A (Bichotte Hermelyn)

This bill directs the State Education Department to conduct a study about the number of caregiver children across the State and how being a caregiver impacts the child's education and make associated recommendations. "Caregiver children" are defined as students with sick, disabled, or elderly relatives that such students care for outside of school and students who provide for the daily care or supervision of a minor child.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 121-14

Requires SED to Publish Informational Materials About Type 1 Diabetes and Requires Public and Charter Schools to Provide Parents or Guardians with that Information

S.10256 (Bynoe) / A.11057 (Benedetto)

This bill requires the State Education Department (SED), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop informational materials on Type 1 diabetes and make such materials available to school districts, boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES), charter schools, and any other elementary school. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, each school district and charter school must provide Type 1 diabetes informational materials to the parent or guardian of each student. In future school years, the school district or charter school must only provide Type 1 diabetes informational materials to the parent or guardian of each new student upon their initial enrollment at any grade level.

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Extends the Timeframe for School Districts to Yield Savings from Energy Performance Contracts

S.1986 (Harekham, Jackson, May, Salazar, Zellner) / A.6318 (Griffin)

Under current law, school districts are eligible to receive building aid related to the financing of construction, rehabilitation, or improvement of school buildings associated with energy performance contracts where the energy performance contract guarantees the district recovery of contract costs from energy savings within 18 years. This bill extends the time frame in which a school district shall guarantee recovery of energy performance contract costs during the term of the energy performance contract from 18 years to 25 years.

Proponents: Alliance for Clean Energy New York, NYS School Boards Association, NYS Council of School Superintendents, Students for Climate Action

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Lowers the Compulsory Age for Minors to Begin Attending Full-Time Instruction to Five Years Old and Requires All School Districts to Offer Kindergarten

S.4037C (Skoufis, Fahy, Harekham) / A.323D (Paulin)

This bill changes the compulsory school age for full-time instruction from six to five years of age, with exception for parents who want to wait to enroll their child until the following year. Currently, children must attend full-time instruction beginning in the school year they become six years old by December first. Under current law, school districts are permitted but not required to offer kindergarten. This bill adds language requiring school districts to offer kindergarten.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 44-16 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires SED to Reimburse Nonpublic Schools Applying for Nonpublic School Safety Equipment Grants Within One Year of Receiving All Application Materials

S.9885A (Sutton, Martins, Weber) / A.10618C (Berger)

This bill requires the State Education Department (SED) to pay any reimbursement owed to a nonpublic school for Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) Grants within one year of the nonpublic school furnishing all required application materials for the grant to SED. This bill also requires that the SED, in conjunction with the Office of Religious and Independent Schools, prepare a biannual report listing any NPSE reimbursements that have not been paid within one year of the nonpublic school furnishing all required application materials to SED.

Proponents: None

Opponents: State Education Department

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program**S.519 (Persaud, Cooney, Jackson, Liu, May, Webb) / A.5777 (Hyndman)**

This bill establishes the Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program to attract and retain underrepresented certified teachers in schools which have an underrepresentation of certified teachers by providing grants to school districts and teachers.

Proponents: Educators for Excellence, NYS Council of School Superintendents, NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Chan, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Creates Statewide and Regional Conventions to Bring Together Underrepresented Teachers**S.2126 (Jackson, Brouk, Liu, Mayer, May, Webb) / A.10598 (Hyndman)**

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to annually convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators and administrators to discuss experiences, best practices, and provide for networking, mentorship opportunities, and support.

Proponents: NYSUT, NYS Council of School Superintendents, NYS School Boards Association.

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Lanza, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Task Force on Educator Diversity in New York State**S.2505A (Brisport, Brouk, Cooney, Jackson, Liu, May, Salazar, Webb) / No Same As**

This bill establishes a task force on educator diversity in New York State to study educator diversity, state actions taken to promote educator diversity in New York State, and how New York State can encourage new initiatives on the topic.

Proponents: The Council of School Superintendents, NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-7 (Borrello, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Decreases Frequency of Lock-down Drills and Specifies Implementation of Such Drills**S.2498 (Gounardes, Brouk, Harckham, Jackson, Krueger, Myrie, Webb) / A.1544 (Simon)**

This bill decreases the frequency of mandatory lock-down drills in schools from four to two and requires that lock-down drills be conducted in a trauma-informed and developmentally and age-appropriate manner.

Proponents: Advocates for Children of New York; Everytown for Gun Safety; Mental Health Advocates of Western New York; Mental Health Association in New York State; National Alliance on Mental Illness NYS; New York State School Social Workers Association; NYS American Academy of Pediatrics; NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health; NYS Association of School Psychologists; Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence.

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 42-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Requires Instruction in Arts and Music Education for All Public Schools

S.6318A (May, Addabbo, Ashby, Borrello, Brouk, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Gallivan, Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Myrie, Oberacker, Palumbo, Persaud, Rhoads, Rolison, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Stec, Weber, Weik) / A.6490B (Dais)

This bill requires that all public schools provide education in art and music by codifying the State Education Department's art and music regulations.

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Includes the Intentional Use of A.I. to Mimic or Alter a Person's Likeness or Voice Without Consent in the Definition of Cyberbullying in the Dignity for All Students Act

S.10049 (Jackson, Fahy) / No Same As

This bill amends the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) by providing that cyberbullying includes the intentional use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) to mimic or alter a person's likeness or voice without their consent.

DASA seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Exempts School Districts from Having to Apply to the State Education Department for Approval to be a Provider of Special Services or Programs for Preschool Students with Disabilities

S.9418 (Mayer, Hinchey) / A.10908 (Otis)

State law currently requires providers of special services or programs, including school district providers, to apply to SED for approval prior to offering preschool special education programs or services. School districts have cited the application process as overly burdensome because school districts are already required under State and federal law to provide a free and appropriate education to preschool students with disabilities, and school districts do not have to undergo a similar approval process for serving students with disabilities in grades K-12. To remedy this issue, this bill deems school districts as approved providers for all preschool special education programs and services without having to undergo a separate approval process. School district programs will continue to be governed by all program and fiscal regulatory requirements applicable to the provision of preschool special education programs and services.

Proponents: State Education Department and Board of Regents, NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Establishes Task Force to Study and Make Recommendations About Chronic Absenteeism S.10346 (Fahy) / A.11345 (Hevesi)**

This bill establishes a task force to study the causes and impact of chronic absenteeism and make recommendations about reducing chronic absenteeism in public schools. The responsibilities of the task force include: analyzing the root causes of chronic absenteeism; analyzing the impact of chronic absenteeism on student well-being and academic performance; and developing recommendations on the most effective ways to combat chronic absenteeism. No later than one year after the organization of the task force, the task force must issue a report containing its findings and recommendations.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 138-1

Requires Museums to Display Signage Acknowledging Works of Art and Artifacts Stolen During the Transatlantic Slave Trade through Reconstruction Era**S.10107A (Webb) / A.8192C (Lucas)**

This bill requires every museum displaying identifiable works of art and artifacts that: were created using metal materials used in the exchange for enslaved human captives; were known to have been created before 1900; and changed hands due to theft, seizure, confiscation, forced sale or other involuntary means in Africa or the United States during the Transatlantic Slave Period through Reconstruction (1500-1877), to the extent practicable, to prominently display a placard or other signage acknowledging such information along with such display. Currently, museums must prominently display signage acknowledging artwork stolen from the Jewish Community during the Nazi Era in Europe.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Solutions Not Suspensions Act

S.134 (Jackson, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Sutton, Webb) / A.118 (Solages)

This bill reforms school discipline and suspension laws by limiting the suspensions of students for certain misconduct, requiring schools to adopt restorative practices, and requiring schools to amend codes of conduct to ensure parental notification and community involvement. This bill applies to school districts, BOCES, and charter schools.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Elections

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Authorizes College Students to Serve as Poll Workers in Their College's County

S.1809 (Fernandez, Webb) / A.8388 (Jackson)

This bill provides an exception to the registration and residency requirements for full-time college and university students (defined as taking at least 12 credit hours per semester). The bill permits full-time college and university students to serve as election inspectors and poll clerks in the county where the college or university is located if the student is registered to vote in New York State. New York City students are permitted to serve in any county in the City if they attend college or university in New York City.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-44

Providing Remedies for Disruptions to Voting Time

S.4602B (Gounardes, Bottcher, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Mayer, Parker, Ramos, Ryan, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Sutton, Webb, Zellner) / A.5846B (Gibbs)

This bill requires local BOEs to toll, adjust, and extend the scheduled timeframe for voting on any day that voting is disrupted for more than one hour. The requirement applies during any scheduled voting period for an election, including early voting and election day. The bill additionally outlines procedures for local BOEs.

Proponents: Campaign Legal Center; Citizens Union of the City of New York; Common Cause New York; NY Democratic Lawyers Council; NY Jewish Agenda; NY Civil Liberties Union; Vote Early NY; Let NY Vote; Indivisible Westchester

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 93-48

Including Signature Reminders on Absentee Ballot Envelopes

S.5183B (Jackson, Bailey, Fernandez, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.1566B (Taylor)

This bill requires that affirmation envelopes used for absentee voting, early mail voting, and special presidential voting contain conspicuous language reminding voters that these envelopes need a signature. The bill specifies that the reminder must be clearly visible on the affirmation envelope itself and designed to draw the voter's attention to the signature requirement prior to submission.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Even-Numbered Year Elections

S.5711C (Skoufis) / A.5036C (Jacobson)

This constitutional amendment, if ultimately approved by New York's voters, requires elections and terms for certain non-New York City municipal, county, and judicial offices to occur in even-numbered years. It applies to non-NYC city officers, town officers, specified county officers including district attorneys, sheriffs, county clerks, and registers, and specified judicial offices outside NYC, while preserving NYC's odd-year election cycle and excluding village officers.

Proponents: Common Cause New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 82-52

Requiring BOEs to Post Sample Ballots Online

S.6253A (Skoufis) / A.6741A (Simone)

This bill requires the State Boards of Elections and each County Board of Elections to post sample ballots for each election district in the State online at least twelve days prior to the first day of early voting. Samples must be embedded in a way that prevents them from being tampered with or printed and submitted as actual ballots.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany; Common Cause

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-2 (Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 94-41

Notification for Expiration of Registration Confidentiality

S.9671A (Hinchey) / A.10960A (Rosenthal)

This bill requires local boards of elections (BOEs) to provide written notice of expiration of registration confidentiality to victims of domestic violence no later than six months prior to the expiration. The BOE will include in such notice information on the process to renew the application for registration confidentiality.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Independent Redistricting Commission

S.10637A (Stewart-Cousins, May) / A.11553A (Heastie)

This constitutional amendment, if ultimately approved by New York's voters, would authorize the Legislature to redraw congressional maps between the default, census-based redistricting process. The Independent Redistricting Commission must still propose its own maps following each decennial census. However, if they fail to do so in a timely manner, the Legislature has the responsibility to draw the lines.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 90-48

Allows the Legislature to Determine Constitutional Amendment Referendum Language**S.10639 (Gianaris) / A.11557 (Walker)**

This bill allows the Legislature to write the language on voter referendums when the Constitution is being amended. A joint resolution with the language must be passed by both houses at least 120 days prior to the general election in which the referendum will appear on the ballot. The language must be written in plain language and at or below an eighth grade reading level to the legislature's best efforts. The language will be transmitted by the SBOE without amendment or alteration.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 94-47**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY****Secure Automatic Voter Registration****S.88A (Gianaris, Addabbo, Bottcher, Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Liu, Mayer, Persaud, Rivera, Salazar, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton) / A.6772A (Reyes)**

This bill changes New York State's automatic voter registration (AVR) system to a "secure" automatic voter registration system (SAVR). In short, it would automate the process more and make it more secure, automatically enrolling and/or excluding people based on citizenship criteria. The bill establishes specific procedures for the DMV, NYCHA, DOCCS, and Medicaid.

Proponents: New York League of Conservation Voters, NAACP New York State Conference; Institute for Responsive Government**Opponents:** None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None**Enacts the Democracy Preservation Act****S.324 (Gianaris, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Webb) / A.1258 (Walker)**

This bill prohibits contributions by foreign-influenced business entities in New York elections. Contributions to constituted committees, independent expenditure committees, political party committees, or disbursements for political communications are prohibited. If a business spends money on a state or local election, it must notify the State Board of Elections (SBOE) within seven business days. It needs to fill out a form given by the SBOE and have the CEO, president, or owner sign it. The business has to certify on such form (under penalty of perjury) that, after due inquiry, it has determined that it is not a foreign-influenced business entity.

Proponents: New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)**Opponents:** None Available

Senate Vote: 46-13 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Count Every Vote Act of New York

S.417 (Gianaris) / A.4307 (Dinowitz)

This bill amends the Election Law to change the definition of “margin of victory” to “the difference between the number of votes cast for the winning candidate who received the fewest votes and the losing candidate who received the most votes, or the difference between the number of votes cast for and against a ballot proposal, following the recanvass of votes.” The amendment also clarifies application of the definition in elections where multiple candidates are to be elected.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Gallivan, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Making Haitian Creole and Middle Eastern Languages Eligible for NYVRA Coverage

S.441A (Myrie) / A.8891 (Vanel)

This bill adds speakers of Haitian Creole to the definition of “language minority group,” which will also make these speakers and New Yorkers of Middle Eastern descent protected classes under the law and therefore eligible to challenge vote suppression or dilution based on this status in court. These communities will still need to meet the same population thresholds as other language minorities to qualify for actual NYVRA coverage. The bill references a federal directive issued by the Census Bureau, which created the new demographic category of Middle Eastern/North African.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-15 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Authorizes Use of Mobile Polling Locations for Early Voting

S.568 (May, Cooney, Fahy, Jackson, Webb) / A.11161 (Kelles)

This bill amends the State’s early voting laws by providing that in addition to the already required polling places, a county board of elections (BOE) may establish one or more locations for mobile polling places for early voting, provided that the State Board of Elections (SBOE) must determine the maximum number of locations based on population. County BOEs will select placements based on population density, travel time to the polling place, proximity to other early voting polling sites, public transportation routes, commuter traffic patterns, and other factors. These mobile polling places will be operational for no fewer than three consecutive days. Mobile polling places cannot replace or decrease the number of polling places required by the underlying law.

Proponents: Democracy Preservation Act

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Allowing Vote Centers on Election Day**S.569 (May, Fahy, Skoufis, Webb) / A.6449 (Griffin)**

This bill authorizes county BOEs to establish county-wide polling places where any person entitled to vote in that county by personal appearance may so vote on the day of a primary election or general election. The site or sites would be subject to approval by the State Board of Elections (SBOE), and counties would have to submit plans for these 90 days before the election in which they would be used.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 45-17 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Mandatory Training Curriculum for Election Commissioners****S.1035 (Myrie, Comrie, Fahy, Krueger, May, Rivera, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.1228 (Seawright)**

This bill would require the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to create a mandatory, uniform training curriculum for all election commissioners. It requires election commissioners and other staff, as determined by the SBOE, to complete a course of instruction within six months of their appointment. It also requires election commissioners and other designated staff to complete continuing education annually. The SBOE will develop the training curriculum. It will not exceed three hours. Failure to complete the required training would result in a letter from the SBOE to the county legislature or city council and respective party chair, citing the delinquency of training.

Proponents: Let NY Vote**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 55-4 (Borrello, O'Mara, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Codifying the Right of Voters to Register at a Second Residence****S.1036 (Myrie, Fahy, Liu, Rivera, Webb) / A.3152 (Carroll R)**

This bill codifies longstanding case law that a voter may register to vote at any residence to which the voter maintains a continuous connection with an intent to remain, including a second home or a vacation home. This bill clarifies that it also applies to students living at their college or university. Despite court cases that have already affirmed that a voter is allowed to register at a second residence, such as a vacation home or a college dorm, absentee ballots at second residences are routinely challenged. This bill would make the law clear in statute.

Proponents: Democracy Preservation Act; New York Democratic Lawyers Council**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 37-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Establishes New Crimes Pertaining to Voter Suppression & Deceptive Election Practices****S.1085 (Stewart-Cousins, Fahy, Harckham, Rivera) / A.3412 (Lavine)**

This bill creates Election Law offenses for deceptive election practices and voter suppression, including false election information that deters voting and threats or coercion affecting a person's vote. It also authorizes civil relief for deceptive practices and increases penalties for repeat Election Law misdemeanors.

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Proponents: Democracy Preservation Act

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Requiring Election Commissioners to be Full-time Employees

S.1087 (Mayer, Fahy, Rivera) / A.5056 (Jacobson)

This bill amends the Election Law to require that each county board of elections outside New York City have two commissioners who are full-time employees.

Proponents: Let NY Vote; Democratic Elections Commissioners Association; Reinvent Albany; NYS Elections Commissioner Association Democratic Caucus

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requiring Disclosure of Paid Social Media Posts for Campaigns

S.2437A (Krueger, Webb) / A.3929B (Dinowitz)

This bill requires that campaigns and political committees include payments for social media posts in their expenditure filings or political communications. Specifically, it clarifies that compensation provided for the creation or distribution of social media content constitutes a reportable expenditure. It also requires that these posts clearly and prominently display "Paid for by:" language followed by the name of the political committee making the expenditure. The disclaimer must comply with existing size, legibility, and formatting requirements applicable to other political communications.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Deterring Discriminatory Voter Challenges

S.3233A (Kavanagh, Bottcher, Fahy, Harckham, Jackson, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb, Zellner) / A.6354A (Walker)

This bill regulates voter eligibility challenges by requiring individuals who conduct voter-caging mailings to disclose those mailings to the State Board of Elections and limiting the use of undisclosed mailings in voter challenges. It requires non-election officials who challenge a voter's qualifications to submit a sworn challenge affidavit detailing the basis for the challenge, establishes procedures for documenting and reviewing challenges at polling places, requires additional reporting of challenged voters and challengers, protects citizenship information collected during the challenge process, and creates misdemeanor penalties for knowingly false challenge affidavits or the tampering with challenge records.

Proponents: NY Jewish Agenda; Ulster Activists; Let NY Vote

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Super Tuesday

S.8604 (Skoufis, Gianaris, Bailey, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Sutton) / A.9310 (Dais)

This bill amends the Election Law to change only the date of the presidential primary. This bill changes the date of the presidential primary from the first Tuesday in February to the first Tuesday in March. It also removes the language labeling the presidential primary as the spring primary. Timing for state and local elections is unchanged. Changes to the date of the presidential primary election by legislative action are still permitted, meaning, if, after the election, the legislature opts to change the date of the presidential primary back to February, or to another date entirely, they may still do so.

Proponents: Democracy Preservation Act

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 52-7 (Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Palumbo, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Election Officer Protection Act

S.8646A (Gonzalez, Bottcher, Fahy) / A.10221 (Rosenthal)

This bill, known as the New York Election Officer Protection Act, protects election workers by creating a civil cause of action against intimidation, threats, or interference with election administration; establishing a new misdemeanor offense for publishing an election officer's personal information with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or incite violence; and making election officers eligible for the State's Address Confidentiality Program to shield their home addresses from public records. The bill applies to individuals who perform official duties in the electoral process.

Proponents: NY Jewish Agenda

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-19 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Election Content Accountability Act**

S.7963 (Gonzalez) / A.8523 (Bores)

This bill mandates that, commencing with the 2030 election cycle, campaigns for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor (LG), Attorney General (AG), and Comptroller must apply "provenance data" to all political communications they distribute or publish that are produced as or include images or videos. The bill establishes penalties for violations, to be assessed by the AG, up to \$100,000 for each intentional or grossly negligent violation, and up to \$50,000 for each unintentional violation not resulting from gross negligence. The AG is also granted authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement these provisions.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

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Establishes an Election Security Navigator Program

S.8615 (Gonzalez, Bottcher) / A.11324 (Otis)

This bill establishes an Election Security Navigator Program within the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to help local boards address cybersecurity, physical security, operational preparedness, and election disinformation threats. The program would provide technical assistance, training, risk assessments, incident-response support, and help accessing election security funding.

Proponents: Common Cause New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

New York Voting Rights Act Reform

S.10612 (Myrie) / A.11592 (Walker)

This bill makes technical and procedural amendments to the New York Voting Rights Act by clarifying how racially polarized voting is measured, confirming that local boards of elections may be held liable and ordered to implement remedies in voting rights cases, revising procedures for Attorney General review and judicial consideration of preclearance petitions, and requiring plaintiffs in NYVRA actions to provide notice of the lawsuit to the Civil Rights Bureau.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Election administration will remain a major unresolved issue heading into the next cycle. The Trump Administration has continued to pursue federal control over core state election functions, including proof-of-citizenship mandates, federal voter-list creation, demands for sensitive state voter data, and efforts to use the U.S. Postal Service as an enforcement mechanism for mail voting. Courts have blocked key portions of these efforts, and the U.S. Supreme Court has now rejected the argument that federal Election Day statutes categorically bar states from counting ballots postmarked by Election Day but received afterward under state-law grace periods. That ruling reduces one source of legal uncertainty around post-election receipt deadlines, but separate litigation and potential appeals over federal executive actions, voter-data demands, and USPS implementation still create uncertainty for state and local election officials, particularly around mail-ballot administration, voter privacy, and the risk that federal agencies could be used to intimidate or second-guess election administrators.

The broader national landscape is also increasingly unstable. USPS remains under serious fiscal and operational pressure, and recent postmark-procedure changes underscore that mail ballots may still be affected by when USPS processes and dates the mail, not necessarily when a voter deposited the ballot, raising continued concerns about election mail reliability and the politicization of mail ballot delivery. At the same time, mid-decade redistricting has become a national partisan battleground, with multiple states revisiting congressional maps outside the normal census cycle and New York advancing its own constitutional response. Defending state control of elections, protecting mail voting and voter access, including practical safeguards for timely postmarking and ballot delivery, resisting undue federal interference, and navigating redistricting to protect public confidence in democratic institutions will remain challenges.

Finally, the weakening of federal Voting Rights Act protections also places renewed importance on state-level voting rights enforcement. Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have made it more difficult to use federal law to prevent discriminatory election rules and vote dilution, particularly after the Court's latest redistricting decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, limiting the use of race-conscious remedies under Section 2. As federal protections become less reliable, New York's own voting rights framework, ballot-access protections, voter challenge rules, and election administration safeguards will be increasingly important to ensure that voters of color, language-minority communities, students, new Americans, and other historically targeted voters can participate fully and fairly in the electoral process.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Energy And Telecommunications

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Prohibition of Utility Disconnections During Extreme Weather Events

S.120B (Cleare, Brouk, Fernandez) / A.5786A (Solages)

The bill prohibits utilities and municipalities that supply heat or electricity service from disconnecting customers during extreme weather forecast periods. The moratorium on disconnections would go into effect for the day preceding a forecasted extreme temperature, and the day of the forecasted extreme temperature, or on holidays or weekends. Extreme weather forecasts for the purposes of this bill will be any National Weather Service forecast day or night that has an apparent temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit (f) or below and 85f or above.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-6 (Griffo, Helming, Martins, O'Mara, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-45

PSC Virtual Access and Participation Act

S.1236A (Comrie, Mayer) / A.10424 (Braunstein)

This bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) to provide for the availability of virtual access to and participation by parties and non-parties in all the Commission's proceedings and public sessions, to the extent that such parties and non-parties would be permitted to access and participate in such proceedings and public sessions in person. Currently, the PSC has discretion on whether or not to make virtual participation available if an in-person option is available.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Minimum Standards for Utility Payment Plans

S.1327A (Parker, Addabbo, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Webb) / A.4105A (Cunningham)

This bill directs the PSC to set a new standard for utility payment plans for low-income and in-need customers by adding additional consumer rights protections and payment flexibility. This bill provides that standard payment plans for low-income and in-need customers must contain a payment agreement to be reasonable, as determined by current household income, customer's ability to pay, and payment history. This bill requires each utility to permit customers to pay a bill in full at least 21 days from the date the bill is issued. This bill prohibits service terminations for a customer enrolled in a payment plan unless the customer violated PSC rules or a disconnection is required due to an emergency.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None available

No position: IBEW

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 100-39

Addition of Certain Improvements to the Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan Program**S.1335C (Parker, Bottcher, Cleare, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Serrano) / A.5404C (Stern)**

The Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan Program is a financing initiative administered by NYSERDA and offered to participating municipalities that allows property owners to access loans for funding energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy projects on their buildings, with the loan repayments typically being added to their property tax bill, essentially making the property itself the collateral for the loan; this is often referred to as Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing. In order for a municipality to participate in the C-PACE program, municipalities must pass a local law and sign an agreement with the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), a local development corporation and a New York State nonprofit established specifically to assist municipalities and property owners achieve long-term energy savings and/or generate renewable power for use on site.

This bill would include evaluations of water improvements in feasibility cost effectiveness studies conducted by NYSERDA certified contractors for the C-PACE program. This bill will also add water and climate resiliency improvements and low carbon intensity building components to the Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan Program. Loan repayment will be tied to the longest expected life of the system or system components rather than the average expected life of the system. Loans made through this program can only be made for systems and improvements that have been identified in a feasibility and cost effectiveness study or energy audit. This bill allows for municipalities and the municipal corporation to execute recovery of tax liens by foreclosing the property for failure to pay loans.

Proponents: ACE NY, Bright Power, Food and Water Watch, Green Co-op Council, Nuveen Green Capital**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 47-13 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 139-0**Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate Program****S.1574A (Krueger, Comrie, Fernandez, Liu, May, Mayer, Parker, Ramos, Rolison, Webb) / A.2657 (Otis)**

This bill directs NYSERDA to award rebates at the point of sale for eligible lawn care devices. For institutional or commercial buyers, the rebate amount will be determined by NYSERDA. NYSERDA must additionally conduct a public outreach campaign to inform buyers of the rebate program.

Proponents: Approximately 120 municipalities, environmental and health organizations**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 52-10 (Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 99-42**Economic Consideration in Utility Rate Setting****S.1847A (Comrie, Addabbo, Brouk, Fernandez, Gallivan, May, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.2400A (Eichenstein)**

This bill requires PSC to, before approving any rate increase and while determining whether a proposed rate increase is just and reasonable, consider the economic impact of the increase in the rates or charges on consumers in the area served by the applying public utility, where the rate increase would raise more than the greater of \$300,000 or 2.5% of the aggregate revenues of the public utility company. In its consideration, the PSC is directed to account for unemployment data, median income information and the number of persons receiving social services assistance in the applicable service area. The bill further requires the PSC to consider the average monthly utility bill for each affected class of customers and their estimated increased utility bill, along with the latest cost and income statistics from the Federal Bureau of Labor.

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A similar proposal in the Enacted Budget, TEDE Part N, requires all rate increase filings to include a budget-constrained rate increase proposal limiting rate increases to the inflation rate, so long as the constrained rate would not jeopardize safety, grid reliability, energy efficiency and affordability programs; or cost-effective electrification upgrades.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Consumer Credit Reporting by Utilities Study

S.2011A (Parker, Oberacker, Webb, Zellner) / A.5592A (Lucas)

This bill directs the Department of State (DOS) and PSC to study and report on the prevalence and frequency of missed or late payments for utility, cable, telephone, and cellular bills appearing on credit checks and reports.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Gallivan, Martins, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 94-47

Enhanced Emergency Response Plans for Electric Utilities

S.4430 (Comrie) / A.6285 (Otis)

Currently, electric utility corporations are annually required to submit emergency response plans for review and approval by the PSC. These emergency response plans must include provisions for reasonably prompt restoration of service in the case of an emergency and widespread outages that have occurred in the electric utility's service territory due to storms, cyber-attack, or other causes beyond the control of the utility.

This bill would require electric utility emergency response plans to include details of staffing, equipment, and a performance schedule with the goal of achieving restoration of service within a time frame established by the PSC. The PSC, when determining an appropriate time frame for the restoration of service, should utilize benchmarks such as the percentage of customers restored within every 24-hour interval and various types of storm conditions.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-7 (Borrello, Helming, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 111-32

Comprehensive EV Fast Charging Station Implementation Plan

S.5189 (Comrie, Cooney, Kavanagh, May, Myrie) / A.1012A (Barrett)

This bill directs NYSEERDA to establish a comprehensive electric vehicle fast charging station implementation plan. The plan will analyze and provide solutions for increasing the coverage and availability of fast chargers across the state. The "Fast Charge NY Working Group" shall consist of 13 members appointed by the Legislature and Governor.

Proponents: Independent Petroleum Makers of NY; New York State Auto Dealers Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-6 (Borrello, Chan, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 108-35

Solar UP Now NY (SUNNY) Act

S.8512C (Krueger, Bottcher, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Sanders, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.9111C (Gallagher)

This bill directs the PSC to exempt portable solar generation devices from interconnection and/or net metering requirements. This includes preventing utilities from charging any fees related to a customer installing a portable solar generation device or requiring utility approval, and from forcing ratepayers using portable solar generation devices to install additional controls or equipment not already integrated into the device. This bill also allows individuals who would voluntarily like to enter into a net metering agreement with a utility the ability to do so.

Proponents: PULP, NY Renews, Bright Saver, Climate Families NYC, Con Edison, EANY, Food and Water Watch, Jewish Climate Action Network NYC, Permit Power, Solar One, Solar United Neighbors Action, The Climate Reality Project, Third Act NYC, Third Act Upstate NY, 350 Brooklyn, and several other environmental advocacy organizations.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 89-47

Penalty Ratepayer Recovery Act

S.8908 (Comrie, Oberacker, Rhoads, Zellner) / A.10422 (Braunstein)

Currently, funds from penalties for certain violations of the Public Service Law are directed towards the General Fund, while others are held by the PSC to be “remitted to, or for the benefit of ratepayers” as determined by the PSC. This bill removes PSC’s discretion and directs the PSC to return any penalties or forfeitures recovered from utilities to ratepayers. These funds will be transferred to ratepayers through a direct bill credit that must be issued within 90 days.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None available

No Position: IBEW

Senate Vote: 55-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Restricts Utility Recovery of Labor-Related Litigation Expenses

S9251 (Ramos, Comrie, Martinez, Mayer, Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.10510 (Rozić)

This bill prohibits gas and electric utilities from being able to recover ratepayer dollars for legal expenses related to labor disputes. This includes any legal expenses related to collective bargaining negotiations, disputes, grievances, arbitrations, contract interpretation, enforcement proceedings with labor organizations, unfair labor practice proceedings, representation proceedings, litigation and administrative proceedings against labor organizations. Any costs and expenses will be deemed per se imprudent for purposes of rate recovery and will instead be borne by utility shareholders. This bill does not prohibit the recovery of costs associated with ordinary PSC proceedings.

Proponents: IBEW Local 3, NYS AFL-CIO, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Local 1-2

Opponents: National Fuel

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Gallivan, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 103-35

Home Energy Fair Practices Act (HEFPA) Protection Act

S.9263A (Jackson) / A.10160A (Burdick)

Under HEFPA, utilities are required to accept emergency public assistance payments, however, in practice advocates argue that utilities have been attaching conditions to their acceptance of these payments such as paying off the remainder of an arrear balance before resuming service, or requiring utility assistance payments to be accompanied with additional deposits from customers. For the purposes of this bill, “emergency public assistance payments” are any payments received from a social services district or the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) on behalf of a residential customer.

This bill clarifies that any gas or electric utility is required to accept and credit public assistance payments received from a social services district or the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) on the behalf of a residential customer. If this payment does not fully satisfy a residential customer’s arrears, the utility will encourage the customer to apply for additional public assistance programs. If a customer has exhausted their public assistance options, the utility will be required to offer a customer a payment plan for the remaining arrears balance.

Proponents: Con Edison, PULP, and AARP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 134-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Consumer Utility Protections During Investigations (CUPDI) Act

S.904B (Gonzalez, Brisport, Hinchey, Salazar, Webb, Zellner) / A.953B (Shrestha)

Under current law, the PSC has discretion as to when it launches investigations. In addition, the PSC can only commence an investigation if it has received multiple customer complaints.

This bill provides that during PSC investigations, gas, steam, and electric service cannot be terminated for residential or commercial accounts due to non-payment of an overdue charge. This protection lasts from the beginning of the investigation until 120 days after the PSC publishes its findings and issues a determination. However, the service can still be disconnected if necessary to protect health and safety. All overdue charges shall be passed onto utility shareholders and are not recoverable from ratepayers regardless of the investigation outcome. If the PSC finds in favor of the utility, service provider, or municipality after completing its investigation, the PSC can choose to allow late penalties to be imposed on customers for non-payment of charges. If the PSC issues a determination in favor of the customer or customers, it can choose to waive or partially waive any interest or fees charged to the customers’ statements during the period of investigation.

Proponents: PULP, WE ACT, Communities for Local Power

Opponents: Energy Coalition, NYS Laborers

No position: IBEW Utility Labor Council

Senate Vote: 41-14 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Helming, Mattera, Murray, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Utility Lobbying Act**S.1012A (Brouk, Krueger, Oberacker) / A.4249A (Solages)**

This bill prohibits public utilities from recovering within rates any expenses from lobbying public officials, donations to public charities, expenses related to travel and entertainment for executives or shareholders, public relations campaigns or advertising.

A modified version of this bill was included in TEDE Part N of the Enacted Budget. The modified version prohibits utilities from recovering from ratepayers various lobbying expenses, political contributions, charitable contributions, entertainment, and public relations campaigns, and directs PSC to review other utility expenses that may be inappropriate to pass on to ratepayers.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: IBEW Utility Labor Council

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Limits Fixed Charges by Utilities**S.1329 (Parker, Bynoe, Comrie, May, Webb) / A.6204 (Carroll R)**

Directs the Department of Public Service (“DPS”) to adjust each utility corporation’s residential fixed charge to recover only costs related to the operation and maintenance expenses of metering, billing, service connections, and the provision of customer service.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: IBEW Utility Labor Council, Energy Coalition New York

Senate Vote: 46-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Overacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Automatic Deferred Payment Plans for Low-income Utility Customers**S.1330A (Parker, Fernandez, Gournardes, Jackson, Webb) / A.168A (Cunningham)**

The bill directs the PSC to require utilities to provide low-income ratepayers payment plans within 180 days of the bill becoming law. A mechanism must be designed to assist low-income customers to apply for low-income payment plans. The Commission must also create a mechanism by which customers can submit documentation for qualification as an eligible participant in the automatic enrollment of such low-income programs. An eligible participant is a customer enrolled in various social services or utility assistance programs. This bill requires a utility to consider the customer’s circumstances and financial condition, including any amount due, ability to pay, and payment history when determining payment plans.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Ratepayer Protections During Emergency and Service Outage

S.1535 (Parker) / A.4078 (Cunningham)

This bill authorizes the PSC to establish performance standards, penalties, and customer compensation protocols for electric and gas combination utility companies during service outages and emergencies. This bill gives the PSC the authority to set acceptable performance standards for combination electric and gas utility companies during power outages and the restoration process that follows. It allows PSC to set penalties for any combination electric and gas utility company that, in PSC's determination, fails to reasonably comply with any provision of Public Service Law, PSC's order, or regulation related to reliability and continuity of utility services during a major outage or emergency.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-11 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Mattera, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Oberacker, O'Mara, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Extends Rollover Credits Period for Customer-Generated Electricity

S.1553 (Parker, May, Oberacker, Webb, Zellner) / A.7391 (Romero)

This bill requires electric corporations (utilities) to allow the customers that generate their own electricity to aggregate net-metering credits with the amount of excess kilowatt hours generated in excess of their use and retain them indefinitely. The customer can then choose to use such credits against charges incurred in future years. The credits are to be used at the same rate per kilowatt hour as charged to customers in the same service class who do not generate their own electricity. Currently, the credits for excess electricity generated by the customer can rollover only for a year and after that customers are paid for their excess electricity generation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 52-3 (Borrello, Griffo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Fuel-Switching Program for Residential Homes

S.1668 (Harckham, Krueger, Jackson, May, Rolison, Webb) / A.7060 (Levenberg)

This bill directs NYSERDA to administer a program to provide grants or loans for the costs related to enabling fuel-switching for residences with propane or fuel-oil heating systems to efficient electric heat pumps, and other energy efficiency measures.

Proponents: ACE NY, NYCLV, EANY, NY Geothermal Energy Organization, IBEW, Rewiring America

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 55-7 (Borrello, Lanza, Mattera, Ortt, O'Mara, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Expands Utility Penalty Provisions & Emergency Response Requirements**S.1701 (Mayer, Comrie, Fernandez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Salazar, Webb, Zellner) / A.2614 (Otis)**

This bill removes the statutory maximum penalty amounts and gives PSC discretion in setting penalties based on a series of factors: the scope of damages caused by the violation to individuals and businesses, whether the violation was knowing or willful, whether the violation was recurring, whether it was a violation of laws to protect human safety or the overall reliability and continuity of service, ratepayers' economic losses, and whether the utility took sufficient efforts to prepare and guard against the potential harms of events such as equipment breakdown and storms. The bill also requires PSC to consider any mitigating factors relevant to the seriousness of the violation. With respect to telephone and cable television companies, the PSC shall consider whether the loss of commercial electricity caused the violation. The bill also changes the standard by which utilities must comply with the Public Service Law, changing it from a reasonable compliance standard to actual compliance. The bill provides that penalties levied against utilities under this section of the bill cannot be recovered from ratepayers, including any costs associated with the litigation of these penalties.

Proponents: PULP**Opponents:** NYSEG, National Fuel, ConEd**Senate Vote:** 38-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Return on Equity Standards for Utilities****S.1896 (Mayer, Brouk, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Webb) / A.1028 (Barrett)**

This bill directs the PSC to establish a generic financing methodology annually through regulations to determine utility return on equity (ROE) in the rate-setting process. Therefore, instead of utilities choosing to use their preferred methodology for calculating their ROE when proposing a new rate increase, utilities would have to either conform to the generic methodology established by the PSC or justify a deviation from the estimates found by the PSC's own methodology.

There is a high degree of variance among different utilities in how they recoup their costs in rates. This bill would require them to use independently calculated metrics when proposing rate changes and to explain where and why they need to deviate from this methodology. This gives public interest groups and intervenors a better opportunity to scrutinize a utility's numbers.

This bill also requires the PSC to annually publish a report outlining their findings and determinations of the final generic financing methodology. The report must analyze and describe any changes, new circumstances, or consistency observed in these financial measures during the previous year.

Proponents: PULP**Opponents:** Energy Coalition

No Position: IBEW

Senate Vote: 53-9 (Ashby, Borrello, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Weik, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

ORES Transmission Infrastructure Study

S.2485 (Parker) / No Same As

This bill directs ORES to establish a mapping, installation, and efficiency plan for the purpose of building new or upgraded electric transmission and distribution lines to distribute electricity to under-served communities.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, O'Mara, Weik, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattered, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Affordable Grid Enhancement Act

S.2708B (May) / A.8934B (Shrestha)

This bill directs the PSC to consider and evaluate the viability of grid enhancement technologies in utility rate cases within one year of this legislation becoming law. Electric and combination electric and gas utilities will be required to conduct an analysis into the cost-effectiveness of deploying Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs). This cost effectiveness analysis must include increased transmission capacity, reduced transmission congestion, and curtailment of renewable and zero emission resources, increased reliability and resiliency, reduced risk of equipment failure in light of climate driven disasters, consumer affordability and the ability to meet future system demands.

This bill also includes a NYSEDA study that will examine all of the ATTs currently deployed by utilities in the state, evaluate the performance of ATTs on transmission performance, including the increases in capacity, reliability, efficiency, ratepayer savings, and integration of new renewable generation, and examine at least two ATT case studies.

Proponents: Advanced Energy United

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Limits on Executive Compensation and Legal Fee Recovery from Ratepayers

S.3734B (Mayer, Fernandez, Jackson, May, Oberacker, Zellner) / A.5402B (Burdick)

This bill directs the PSC to disallow recovery by a gas or electric utility of any direct or indirect costs that are associated with participation, attendance, preparation, or appeal of a rate proceeding before the PSC.

A modified version of this bill was included in TEDE Part N of this year's enacted budget.

Proponents: Yonkers City Council; PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 44-11 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Gallivan, Griffo, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Floating Solar Incentive and Education Program**S.4571B (Harckham) / A.6577B (Barrett)**

This bill directs NYSERDA to establish a floating solar program that provides incentives and education to developers, installers, potential project owners, and members of the public. The program includes development of floating solar best practices, water quality monitoring, ecologically sensitive siting, standards, criteria, technical assistance and resources, and financing from NYSERDA or other public and private lenders. To be eligible for grants, projects must be developed on canals, reservoirs, commercial and industrial ponds, or any other artificially created body of water. NYSERDA shall also include within the program a monitoring mechanism for impacts to water quality, conservation, and algae control.

Proponents: Scenic Hudson

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Gallivan, Griffo, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Just Energy Transition Act (JETA)**S.5111A (Parker, Jackson, Salazar, Webb) / No Same As**

This bill directs NYSERDA to develop a study of competitive options to facilitate the replacement and redevelopment of fossil fuel power plants with renewable energy systems or energy storage systems and transmission and distribution systems and equipment while maintaining reliability and resource adequacy. The study must prioritize the replacement and redevelopment of the oldest and most polluting power plants. These development projects must follow the recommendations issued by the Climate Action Council in its scoping plan and be aligned with CLCPA requirements. The Study shall address the phase-out of at least four gigawatts of fossil fueled generation and prioritize peaker plants for phase-out.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates of New York, New York League of Conservation Voters, RiseLight & Power, LLC, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Utility Workers Union of America Local 1-2, Laborers PAC

Opponents: American Petroleum Institute Northeast Region, IBEW

Senate Vote: 42-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Rate Hike Notice Act**S.5553C (Comrie, Fahy, Martins, Oberacker) / No Same As**

This bill directs the PSC to require electric and gas utilities to send out a notice within one business day to customers impacted by a proposed utility rate increase. This notice shall be sent to customers via text, email, and their next billing statement and will include notification that a utility is proposing a rate increase, the increase in gas and electricity rates for the typical residential and commercial customer, and information instructing customers where they can find further information.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: National Grid

No Position: IBEW

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Rate Case Extension and Protection Act

S.5593 (Mayer, Brouk, Fernandez, Jackson) / No Same As

This bill allows the PSC to extend rate cases for up to three additional months, bringing the total extension period to 14 months. This bill would place limitations upon retroactive rate recovery for utilities in order to minimize the impact of rate compression. This bill requires the PSC, when choosing to grant a utility retroactive rate recovery make whole compensation, to disallow the utility from seeking any additional retroactive recovery in future rate filings.

A modified version of this bill was included in TEDE Part O of this year's Enacted Budget. The modified version of S.5593 (Mayer) directs the PSC to allow for extensions of rate cases up to 15 months (instead of the current 11 months), but did not include any retroactive rate recovery provisions.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: IBEW

Senate Vote: 44-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Lanza, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act

S6570A (Harckham, Addabbo, Bailey, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, Martins, May, Mayer, Myrie, Palumbo, Ramos, Rolison, Ryan, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Webb) / A.8758A (Barrett)

This bill provides various incentives and reforms to incentivize solar development, including requiring greater cost certainty for distributed solar (small-medium scale solar project) developers when paying to connect projects to the grid, directing utilities to create flexible grid interconnection proposals, and requiring proactive grid upgrade initiatives. The bill separately increases the CLCPA's solar power development goal to 20 GW by 2035 and directs PSC and NYSERDA to re-prioritize the NY-Sun solar incentive program.

TEDE Part SS of the Enacted Budget included a version of the ASAP Act that provides for narrower interconnection and grid development provisions to prevent potential costs to ratepayers. The solar goal and NY-Sun components were not included, but \$200 million was included for NY-Sun in the Sustainable Future program.

Proponents: ACE NY, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, NYLCV, NYPIRG, NYS Laborers, NY Solar Energy Industry Assoc., Scenic Hudson, Soltage LLC, Nature Conservancy, Town of Brookhaven, other environmental groups

Opponents: None Available

No Position: IBEW, Farm Bureau

Senate Vote: 46-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Pain and Suffering Damages for Utility Violations and Settlement

S.7165A (Hinchey, Brouk, Jackson, May) / A.8025 (Jacobson)

This bill grants the PSC discretion to consider non-economic losses suffered by consumers when determining penalties for electric, gas, water and telephone utilities and settlements with electric and gas utility corporations.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: IBEW

Senate Vote: 42-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Public Service Commission Consumer Advocate Expansion**S.7328B (Hinchey, Brouk, Jackson, Webb) / A.10993A (Steck)**

This bill increases the number of PSC commissioners required to have a background in consumer advocacy from one to two, imposes new duties on the PSC to protect the public interest and prioritize the consumer, and disallows appointment of persons employed by utilities within the previous two years (revolving door ban).

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available

No Position: IBEW

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Helming, Lanza, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Electric and Gas Utility ROE Adjustment****S.7693 (Mayer, Brouk, Bynoe, Fahy, Hinchey, Jackson, Martins, Serrano) / A.8150 (Barrett)**

This bill directs the PSC to require electric, gas and combination gas and electric utilities to return all revenues that are in excess of their authorized return on equity to customers.

A modified version of this bill was included in TEDE Part N of this year's Enacted Budget. The modified version requires ratepayers receive at least 50 percent of any revenues in excess of a utility's authorized rate of return and that utilities receive no more than the amount which equals an additional 0.25% in return on equity. Currently utilities generally keep all excess until they receive an additional 0.5%, and only thereafter do they share a portion with ratepayers.

Proponents: AGREE NY, PULP**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-2 (Borrello, O'Mara)**Assembly Vote:** None**Renewable Economic Development Act****S.7898A (Hinchey) / A.11237A (Simone)**

This bill would require any new construction contract project that ESD enters into, oversees, or enforces that involves more than \$5 million in State funding, to include renewable generation, battery storage, or transmission infrastructure. If doing so is not feasible, ESD must include a written explanation detailing why.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Extend Back Billing Protections to Small Non-Residential Customers****S.8710 (Hinchey, Stavisky, Ashby, Oberacker, Zellner) / A.11045 (Jacobson)**

This bill extends residential back-billing protections to small non-residential customers by prohibiting utilities and municipalities from increasing a previously sent utility bill after a twelve-month period unless the failure to bill correctly was related to the customer's culpable conduct, the neglect of the utility or municipality, or if the bill was disputed by the customer. Small non-residential customers are primarily small organizations and small businesses.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 55-0**Assembly Vote:** None

Low-Income Ratepayer Reconnection Act

S.9065A (Parker) / No Same As

This bill expands the circumstances in which utilities must reconnect a low-income customer, including a new type of reconnection plan where the low-income customer's monthly payment cannot be higher than three percent of the customer's monthly income for either gas or electric service, and cannot exceed 6% if a customer has payment plans for both (not including the customer's current monthly bill).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 47-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Rhoads, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Disclosures of Investor Dividends in an Application for a Rate Increase

S.9433B (Parker, Rolison) / A.11578 (Powers)

This bill requires past performance disclosures on each application by electric and gas utilities for a major change in rates. The disclosures must include detailed information on all dividends paid to shareholders, capital expenditures, operating expenses, and programmatic and policy expenditures in the previous 10 years. The PSC will then consider the financial performance of the utility compared to its approved rate plans during that time period.

If the disclosure of dividend payments show that the dividends were increased within the four years prior to the application, the applicant must also submit a detailed explanation of the reasons dividends were increased. If PSC determines that the utility could have preserved safety, reliability, energy affordability programs, energy efficiency programs, and cost-effective electrification upgrades and earned a just and reasonable return while maintaining the dividend amounts at the pre-increase level, the bill imposes a rebuttable presumption in the rate case that the utility's rates should not be increased by more than the default inflation-linked rate (which was established by TEDE Part N of the Enacted Budget).

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

New York State Grid Reliability and Energy Affordability Transition (GREAT) Act

S.9500A (Hinchey, Gonzalez, May) / No Same As

This bill directs each electric utility to create, under PSC's oversight, a virtual power plant (VPP) program to allow for coordinated use of decentralized, small-scale energy assets such as electric vehicles, smart thermostats, and batteries to manage the load on the electric grid during times of strain. These VPP program proposals must contain standard terms and conditions for participation and compensation.

Any approved VPP program must include incentives for battery storage and other distributed energy resources, and may include an incentive for electric vehicles for eligible customers and devices. The bill requires utilities to publish the program on their websites and provide materials to educate ratepayers about the program, its benefits, and how to participate. The bill also provides a variety of customer protections, including penalty-free disenrollment.

Proponents: Citizens Climate Lobby NYS, New York Solar Energy Industries Association, PULP

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Home Utility Weatherization Jobs Act**S.9735 (Kavanagh, Addabbo, Bottcher, Cooney, Gounardes, Rhoads, Serrano) / A.3655A (Conrad)**

This bill directs the PSC to initiate a proceeding to support the development of weatherization projects for the purpose of meeting the CLCPA's greenhouse gas emissions and equity goals. Utilities must submit a list of at least one and not more than ten neighborhood scale pilot projects for participation in the program, with minimum requirements for serving high-needs customers and communities. The PSC has discretion to approve or disapprove proposed projects based on considerations such as CLCPA compliance, energy efficiency, energy cost reductions, and labor benefits. All such projects must be subject to a project labor agreement.

Proponents: National Fuel, WNY Law Center, NYS Pipe Trades Association, NYLCV**Opponents:** None available**Senate Vote:** 51-11 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Martins, Murray, O'Mara, Ort, Rhoads, Weik, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Consumer Notice of Utility Rate Increases****S.9835 (Addabbo, Rhoads, Rolison) / A.10928 (Valdez)**

This bill requires electric and gas utilities to notify customers within 30 days after the PSC's approval of any increase in their electric or gas service rates.

Proponents: PULP**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Rate Case Settlement Discovery Reform****S.9966 (Comrie, Mayer) / A.11468 (Braunstein)**

The bill would require both DPS staff and regulated utilities to provide separate and substantive responses to discovery requests and cross-examination regarding any component of a negotiated settlement. The bill requires utilities and DPS in their testimonial filings to justify how each proposal benefits ratepayers and complies with existing law. Utilities and DPS staff are directed to scrutinize how negotiated outcomes differ from prior testimony and whether those outcomes comply with applicable law (such as the CLCPA or HEFPA) and how they provide ratepayer benefits equal to or greater than their initial testimony.

Under the bill, the PSC would be required to determine, by clear and convincing evidence in the administrative record, that each individual element of a proposed settlement represents the best outcome for utility consumers. This standard would supersede portions of the PSC's longstanding policy, which historically afforded greater deference to negotiated agreements among parties.

Proponents: PULP**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

New York State Grid Modernization Commission

A.982 (Barrett) / No Same As

This bill establishes the New York State Grid Modernization Commission (GMC) to study research, development, and demonstrations of electric grid modernization that address the principal challenges identified in the New York Independent System Operator's 2021-2040 System & Resource Outlook, which focuses on transmission congestion and how patterns will change over time when the State's approximately 9,500 MW in contracted renewable projects are added to the system. The GMC shall consist of 20 members appointed by the Legislature and Executive.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Build to Need Act

S.97 (Comrie, Jackson) / A.4559 (Cunningham)

The bill directs the PSC to commence a grid planning proceeding to require electric utilities to engage in coordinated grid planning that aligns with the CLCPA's goals. Utilities will be required to issue annual updated load projections consistent with the State's electrification and climate-related policy mandates. Currently, the PSC has a Grid of the Future proceeding aimed at modernizing the electric grid in line with the State's climate goals, however, this bill would codify that proceeding and require coordination from the State's utilities in attaining the CLCPA's energy and environmental goals.

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association; Advanced Energy United; EDF

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit

S.4065C (Parker, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, Mayer, Rivera, Sanders, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.7308A (Barrett)

This bill establishes a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax credit to incentivize the production and use of cleaner aviation fuel alternatives. Under the proposed law, producers of sustainable aviation fuel can claim a tax credit of \$1 per gallon for fuel used in flights departing from New York, with the potential for up to \$2 per gallon depending on the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions achieved. The credit applies to fuels that achieve at least a 50% reduction in lifecycle emissions compared to traditional jet fuel, and further credit increases are based on additional reductions above that threshold.

Proponents: Jet Blue, Airlines for America, American Airlines, Delta, Gevo, Neste, NY Community Aviation Roundtable, NYAMA, NYLCV, Our Voice Our Vote, Port Authority of NY and NJ, and United

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Customer Savings and Reliability Act (CSRA)**S.8421 (Krueger, Brouk, Fahy, Gonzalez, Jackson, May, Salazar) / A.8889 (Simon)**

This bill directs PSC to create regional affordable gas transition plans and programs to guide an orderly, affordable right-sizing of the utility gas system in a manner that aligns with the CLCPA. The bill also removes the obligation for gas utilities to serve new natural gas customers. This bill has a number of components of the former HEAT Act.

Proponents: PULP, Citizen Action of New York, WE ACT and Earth Justice

Opponents: None Available, though various utilities opposed the HEAT Act

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The SFY 2026-27 Enacted Budget created a Blue Ribbon Task Force to evaluate utility rates and mechanisms to reform the grid and system generally, so the Senate will monitor its findings when they are published.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint public hearing of the Senate Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee and the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee. *Oversight of the Public Service Commission's processes related to rate case and generic proceedings, and the Department of Public Service's efforts to implement the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.* (September 30, 2025)

Environmental Conservation

Analysts: Carissa O'Donnell, Jose Atunes
(518) 455-2598, (518) 455- 3231

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Ambient Lead Standards

S.122A (Cleare, Brouk, Jackson, May, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb, Weber) / A.3682A (People-Stokes)

This bill sets new, more protective standards for lead exposure in dust, air, and soil. Specifically, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the Department of Health, must revise the current standards to be fully protective of human health. Dust standards must, at minimum, be as stringent as the Federal regulations in effect at the end of the federal administration in 2024.

Proponents: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 108-37

Whale Awareness Act

S.2292B (Harckham, Bottcher, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gounardes, Palumbo, Rhoads, Serrano, Stavisky, Weber) / A.8515A (Kassay)

This bill requires DEC to work with other agencies to develop educational materials for boaters to avoid whale collisions, and for those materials to be distributed to downstate vessel registrants. The bill also updates the state boater education course (a prerequisite to operating a motor vessel in the State) to include basic information regarding the federal prohibitions against marine mammal harassment and minimum distance requirements for marine mammals.

Proponents: Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; NRDC

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Ban on Using Various Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses

S.3629A (Fernandez, Gianaris, Harckham, Kavanagh, Martinez, Skoufis, Webb) / A.5850 (Glick)

This bill prohibits any person from allowing the participation of non-domesticated cats (such as lions and tigers), kangaroos, primates, bears, and wallabies in a circus or other traveling animal act, similar to an existing prohibition on elephant performances in circuses. Because the prohibition is specific to traveling performances, facilities such as zoos, aquaria, sanctuaries, and other stationary facilities are exempt from the prohibition.

Proponents: Humane World for Animals; 2025: Animal Legal Defense Fund; Animal Welfare Institute; ASPCA; Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance; CNY SPCA; Four Paws USA; Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries; League of Humane Voters of NY; Nassau County SPCA; NYS Animal Protection Federation; NYS Humane Association; NYS Wildlife Rehabilitators; Onondaga County Sheriff's Office; Performing Animal Welfare Society; Putnam County SPCA; Suffolk County SPCA; The Humane Society of the United States; Voters for Animal Rights; World Animal Protection

Opponents: Farm Bureau of New York; NY Association of Agricultural Fairs

Senate Vote: 53-9 (Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 100-38

Prohibits the Sale of Playground Surfacing Materials that Contain PFAS**S.3852C (Hinchey, Brouk, Cleare, Jackson, Kavanagh, Mayer, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Webb) / A.7594C (Lunsford)**

This bill prohibits the sale of playground surfacing materials that contain PFAS, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), or lead on and after January 1, 2027

Proponents: Sierra Club; Environmental Advocates NY**Opponents:** Empire State Forest Products; Farm Bureau NY; NYS Chemistry Council; New York Green Industry Council; RISE**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** 140-0**PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act****S.4574B (May, Brouk, Cleare, Fahy, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Mayer, Ramos, Rolison, Salazar, Serrano) / A.5832B (Kelles)**

This bill is intended to implement monitoring in line with EPA's December 2022 guidance regarding PFAS monitoring of industrial wastewater and publicly-owned wastewater treatment plant (POTW) effluent. It places PFAS monitoring and reporting requirements on POTW plants, industrial facilities holding Clean Water Act discharge permits (SPDES permits) that are in industries known or suspected to discharge PFAS, and industrial facilities discharging wastewater into POTWs that are in industries known or suspected to discharge PFAS. These facilities must conduct monitoring and reporting for discharges for 40 PFAS chemicals. DEC would be required to post the PFAS monitoring results on its website.

Proponents: NYPIRG; 2025: Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Earth Justice; Environmental Advocates NY; NAACP New York State Conference; NY Sustainable Business Council; Riverkeeper; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; 2023: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper; Earthjustice; EANY; NYPIRG**Opponents:** Empire State Forest Products Association (2025); NYWEA (2023)**Senate Vote:** 62-0**Assembly Vote:** 107-32**Octopus Farming Ban****S.7421B (Martinez, Bottcher, Brisport, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Murray, Ramos, Rhoads, Salazar, Tedisco) / A.8043C (Simone)**

This bill bans octopus aquaculture in New York State, unless it is for scientific or educational purposes. Violations are subject to a penalty of up to \$1,000 per day.

Proponents: Animal Legal Defense Fund; Aquatic Life Institute; Compassion in World Farming; Humane World for Animals; Mercy for Animals; NYS Bar Association; NYS Humane Association; Voters for Animal Rights**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 55-5 (Griffo, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 126-15**Confirming Upper Hudson River Wetlands are Classified as Freshwater Wetlands****S.9479A (Harckham) / A.10936 (Glick)**

This bill was requested by DEC; it clarifies that wetlands north of the Mario Cuomo Bridge—currently regulated as tidal wetlands—can be regulated as freshwater wetlands.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 50-11 (Borello, Gallivan, Griffo, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Ryan, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 127-6

Responsible Data Center Development Act

S10642 (Gonzalez, Brouk, Fahy, Harckham, Jackson, Kreuger, May, Ramos, Serrano, Webb, Zellner) / A.11560 (Barrett)

This bill establishes a one-year moratorium on the issuance of DEC permits for new data centers. Thereafter, this bill requires a public hearing before issuance of a DEC permit. The bill instructs the Department of Environmental Conservation to complete an environmental impact report examining the current and projected impacts on water, electricity, land use, tax revenue and incentives, pollution, and other adverse impacts of data centers in the state. The bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to oversee implementation by utilities of separate and distinct rate classes for electric, gas, and water utility usage by large data centers sufficient to cover these facilities' full share of costs to the energy distribution and water infrastructure. The bill establishes renewable energy and energy efficiency goals for data centers, as well as a community benefits program that will fund community infrastructure and residential home upgrades for data center host communities.

Proponents: PULP, Earthjustice, Sierra Club, NYLCV, Environmental Advocates NY, Food and Water Watch, NYPIRG, Sane Energy Project, Third Act NYC, Alliance for a Green Economy, Citizen Action of NY, NY Renews, Seneca Lake Guardian, Sustainable Finger Lakes, League of Women Voters, Sisters of Charity Center, Alliance for Clean Energy New York Inc, The New York Sustainable Business Council, TREEage, Sunrise Movement NY.

Opponents: Central Hudson; NY Business Council; Digital Power Network; New Yorkers for Affordable Energy; New York State Pipe Trades Association; New York State Operating Engineers; NYS Building and Construction Trades Council; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Plug Power; TechNet.

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 103-38

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Ban on the Sale or Ownership of Exotic Wild Animals

S.252 (Martinez, Addabbo, Comrie, Gounardes, May, Murray, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.1804 (Rosenthal)

This bill adds a variety of exotic animals to the existing list of wild animals that cannot be possessed, harbored, sold, bartered, transferred, exchanged, or imported.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: United States Association of Reptile Keepers (2023)

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Environmental Restoration Program Reforms

S.672B (Hinchey) / A.3091B (Kelles)

This bill expands the Environmental Restoration Program—which provides state funding to municipalities to clean up properties contaminated with hazardous waste—to more types of sites and more types of contamination and provides additional program funding pathways. Primary components of the bill include: adding emerging contaminants (such as PFAS) as eligible for remediation work; narrowing the situations where a municipality is excluded based on its contribution to contamination; and making up to \$20 million of 1996 Environmental Bond Act money available.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

114 **Assembly Vote:** None

Clean Deliveries Act (Warehouse Emissions Regulation)**S.1180C (Gianaris, Brisport, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Krueger, May, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.3575C (Mitaynes)**

This bill establishes a Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) indirect source rule (ISR) for heavy distribution warehouses to regulate associated vehicle emissions and requires DEC to develop an associated permitting program. Existing warehouses will be required to develop an emissions reduction plan, and be subject to facility-by-facility review of operations by DEC and new emissions reduction regulations. Permits for new heavy distribution warehouses that will be operated by the developer will only be issued if the warehouse developer/operator demonstrates that the warehouse will not cause or exacerbate CAA National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) violations, if the warehouse meets green building standards, and the operator has not violated similar clean air laws related to its logistics operations in the past two years. Warehouse operators must communicate with employees and unions when developing emission reduction plans. The bill provides for coordinated local control with New York City to the extent it develops a similar program.

Proponents: Earth Justice; Environmental Defense Fund; New Yorkers for Clean Power; NYPIRG; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; 2025 - American Lung Association; Earth Justice; Environmental Defense Fund; New Yorkers for Clean Power; NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; NYPIRG; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Tri-State Transportation Campaign; Union of Concerned Scientists; 2024 - Consumer Reports; Earth Justice; ElectrifyNY; Environmental Advocates; Long Island Progressive Coalition; The Legal Aid Society et al; Union of Concerned Scientists; Teamsters Local 804 (2023)

Opponents: Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., Empire State Chapter; Associated General Contractors of New York State; Buffalo Niagara Partnership; Business Council; Business Council of Westchester; Capital Region Chamber of Commerce; CenterState CEO; Food Industry Alliance of NYS, Inc; Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce; Long Island Association; Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; New York Construction Materials Association; NRLA et al; Orange County Chamber of Commerce; Orange County Partnership; Real Estate Board of New York; Retail Council of New York State; Supply Chain Federation; The Business Council; Trucking Association of New York; Upstate United

Senate Vote: 45-15 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses**S.1463B (Kavanagh, Bottcher, Fahy, Gounardes, Harckham, May, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.1209B (Paulin)**

This bill provides for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for mattresses by requiring mattress manufacturers (producers) to establish end-of-life collection and responsible disposal plans. Plans must include a description of how producers will collect, transport, recycle, process, and dispose of mattresses; what entities and facilities will participate in such processes; and how collection convenience standards will be met to limit consumer effort. The bill requires that manufacturers achieve significant mattress recycling goals, including 40 percent, 55 percent, and 70 percent recycling rates within three, seven, and ten years, respectively, after a manufacturer's plan is approved. The bill requires an independent financial advisor to review producer organization applications and allows a point-of-sale fee to fund the program, which would be itemized separately on consumers' receipts.

Proponents: NYLCV; Environmental Advocates NY; Product Stewardship Institute; Renewable Recycling

Opponents: American Chemistry Council; Business Agent Local 1714T Workers United; NYS Chemistry Council

Senate Vote: 42-18 (Bynoe, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention Act (HABMAP)

S.1833A (May, Comrie, Fahy, Harckham, Helming, Rolison) / No Same As

This bill augments existing data collection efforts to overcome uncertainty about harmful algal bloom (HAB) causes, requires new regulations to address pollution contributing to HABs, and directs a new funding stream towards a variety of HAB reduction and mitigation projects.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Beauty Justice Act

S.2057B (Webb, Rivera, Addabbo, Ashby, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Bynoe, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Oberacker, Palumbo, Parker, Persaud, Ryan, Ramos, Rolison, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Sutton) / A.2054B (Glick)

This bill bans the intentional use of a number of toxic substances in cosmetics and personal care products, and the unintentional presence of lead substances above feasible limits of reduction, similar to current law in Washington. The bill provides an additional regulatory process for formaldehyde-releasing products to determine appropriate chemical restrictions. Retailers are relieved of liability if they sell products in reliance on a manufacturer's certificate of compliance.

Proponents: Clean+Healthy; Consumer Reports; NYS Academy of Pediatrics; Campaign for Safe Cosmetics; Breast Cancer Prevention Partners; Beauty Justice Coalition; BeautyCounter; Green Inside and Out; Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition; Just Green Partnership; NY Healthy Nail Salons Coalition; NY League of Conservation Voters; PFOA Project; Sierra Club; Silent Spring Institute; Women's Voices for the Earth; WE ACT; Earthjustice; NRDC; NY Sustainable Business Council; Environmental Advocates NY; Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Opponents: Unilever; Personal Care Products Council; American Chemistry Council; Consumer Health Products Association; New York State Chemistry Council; L'Oreal; Estee Lauder; Fragrance Creators Association; LANXESS Corporation; Independent Beauty Association; Household Commercial Products Association; Professional Beauty Association; Retail Council

Senate Vote: 51-11 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Community Air Monitoring Program

S.2493 (Gounardes, Comrie, Fernandez) /A.3395 (Raga)

This bill would require DEC to evaluate how stationary source air pollution permitting decisions, particularly for major industrial "Title V" facilities, affect the cumulative pollution burden in disadvantaged communities as part of existing air pollution mitigation planning. It would also require DEC to maintain a publicly accessible map of all "last mile" warehouses permitted under the State's air pollution regulatory programs.

Fenceline Monitoring for Toxic Air Contaminants**S.4030A (Fernandez, Jackson, Webb) / A.6416A (Septimo)**

This bill requires DEC to promulgate ambient air quality standards by December 31, 2028, for seven toxic air contaminants: benzene, formaldehyde, vinyl chloride, polychlorinated dibenzodioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans, trichloroethylene, and mercury. DEC must also establish major source fenceline monitoring for toxic air contaminants and promulgate regulations to ensure that, at a minimum, existing air quality and the major source's proximity to a location within or adjacent to a disadvantaged community are considered. The bill further requires DEC to incorporate toxic air contaminants into all major source air pollution permits beginning January 1, 2029.

Proponents: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Clean+Healthy NY; Environmental Advocates NY**Opponents:** New York State Chemistry Council; Business Council**Senate Vote:** 47-15 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Increases Environmental Penalties and Environmental Enforcement Funding****S.4033C (Harckham, Stavisky) / A.3026B (Kelles)**

This bill increases the penalties for most Environmental Conservation Law violations by 50% and creates a new dedicated environmental enforcement account. Penalty revenue currently deposited in the General Fund is instead deposited in the environmental enforcement account, which may be utilized for funding of scientists, environmental law enforcement officers, and other enforcement costs. Penalty revenues currently deposited into the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) would continue to be deposited into the EPF.

Proponents: Environmental Conservation Officers Police Benevolent Association**Opponents:** NY Business Council**Senate Vote:** 57-1 (Borrello)**Assembly Vote:** None**Ban on Burning No. 4 Fuel Oil in Any Building in the State****S.4046 (Harckham, Kavanagh, May) / A.1183 (Paulin)**

This bill prohibits the use of Grade No. 4 fuel oil in all buildings and facilities in the state. Violations are subject to a graduated scale of penalties that begin at \$500-\$18,000 for the first day of the first offense.

Proponents: Sierra Club; Environmental Advocates NY; NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 46-16 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Environmental Justice Public Participation Requirements for Environmental Permit Applicants****S.4513 (Ramos, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, May, Parker, Sepúlveda, Serrano) / A.2417 (Gallagher)**

This bill requires applicants for permits from DEC to comply with environmental justice requirements, including enhanced public notice and participation, and prohibits issuance of permits unless the applicant has complied with those requirements.

Proponents: Clean+Healthy; Riverkeeper; Environmental Advocates NY; NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; NY Lawyers for the Public Interest; WE ACT for Environmental Justice**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-3 (Martins, Ortt, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None

Modernizes the Existing Mercury Thermostat EPR Law

S.6765-A (Harckham, Kavanagh) / A.7166A (Bichotte Hermelyn)

This bill updates the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act to conform to a more modern extended producer responsibility (EPR) format, where manufacturers are required to cover the costs of collection and disposal of a product at the end of its lifetimes.

Proponents: Product Stewardship Institute (2024)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-5 (Borrello, Chan, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Augmenting Financial Assurance Requirements for Petroleum Storage and Transportation

S.6831A (Hinchey, Fahy) / A.8666A (Levenberg)

This bill augments the financial obligations for vessels and major petroleum facilities by requiring that evidence of a surety bond or other form of financial responsibility be provided to DEC, and approved by DEC, prior to petroleum transportation vessel operation in the state. The bill also imposes an inflation adjustment on the dollar amount of financial responsibility requirements for major petroleum facilities, and it specifies limitations on the adequacy of financial assurance for vessels and major petroleum facilities.

Proponents: Riverkeeper

Opponents: Empire State Energy Association

Senate Vote: 52-9 (Griffo, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Large Vessel Policies to Prevent Collisions with Whales

S.7718A (Harckham) / A.10901A (Otis)

This bill requires owners of vessels over 500 feet to establish whale strike prevention policies. DEC and Port Authority are empowered to enforce this bill where relevant, including being authorized to impose penalties of \$1,000-\$15,000 per day for each violation.

Proponents: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter (2025)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Gallivan, Griffo, Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: None

State Agency Building Composting

S.7809A (Salazar, Brisport, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal) / A.11015A (Burdick)

This bill requires, beginning one year after the effective date, all state agencies to establish a composting program in buildings they own, occupy, or operate. The composting program must: require that all food scraps, plant trimmings, food-soiled paper and certified compostable products be separated and placed in labeled containers; post and maintain instructional signs about the composting program; ensure that agency employees place compostable waste in appropriately labeled containers; ensure containers are latched when stored or set out; and arrange for compostable waste to be transported and/or processed separately from garbage and recycling.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 48-14 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Bans PFAS in Medical Adhesives and Bandages**S.7839B (Hinchey, Cleare) / A.1430C (Forrest)**

This bill bans PFAS in bandages as of December 31, 2026. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 for each day the first violation continues, which can increase to \$2,500 per day for subsequent violations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act**S.9072A (Harckham, Bottcher, Gounardes, Serrano) / A.4282A (Glick)**

This bill imposes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting and public disclosure requirements on large corporate entities. Specifically, the bill would require business entities with annual revenues in excess of \$1 billion—at least \$1 million of which is in New York—to disclose and verify three categories of GHG emissions for which they are responsible: Scope One Emissions - direct GHG emissions derived from sources owned or directly controlled by the business; Scope Two Emissions - indirect GHG emissions from electricity, steam, heating, and cooling; and Scope Three Emissions – other indirect GHG emissions from sources that the business does not own or directly control, such as emissions associated with the business’s supply chain, business travel, employee commutes, procurement, waste, and water usage.

Proponents: Earth Justice; NYLCV; 2025: Ceres; Earth Justice; Environmental Advocates NY; NY League of Conservation Voters; XBRL

Opponents: American Petroleum Institute; Food Industry Alliance of New York Inc; NFIB; 2025: American Chemistry Council; Business Council

Senate Vote: 40-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Ban on PFAS in Various Consumer Products**S.9073A (Harckham) / A.7738A (Glick)**

This bill bans intentionally-added and unintentionally present PFAS in the sale of textile articles, rugs, fabric treatments, cookware, ski waxes, architectural paints, cleaning products, and dental floss (including all components of such products). It also expands the existing ban on two PFAS chemicals in children’s products to cover all PFAS chemicals. The bill contains exceptions for:

- Sale of used products
- Certain industrial products
- Foods, drinks, drugs, single use paper hygiene products, and personal care products
- Single-use paper hygiene products
- Paints used for industrial, original equipment, paint repair products, automotive paint, or specialty coatings
- Personal protective equipment.

Retailers are relieved of liability if they sell products in violation of the law, provided they relied on a manufacturer’s certificate of compliance. The ban takes effect January 1, 2027.

Proponents Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Clean Air Action Network (CAAN); Clean+Healthy; Consumer Reports; Earth Justice; Environmental Advocates NY; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); New

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York State Association of Counties (NYSAC); Newburgh Clean Water Project; NAACP New York State Conference; NY Healthcare Professionals; NY Sustainable Business Council; NYPIRG; NYS American Academy of Pediatrics; PfoaProject NY; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; The JustGreen Partnership; Womens Voices for the Earth; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Additional in 2024: American Water Works Association NY; Catskill Mountainkeeper; Earth Justice; Green Inside and Out; Just Green Partnership; Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York; NY League of Conservation Voters; NY Sustainable Business Council; NY Water Environment Association; NYSAC --No Memo; PFOA Project; Seneca Lake Guardian; Sierra Club; Women's Voices for the Earth

Opponents: American Chemistry Council; American Coatings Association; Cookware Sustainability Alliance; NYS Chemistry Council

Senate Vote: 52-10 (Chan, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Biosolid Moratorium

S.9115A (Harckham) / A.10138A (Kelles)

This bill would address PFAS contamination from biosolids applied to farmland by requiring expanded testing and public reporting, imposing a five-year moratorium on land application of biosolids, and establishing penalties for violations. It would also create an Agricultural PFAS Response Fund and direct DEC and DAM to provide financial, technical, and remediation assistance to farmers affected by PFAS contamination, including support for testing, cleanup, business transitions, and ongoing monitoring.

Proponents: 2025 - Albany County Executive and Legislature; Environmental Advocates NY; Northeast Dairy Producers Association; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Opponents: Angela Hintz, Senior Environmental Engineer; Asset and Capital Management; Barton and Loguidice; Chemung County Sewer District; City of Canandaigua; County of Erie Dept of Environment; Great Neck Water Pollution Control District; GHD Consulting Services Inc; Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority; Milorganite; Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Montgomery County Sanitary District No. 1; Oster Matt; Port Washington Water Pollution Control District; Rensselaer County Legislature; Rensselaer County Sewer District; Siewert Equipment; Sylvamo; Synagro WWT Inc.; New York Water Environment Association; Town of Webster; Village of Massena; Water Environment Federation --No Memo; Watertown Pollution Control Facility; Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority

Senate Vote: 52-8 (Borrello, Chan, Martins, Oberacker, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits the Sale of Anti-Fogging Sprays and Wipes Containing PFAS

S.9268A (Fahy) / A.4525B (Gallagher)

This bill bans the sale of anti-fogging sprays or wipes containing intentionally added PFAS, or containing PFAS at concentrations above a maximum amount to be established by the DEC in regulations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Clean Fuel Standard**

S.1343B (Parker, Addabbo, Bailey, Bottcher, Comrie, Fahy, Harckham, Jackson, Martins, Palumbo, Rolison, Ryan, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Tedisco) / A.472B (Woerner)

This bill establishes a clean fuel standard (CFS) for fuels used by on-road vehicles (including electricity) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector by at least 20% by 2033, with further reductions contemplated thereafter. The CFS is based on the GHG intensity of the fuel, but also incorporates consideration for other environmental effects such as those connected to crop displacement, and to require strict transparency and disclosure from fuel producers. The CFS employs a market-based mechanism such that fuels that are cleaner than the CFS generate credits for fuel producers, and higher GHG-intensity fuels that do not meet the CFS must purchase credits. DEC may defer the program in the event of emergency or other forecasted conditions.

Proponents: NY League of Conservation Voters; Alliance for Clean Energy New York; Business Council of NY; Electric Vehicle Service Providers; LF Bioenergy; Maplevue Cattle Company; Stauffer Farms, LLC; Clean Fuels Alliance America; Darling Ingredients; New York Farm Bureau; Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative;

Opponents: NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; Earthjustice; Environmental Advocates of New York; Long Island Progressive Coalition; NYCD16 Indivisible; NYPIRG

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA - Packaging EPR)

S.1464A (Harckham, Kavanagh, Addabbo, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Sutton, Webb) / A.1749A (Glick)

This legislation implements a regulatory framework to reduce waste and boost recycling by requiring producers of packaging and single-use plastics to: ensure these products meet certain reduction, re-usability, recycling, and recyclability requirements; engage in reforming waste system infrastructure; and reduce the use of toxic substances. The program will be producer-financed so that producers pay for all program requirements. The bill explicitly excludes chemical/advanced recycling from the definition of recycling. The bill contains several exemptions, including for small businesses and highly specialized and dangerous products.

Proponents: Consumer Reports; American Lung Association; NAACP; Hispanic Federation; Hip Hop Caucus; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Beyond Plastics; New York City Office of the Mayor; NYSAC; NYCOM; NYS Association of Towns; American Lung Association; NYC Comptroller; WE ACT; various other environmental justice advocates; Clean + Healthy NY; NYPIRG; Just Green Partnership; Natural Resources Defense Council; NY Product Stewardship Council; Pack Green Coalition; Product Stewardship Institute; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Alliance for a Green Economy; Environmental Advocates NY; Blueland; Cup Zero; Deliver Zero; Earthjustice; many other environmental advocate groups; Federated Conservationists of Westchester County; Frontenac Point; Glass Packaging Institute; Izzy; Meliora Cleaning Products; New York Sustainable Business Council; Oceana; Plaine Products; RE:Dish; Save the Sound; All Our Energy; Town of Brookhaven, Town of Southampton, Town of Tonawanda, Village of Farmingdale, Village of Northport, Village of Patchogue, and various other municipalities and community groups.

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Opponents: American Cleaning Institute; American Forest & Paper Association; American Institute for Packaging and the Environment; Berry Global, Inc.; NY Business Council; Capital Region Chamber; Coca-Cola; AFL-CIO; Consumer Brands Association; Empire State Forest Products Association; EPS Industry Alliance; Foodservice Packaging Institute; International Bottled Water Association; Kraft Heinz; New York Farm Bureau; New York State Brewers Association; New York State Chemistry Council; Plastic Energy; Plastics Industry Association; Sealed Air Corporation; Sustainable Food Policy Alliance; SWD; EPR Leadership Forum; Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute; American Beverage Association; Braskem America; DuPont; Flexible Packaging Coalition; Food Industry Alliance; Long Island Association; Print & Graphic Communications Association; Reelex Packaging Solutions; Vinyl Institute; Teamsters Local 812; Household and Commercial Products Association; and many other business and industry groups.

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP)

S.1850B (Hinchey, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Comrie, Fernandez, Helming, Kavanagh, Mattera, May, Murray, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Webb, Weber) / No Same As

This bill would establish a funding program similar to CHIPS for the replacement and rehabilitation of municipal drinking water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer systems that are not under the maintenance and/or operational jurisdiction of a private entity. The funding would be distributed based on a variety of factors including length and width of pipes, infrastructure age, the nature of other water system assets, and socioeconomic factors, in order to achieve an equitable distribution of aid. No one municipality may receive more than ten percent of funds.

Proponents: NYSAC; NYCOM; American Waterworks Association; New York Water Environment Association Inc.; NY Rural Water Association; Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC 825); various municipalities

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Leasing Reforestation Areas for Renewable Energy Development

S.4408A (May) / A.10483A (Lunsford)

This bill authorizes DEC to enter into agreements, such as leases or easements, for the siting of renewable energy projects and transmission lines associated with such projects on reforestation lands; similar to agreements which are already permitted for oil and gas production on such lands. DEC may impose conditions to ensure that a renewable energy project does not interfere with the conservation or recreation purposes for which the reforestation area was acquired.

Proponents: ACE NY; Environmental Advocates NY

Opponents: Empire State Forest Products Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill**S.5684 (May, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Cleare, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanaugh, Krueger, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Sutton, Webb) / A.6543 (Glick)**

This bill expands the existing Bottle Bill to increase its environmental benefits, support redemption centers, and boost the financial incentives for participating in the deposit and redemption cycle. Prominent features include adding most drinkable liquid containers to the program as of April 1, 2030, increasing the deposit amount from \$0.05 to \$0.10 as of April 1, 2026, and increasing the redemption center/dealer handling fee immediately from \$0.035 to \$0.05, then to \$0.06 as of April 1, 2027, and to \$0.065 as of April 1, 2032. The bill would also implement recycling and reuse performance standards, enhance consumer and redemption center protections, and improve program integrity.

Proponents: New York City Council; NYPIRG; Beyond Plastics; Solid Waste Advisory Boards of NYC; League of Women Voters; Sure We Can; Empire State Redemption Association and various individual redemption centers; Surfrider Foundation NYC; Earthjustice; 350 NYC; RecycleTek; Zero Waste Capital Region

Opponents: Teamsters; AFL-CIO; UFCW Local 1500; Business Council; Coca-Cola; Pepsi; International Bottled Water Association; New York Farm Bureau; NYS Beer Wholesalers Association; New York State Bottlers Association; New York State Brewers Association; NFIB; NYS Liquor Store Association; American Beverage Association; Keurig Dr. Pepper

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Limits Facility Operations When Air Pollution Permits are Extended or Expired**S.6833A (Harckham) / A.8553 (Wright)**

This bill imposes air permit expiration dates and limits air pollution permit extensions granted under the State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) when permit determinations are ongoing. There are three major components:

- Imposing expiration dates on permits lacking expiration dates.
- For long-duration SAPA-extensions on Title V permits (permits for the largest, most polluting facilities), if DEC fails to act on a permit renewal application within 24 months of the application date, the facility must pay a fee to support air pollution reduction projects in impacted communities. If DEC then does not act on the permit application within 36 months of the application date, the SAPA extension is suspended. There is also a two-year grid reliability delay carveout.
- Suspension of permits that have been denied or limited—but SAPA-extended due to on-going legal proceedings—after two years of operations on such denied or limited permits.

Proponents: Earthjustice

Opponents: IPPNY; Business Council

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

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Paraquat Ban

S.9094A (Harckham, Byone, Cleare, Gonzalez, Kavanagh, Kreuger, Salazar) / A.10074A (Rosenthal)

This bill prohibits the distribution, sale, offer for sale or use of paraquat (a type of pesticide) in any form within the State as of January 1, 2028.

Proponents: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments; American Bird Conservancy ; American Parkinson Disease Association; Center for Environmental Health; Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Clean+Healthy; Earth Justice; Environmental Working Group; EWG; Food & Water Watch; Interfaith Public Health Network; Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York; NRDC New York; Park Over Parkinson's; Parkinson's Foundation; PD Avengers; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

Opponents: Apple Acres - Lafayette NY; Bittner Singer Orchards - Appleton NY; Crist Bros. Orchards - Walden NY; Dembroski Orchards Plattekill NY; Farm Bureau of New York; Lakeside Orchards - Burt NY; New York State Agribusiness Association; Northeast Region Certified Crop Advisors; NYS Horticultural Society; Wafler Nursery/Wafler Farms - Wolcott NY;

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Bottle Bill Revisions and Redemption Center Assistance

The Senate's SFY 2025-26 One House Budget included a proposal to enact reforms to the Bottle Bill, including an increase in the redemption center handling fee, a targeted assistance program for struggling redemption centers, a reallocation of unclaimed deposits, an expansion of covered beverage types, and anti-fraud measures. The 2025 Enacted Budget did not include this proposal. In 2026, no legislation addressing these issues was included in either House's One House Budget or passed either House. Numerous stand-alone bills have also been introduced with respect to redemption center assistance, bottle redemption fraud, modifying the existing Bottle Bill, and so on.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Ethics And Internal Governance

Analyst: Joe Vertoske
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Expands Definition of Lobbying Activities****S.4857C (Skoufis, Jackson, May) / A.463 (Paulin)**

This bill requires the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) to electronically post all annual financial disclosure statements filed by candidates for the State Legislature or for a statewide elected office. Currently COELIG posts the financial disclosure statements of statewide elected officials and members of the Legislature. The bill also makes a number of clarifying and cleanup edits to the annual financial disclosure statement.

Proponents: NYPIRG**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 141-0**Required Electronic Filing****S.5843 (Skoufis, Jackson) / A.2330 (McDonald)**

This bill requires lobbyists to file their mandatory statements and reports on the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government's (COELIG) website and prohibits lobbyists from filing paper forms. Currently, lobbyists have the option to either mail a paper form to COELIG or electronically file on COELIG's website by using its online filing system.

Proponents: NYPIRG**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 141-0**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY****Expands Definition of Lobbying Activities to Include Confirmation Activity****S.374 (Gianaris, Brisport, Brouk, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson) / A.7456 (McDonald)**

This bill expands the definition of lobbying activities to include attempts to influence the nomination or confirmation of any person for a position subject to confirmation by the Senate. It also requires lobbyists and lobbying clients to disclose their appointment-related lobbying activities to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG), in addition to the current requirement to disclose their lobbying on legislation and other government business.

Proponents: Citizens Union of the City of New York et al; Common Cause New York; League of Women Voters of NYS; NYPIRG; Reinvent Albany**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 43-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None

Nonprofit Lobbyist Reporting Requirements

S.2224B (Krueger) / A.8933A (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill creates a separate, higher lobbying activity expenditure threshold for the biennial filing requirement and semi-annual report for nonprofits. Current law requires that all lobbyists, including nonprofits, with expected compensation and expenses in excess of \$5,000 file a biennial registration statement along with a \$200 registration fee, as well as a semi-annual report. This bill raises the threshold for nonprofit lobbyists to \$10,000 and waives the first \$200 registration statement fee.

Proponents: NYPIRG

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits State Reimbursement of Campaign and Political Committees and Legal Defense Funds for Civil or Criminal Defense of State Employees

S.2454 (Gianaris, Krueger, Webb) / A.298 (Cruz)

This bill prohibits the State from reimbursing a state employee's legal fees or expenses to the extent those costs were paid using campaign committee funds or legal defense funds. It further requires that, where a legal defense fund exists, those funds must be fully exhausted before the State may provide any reimbursement. These restrictions apply to both criminal and civil matters.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Certain Public Servants from Receiving Compensation from an IDA

S4039A (Skoufis) / A.5090A (Solages)

This bill prohibits statewide elected officials, state officers and employees, members of the legislature, legislative employees, political party chairpersons and municipal officers from receiving any compensation for legal services, consulting services, or any other contractual service from a state or local authority if they contract directly with the authority or they own or control, directly or indirectly, ten percent or more of a business that contracts with the authority, including Industrial Development Agencies (IDA).

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-21 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Webert, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Lobbying Position Transparency**S.9557B (Mayer) / A.9669A (Rajkumar)**

This bill expands disclosure requirements for lobbyists by requiring them to disclose their specific position on legislation, budget proposals, rate making cases, and tribal compacts. The purpose of this bill is to increase transparency in lobbying activity to maintain public trust and ensure accountability by clarifying not only what issues are being lobbied, but the positions being taken by specific interests.

Proponents: Citizens Union of the City of New York, Common Cause New York, New York City Bar, NYP-IRG, Reinvent Albany, League of Women Voters of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Finance

Analysts: Francis Amoasah, Brandon Bernard, Priya Dhanraj, Victor Diaz, Kristen D’Souza, Beckan Gehan, Nicholle Gotham, Grace Kwiatkowski, Jason Lettieri, Anqesha Murray-Cody, Carla Nazaire, Sean O’Brien, Mac Olivier-Lalanne, Alice Russo, Nicholas Shamlan, Katja Valz, Jacob Weissenburg
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Enacted Debt Service Appropriation Budget Bill

S.9002A / A.10002A

The Debt Service Budget Bill provides the necessary appropriations to fulfill legal requirements in the retirement and payment of interest on outstanding and new State-related debt. For SFY 2026-27, State appropriations for debt service totaled \$10.6 billion and cash disbursements are projected to net at \$3.7 billion. The bill also included authorization to issue up to \$3 billion in short term bonds or notes. The State currently has no plans to access these emergency tools.

Senate Vote: 48-10 (Borrello, Chan, Helming, Lanza, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 109-34

Chapter 52

Enacted Legislature and Judiciary Budget Bill

S.9001A / A.10001A

The Legislature and Judiciary Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 includes total appropriation of \$ 4.8 billion for the Legislative Branch and Judicial Branch. The Enacted Budget provides the Legislature an All Funds appropriation of \$318.3 million, an increase of \$13.6 million or four percent compared to SFY 2025-26. The Enacted Budget provides Office of Court Administration (OCA), the administrative agency for Judiciary a total appropriation of \$4.5 billion, an increase of \$359.3 million or nine percent compared to SFY 2025-26.

Senate Vote: 45-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 98-44

Chapter: 51

Enacted State Operations Budget Bill

S.9000D (Budget) / A.10000D (Budget)

The State Operations Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 included an All Funds appropriation of \$65.2 billion, an increase of \$1.6 billion or 2.5 percent. State Operations spending is for all State agency operating costs including salaries, wages, fringe benefits and non-personal service costs (e.g., supplies, utilities, etc.)

Senate Vote: 43-19 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 102-40

Chapter 50

Enacted Aid to Localities Budget Bill**S.9003D (Budget) / A.10003D (Budget)**

The Aid to Localities Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 included All Funds spending of \$251.9 billion, an annual increase of \$51.2 billion or 25.5 percent. Local assistance spending includes but is not limited to payments to local governments, school districts, health care providers, managed care organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.

Senate Vote: 44-18 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 112-30

Chapter 53

Enacted Capital Projects Budget Bill**S.9004D (Budget) / A.10004D (Budget)**

The Capital Projects Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 included All Funds appropriations of \$23.7 billion, a decrease of \$6.9 billion or 22.5 percent. The spending amount includes both State and federal funds associated with capital projects funding.

Senate Vote: 45-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Matera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 111-31

Chapter 54

Enacted Article VII Public Protection and General Government Budget Bill**S.9005C (Budget) / A.10005C (Budget)**

The Public Protection Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state public protection and general government budget.

Senate Vote: 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 93-47

Chapter 55

Enacted Article VII Education, Labor and Family Assistance Budget Bill**S.9006C (Budget) / A.10006C (Budget)**

The Education, Labor, and Family Assistance Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state education, labor, housing and family assistance budget.

Senate Vote: 58-3 (Gallivan, O'Mara, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 119-25

Chapter 56

Enacted Article VII Health and Mental Hygiene Budget Bill**S.9007C (Budget) / A.10007C (Budget)**

The Health and Mental Hygiene Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state health and mental hygiene budget.

Senate Vote: 42-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 102-41

Chapter 57

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Enacted Article VII Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation Budget Bill S.9008C (Budget) / A.10008C (Budget)

The Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state transportation, economic development and environmental conservation budget.

Senate Vote: 53-10 (Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 110-33

Chapter 58

Enacted Article VII Revenue Budget Bill

S.9009C / A.9009C

The Revenue Budget Bill for SFY 2026-27 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement tax and revenue changes in the State budget.

Senate Vote: 38-24 (Ashby, Borrello, Brisport, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Salazar, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 91-52

Chapter 59

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.9630 / A.10760

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 7, 2026.

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 145-1

Chapter 98

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.9818 / A.10850

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 14, 2026.

Senate Vote: 54-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

Chapter 100

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.9883 / A.10935

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 16, 2026.

Senate Vote: 52-0

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Chapter 102

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.9918 / A.11000**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 20, 2026.

Senate Vote: 52-1 (Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 131-0

Chapter 103

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.9963 / A.11010**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 22, 2026.

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 141-0

Chapter 104

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.9999 / A.11020**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 27, 2026.

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 136-0

Chapter 105

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.10060 / A.11150**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 141-0

Chapter 106

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.10103 / A.11165**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 4, 2026.

Senate Vote: 58-0**Assembly Vote:** 134-0

Chapter 108

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Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.10166 / A.11250

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 6, 2026.

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Chapter 109

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.10221 / A.11285

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 11, 2026.

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Chapter 111

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.10262 / A.11295

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 14, 2026.

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Chapter 112

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.10324 / A.11365

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 18, 2026.

Senate Vote: 56-2 (Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Chapter 113

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.10520 / A.11445

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 20, 2026.

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 136-1

Chapter 116

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.10544 / A.11465**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 26, 2026.

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Rhoads, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 143-1

Chapter 117

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.10565 / A.11480**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2026, through May 28, 2026.

Senate Vote: 61-2 (Rhoads, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 138-1

Chapter 118

Emergency Repair Pilot Program**S.1838 (Skoufis) / A.5641 (Hunter)**

This bill directs the Secretary of State, with assistance from the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to establish a pilot program where participating cities will adopt a local law to permit them to immediately repair hazard violations on buildings where the owner has not undertaken repairs and permit them to bill the owner for repair costs.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 45-13 (Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 137-3 (Brown E, DiPietro, Friend)**Increase Bank Participation on the Banking Development District Program****S.8357 (Sanders) / A.9574 (Anderson, Chandler-Waterman, Jackson, Tapia, Dinowitz, Cruz, Septimo, Zinerman, Seawright, De Los Santos, Reyes, Taylor, P. Carroll, Stirpe, Simon, Bichhotte Hermelyn, O'Pharrow, Burroughs, Hooks, Bologna, Hyndman, Otis, Rosenthal)**

This bill expands the eligibility for banks to participate in the Banking Development District (BDD) Program. In addition, this bill enables the State Comptroller to establish rules and regulations regarding the deposit program and the requirements associated.

Proponents: New York Bankers Association**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 58-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 139-0

Extends the Number of Years Municipal Corporations and School Districts Can Receive Mitigation Assistance due to Closure of Electric Generating Facilities

S.9617A (Harckham) / A.10949A (Glick)

This bill allows eligible local government entities to receive mitigation assistance due to the closure of electric generating facilities for an additional five years. The program, the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation program, provided funding assistance to eligible municipalities that experienced a reduction of real property taxes and/or PILOTs owed by an electric generating facility that is now closed. Currently, eligible municipalities would be allowed to receive assistance for seven years, with a formula for determining exactly what would be disbursed written in the law. The program is on a first come, first serve basis, with a total appropriation amount of \$140 million. The bill would expand the window of eligibility for assistance from seven years to 12 years and makes technical changes to the effective date.

Proponents: Village of Buchanan

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 131-0

Implements the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Public Employees Federation (PEF)

S.10655 (Jackson) / A.11576 (Conrad)

This bill implements the terms of the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Governor and PEF. The bill provides for staggered percentage salary increases for covered employees in the professional, scientific, and technical services unit. The bill provides \$332 million to cover salary increases.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 130-0

Implements the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)

S.10629 (Jackson) / A.11534 (Pheffer-Amato)

This bill implements the terms of the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Governor and CSEA. The bill extends the benefits and salary changes to non-union workers, including: key board specialist, clerks, cleaners, developmental & mental health therapy aides, correctional facility superintendents, nurses, and highway maintenance workers. The bill provides \$112 million to cover the benefit and salary changes.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Implements the Collective Bargaining Agreement for United University Professions (UUP)

S.10648 (Stavisky) / A.11570 (O'Pharrow)

This bill implements the terms of the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Governor and UUP. The bill provides an adjustment of salaries for members in professional service at the State University of New York (SUNY). The bill provides \$208 million to cover the salary increases.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Feasibility Study on a Public Bank****S.1996 (Sanders) / A.7306 (Vanel, Steck)**

This bill would establish a statewide commission to conduct a feasibility study on the formation and control of a state public bank.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None**Tribal-State Compact Distributions for Niagara Falls****S.3618 (Ortt) / A.3682A (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill would establish a method for how monies received by the City of Niagara Falls from Tribal State Compact is to be distributed. The formula established in the bill is similar to a previous method that was in place and subsequently expired in December 31st, 2023. The distribution would be as follows: 80% for the public purposes determined by the city to be necessary and desirable to accommodate and enhance economic development, neighborhood revitalization, public health and safety, and infrastructure improvement in the city, 5.5% (Maximum \$750,000) to the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for capital construction projects, 5.5% (Maximum \$750,000) to the Niagara Falls City School District for capital construction projects, 7% (Maximum \$1 Million) to the Niagara Tourism and Convention Center Corporation for marketing and tourism promotion in Niagara County and the City of Niagara Falls, 1% (Maximum \$200,000) [Whichever is greater] to the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Commission's mission to operate an underground railroad museum, \$50,000 to the Mount Saint Mary's Neighborhood Health Center, \$50,000 to the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, and the remainder of funds to the City of Niagara Falls for infrastructure and road improvement projects. All entities receiving funds are required to submit an annual report including an accounting of the expenditure of the funds.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**The Climate Resilient New York Act of 2026****S.3590A (Harckham) / No Same As**

This bill establishes the Office of Resilience, and a Chief Resilience Officer, to coordinate and implement the State's climate resiliency efforts.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available

Senate Vote: 51-9 (Borrello, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: none

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Language Access Expansion Act

S.5535 (Baskin, Bailey, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gounardes, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, Rivera, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.4875 (De Los Santos, Kelles)

This bill requires state agencies and local counties to provide essential public documents that are accessible in at least twelve most common non-English languages in which the list of non-English languages are reviewed and updated on a bi-annual basis.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 50-10 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establish the Office of Census Count

S.6898 (Cooney, Comrie, Bottcher, Harckham, Jackson, Jiu, Ramos, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.5864 (Solages, Dais, Sayegh, Kay, Anderson, Stirpe, Colton, Lunsford, Simone, Davila, Magnarelli, Schiavoni, Hevesi, Destefano, Griffin, Weprin, Cunningham, Raga, De Los Santos, Otis, McDonald, Meeks, R. Carroll, Gonzalez-Rojas, Zinerman, Paulin, Dinowitz, P.Carroll)

This bill establishes the Office of Census Services within the Department of State along with creating a New York State Census Counts Commission within the new office.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None.

Senate Vote: 41-19 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None.

Relates to interest on unclaimed child and spousal support payments

S.8253 (Brisport) / No Same As

This bill is Departmental Bill #4 from the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). This bill allows the State Comptroller to collect interest on abandoned child support payments in the custody of OSC.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Establishes assigned liability insurance risk pools for voluntary foster care agencies (VFCAs); provides for the inclusion of liability insurance costs in the Maximum State Aid Rate (MSAR) for VFCAs; establishes a liability insurance bridge fund

S.9113A (Bailey) / A.9646A (Hevesi)

This bill requires all liability insurers doing business in New York State to participate in assigned risk pools for voluntary foster care agencies (VFCAs). Plans must include professional liability coverage and sexual abuse and molestation coverage. This bill also directs the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to establish standards of payment for liability insurance and to include such standards of payment in the Maximum State Aid Rate (MSAR) for VFCAs. The bill permits VFCAs to petition OCFS for rate adjustments to accommodate increased liability insurance costs. Finally, the bill establishes a Voluntary Foster Care Agency Insurance Bridge Fund administered by OCFS to assist VFCAs in offsetting demonstrated increases in liability insurance costs.

Proponents: Abbott House; Cardinal McCloskey Community Services; Catholic Guardian Services; Cayuga Centers; Children's Aid; Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies; Graham Windham; Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York; NY Public Welfare Association; NYS Association of Counties; OLV Human Services; Residential Care for Youth and Young Adults --No Memo; Rising Ground; St. John's Residence for Boys; The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Relates to interest earned on the statewide opioid settlement agreement revenue in the Opioid Settlement Fund

S.9278A (Fernandez) / A.10234A (Steck)

This bill requires interest earned on revenue deposited into the Opioid Settlement Fund remains in the fund unless directed by statute or appropriation. This ensures revenue earned from the fund is maintained to support harm reduction, treatment, recovery, education and prevention programs across the State. The current statute does not specify interest earned on the fund and although the Executive is currently reserving interest earned on the fund for allocations, this bill would codify it. This bill is ensuring the interest earned within the Opioid Settlement Fund would not be swept to the General Fund.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: none

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

**Establishes a 2.7 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for designated human services programs
S.1580A (Persaud) / A.2590A (Hevesi)**

This bill establishes a 2.7 percent cost of living adjustment for certain human services programs. The bill also contains a provision that would include programs not explicitly listed in the bill text in the cost-of-living adjustment if they provide health and welfare services. Moreover, the bill directs the applicable state agencies to review the list of programs eligible for cost-of-living adjustments every five years.

Proponents: Abbott House; New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the Youth Justice Innovation Fund

S.643 (Cleare, Baskin, Brisport, Fernandez, Jackson, Salazar) / A.8491 (Hevesi)

This bill would establish the Youth Justice Innovation Fund. The bill directs the Director of the Division of the Budget to transfer \$50 million into the fund to support programs and services for youth up to the age of twenty-five. A grant program would be administered by the Division of Criminal Justice Service (DCJS) awarding grants to community-based organizations for services and programs with the purpose of youth development and preventing youth arrest and incarceration, reentry, education and employment training and placement programs.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Health

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice****S.3822 (Rivera, Borrello, Bynoe, Jackson, Liu, Oberacker, Weber, Weik) / A.1942 (Paulin)**

This bill makes conforming changes that reflect the current scope of practice of nurse practitioners. It authorizes nurse practitioners to evaluate and examine and certify that a student who has received a mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) may return to their athletic activities or school; that school bus drivers, monitors, and attendants who are required to provide proof of physical fitness for their job positions have done so and are authorized to work; certify certain disabilities for the purposes of temporary disability necessities (such as a temporary parking pass); and whether a jury member needs to be excused from jury duty due to medical reasons.

Proponents: Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, American Association of Nurse Practitioners

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 59-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Votes: 133-1 (Friend)

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Organ Donation Through Tax Filings**S.8841A (Rivera, Martins, May, Ryan, Skoufis) / A.10299B (Tapia)**

This bill allows individuals to become an organ donor on any personal income tax document that is subject to mandatory personal filing.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Lanza)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Gene Synthesis Oversight**S.9279A (Gianaris) / A.3283C (Bores)**

This bill requires gene synthesis providers to operate in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Department of Health (DOH). "Gene synthesis providers" refers to any entity that synthesizes and distributes synthetic nucleic acids (biomolecules that store and transmit genetic information) to customers or distributors.

Proponents: Secure AI Project

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 142-0

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Youth Sports Concussion Information

S.7266 (Krueger, Helming) / A.5383A (Bores)

This bill requires youth soccer, lacrosse, ice hockey, and field hockey programs to provide informational packets about the health risks of concussions and sub-concussive blows to parents and guardians. Current New York State law only requires that football programs provide these informational packets.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Release of Contact Information Via Adoption Registry

S.6578A (Hinchey) / A.7840A (Weprin)

The adoption information registry connects adoptees, birth parents, and biological siblings to each other by facilitating the exchange of contact information directly or through adoption agencies. This bill would allow these individuals to consent ahead of time, rather than waiting for a request to connect with relatives from one of these parties.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Nursing Home Hospice Agreements

S.9620A (Scarcella-Spanton) / A.10310B (Paulin)

This bill requires residential healthcare facilities to enter into and maintain one or more written agreements with a hospice care facility to ensure access to and coordinate resident care if necessary.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 48-13 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Mattera, Murray, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Individuals Leaving Incarceration

S.614B (Rivera, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Sanders) / A.269A (Paulin)

This bill provides presumptive eligibility for Medicaid benefit to individuals leaving incarceration appearing to meet Medicaid program eligibility criteria. Such individuals shall be presumptively eligible for benefits, pending completion of the full eligibility determination process. The bill requires presumptive eligibility for these individuals to begin on the date of their release and extend for a period of 60 days or when a final determination is made, whichever is shorter.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-15 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-44

Wage Parity Compliance**S.674 (Martinez) / A.5115 (Stern)**

This bill requires that the annual statement of wage parity hours and expenses submitted by home care agencies be accompanied by an independent accountant's report on the annual compliance statement of wage parity, hours and expenses prior to payments for home care services by government agencies. Current law requires this statement to be accompanied by an independently audited financial statement.

Proponents: NYS Association of Health Care Providers, Coalition of Downstate Union Home Care Agencies**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 147-0**Notice of Adult Care Facility Closures****S.6959A (Hinchey, Brouk) / A.5998B (Simon)**

This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to provide copies of all written materials pertaining to the revocation or suspension of the operating certificate or proposed revocation, suspension or limitation of the operating certificate of an adult care facility (ACF) to the Governor, State Comptroller, Attorney General, Legislature and county executives, and where applicable the community board of the district in which the facility is located.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 58-0**Assembly Vote:** 128-0**Electronic Health Record Integration with Prescription Monitoring Program****S.9401A (Rivera, Webb) / A.8849B (McDonald)**

This bill directs the Commissioner of Health to promulgate regulations facilitating interoperability between the Prescription Monitoring Program and certified electronic health records systems connected with any national data-sharing hub.

Support: Greater New York Hospital Association, Bamboo Health Systems

Opposition: None

Senate Vote: 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 141-0**Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiting List****S.9573 (Rivera, Webb) / A.11569 (De Los Santos)**

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Health to establish waiting lists for the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid Waiver Program. When capacity is available in each region, the Commissioner will draw from the regional waiting lists to accommodate eligible individuals in the order they were placed on the waiting list.

Proponents: New York Association on Independent Living**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 141-0

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Minimum Pharmacy Reimbursement

S.5939C (Skoufis, Addabbo, Bynoe, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gallivan, Griffo, Hinchey, Jackson, Liu, Martins, Mayer, Rhoads, Rivera, Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Stavisky, Webb) / A.5882C (McDonald)

This bill requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to reimburse participating pharmacies at the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) rate, or the pharmacy acquisition cost rate if there is no NADAC rate. It also requires PBMs to pay a dispensing fee equal to, at minimum, the Medicaid professional dispensing fee.

Proponents: Pharmacists Society of the State of New York

Opponents: Pharmaceutical Care Management Association

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Ashby, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 132-0

High-Sodium Menu Items

S.428A (Rivera, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Sepulveda) / A.5207A (Reyes)

This bill requires chain restaurants to label menu items that exceed the daily value for sodium. This requirement applies to any seasonal or non-seasonal menu item that comes in different flavors, varieties, or combinations if it has high added sodium content.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: 98-32

Maximum Drinking Water Contaminant Levels

S.3207B (Kavanagh, Addabbo, Bottcher, Cleare, Fahy, Gounardes, Harckham, Martins, May, Rhoads, Rolison, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.8634B (Lee)

This bill establishes maximum contaminant levels in drinking water of no higher than 4 parts per trillion for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); and no higher than 10 parts per trillion for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA), and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS).

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Vaccinations for Children Attending Camps

S.3958A (Skoufis, Harckham) / A.3254A Dinowitz

This bill requires all children enrolled in an overnight, summer day, or travelling camp to be vaccinated. The vaccinations include polio, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal disease, meningococcal disease, and hepatitis B.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-20 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 90-47

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Disclosure of Sensitive Health Information**

S.1633B (Fernandez, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, Mayer, Salazar, Webb) / A.2613A (Lunsford)

This bill would allow individuals to restrict the electronic disclosure of sensitive personal information, including data on reproductive health services, gender-affirming care, sexually transmitted infections, and mental health.

Proponents: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; New York City Council; NYCLU; Surveillance Technology Oversight Project; NYCLU

Opponents: Epic, Greater New York Hospital Association

Senate Vote: 40-19 (Ashby, Canzeroni-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibition on 340B Limitations

S.1913 (Rivera, Addabbo, Baskin, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, May, Ramos, Ryan, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb, Zellner) / A.6222 (Paulin)

This bill prohibits pharmaceutical companies and other industry players from limiting or restricting benefits to hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and rural health clinics under the Federal 340B program, which requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices to safety net providers.

Proponents: Evergreen Health; Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS); Hudson Headwaters Health Network; AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Callen-Lorde; Mt. Sinai Health System; Trillium Health; CHA-CANYs; Greater New York Hospital Association

Opponents: Community Oncology Alliance; Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, Community Access National Network; Infusion Access Foundation; Lupus and Allied Diseases Association; National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalition; National Taxpayers Union; NAACP New York State Conference; NYC District Council of Carpenters; PhRMA; Sanofi

Senate Vote: 48-12 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Rolison, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Community Engagement Prior to a Hospital Closure

S.9388 (Rivera, Kavanagh, Gonzalez, Myrie, Hinchey, Webb, Krueger, Ashby, Bailey, Brisport, Fernandez, Harckham, Jackson, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Stavisky) / A.10736 (Simon)

This bill requires community engagement and notice of a hospital closure before the hospital closes. This includes the closure of the entire hospital, an emergency department, a maternity unit, a mental health or substance use service, or any other specialty service if it will reduce services. Current law requires such notice and engagement after the hospital has closed.

Proponents: NYS Public Employees Federation

Opponents: Greater New York Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New York State

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Gallivan, Oberacker, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Retail Sale of Nitrous Oxide

S.9567B (Ryan, Ashby, Martinez) / A.10923B (McDonald)

This bill prohibits any sale of nitrous oxide gas at retail to the public. This prohibition does not apply to the sale of nitrous oxide in industrial, medical or dental applications or to products which require nitrous oxide as a propellant, provided they are not sold at retail to the public. The bill also requires DOH to include information on risks associated with nitrous oxide in its public health education efforts.

Proponents: Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island; EPIC Long Island; South Shore Guidance Center

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Skoufis, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

New York State Abortion Clinical Training Program

S.1438A (Krueger, Brisport, Brouk, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Liu, May, Mayer, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb) / No Same As

This bill creates a Department of Health program to train health care practitioners in abortion care and other reproductive health care services.

Proponents: Abortion Positivity Action Fund; Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY); BKForge: Brooklyn for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Committee of Interns and Residents-SEIU Healthcare; Downtown Women For Change; Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW; National Abortion Federation; New York State Academy of Family Physicians; New York State Association of Licensed Midwives; New York Nurses Association; Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts; Reproductive Health Access Network; Zioness Movement; 1199 SEIU

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weik, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Pay-for-Delay Drug Agreements

S.3203 (Fernandez, Brouk, Cleare, Jackson, Liu, May, Webb) / A.8576 (Kelles)

This bill establishes a presumption against pay-for-delay agreements compensating generic drug manufacturers for delaying market entry, which would be considered anticompetitive and subject to state antitrust enforcement.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: PhRMA

Senate Vote: 39-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Approval of Hospital and Nursing Home Corporate Arrangements

S.3366 (Rivera) / No Same As

This bill expands the types of corporate arrangements that require Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) approval, including “passive parent arrangements” that allow an entity to exercise control over a hospital, nursing home, diagnostic and treatment center, midwifery birth center, or ambulatory surgery center without direct day-to-day responsibilities.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Greater New York Hospital Association

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Lanza, Mattera, Martins, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Community Engagement Before Nursing Home Closures

S.4275A (Kavanagh, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.11326 (Lee)

This bill requires that if an operator of a nursing home chooses to close a facility, the operator must notify the Department of Health (DOH) in writing at least 90 days before the closure and include a proposed plan for the closure of the nursing home.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-21 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Medicaid Inspector General Audits and Investigations

S.4955B (Harckham, Addabbo, Borrello, Fernandez, Gallivan, Helming, Jackson, May, Mayer, Rhoads, Rivera, Rolison, Sepulveda, Sutton, Webb) / A.1069B (Paulin)

This bill reforms how the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) conducts its audits and overpayment recoveries by setting standards of review and investigation, limiting reviews or audits, providing enhanced notifications, and extending timeframes to comply with findings.

Proponents: Addiction Treatment Providers Association (ATPA); Association for Community Living; Coalition of Medication Assisted Treatment Providers & Advocates (COMPA); Community Health Care Association of NYS; Community Pharmacy Association of New York State; Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY; Federation of Mental Health Services; Inter Agency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.; InUnity Alliance; Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc; NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation; NYS Academy of Family Physicians; NYS Coalition for Children’s Behavioral Health; NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; NYS Psychiatric Association Inpharmatics Society of the State of New York; The Alliance for Rights and Recovery; NY Chemical Dependency Consortium; Greater New York Hospital Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

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Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Boards

S.6717A (Bailey, Brouk, Comrie, Fernandez, Liu, Murray, Rhoads) / A.5534A (Jackson)

This bill establishes boards within the Department of Health (DOH) and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to review fetal and infant mortality and morbidity, disseminate findings, and make recommendations on best practices to prevent fetal infant mortality.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Healthcare Providers Non-Renewals

S.1911C (Rivera, Cleare, Webb) / A.8052B (Lavine)

This bill requires health care plans to provide a notice with an explanation of its determination of non-renewal to a provider. The notice containing the explanation shall also provide instructions on how the health care professional may submit information to the health care plan to respond to the reason provided in the notice for the non-renewal of the contract.

Proponents: Medical Society of the State of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Griffo, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Enhanced Drug Checking Program and Public Health Surveillance

S.56B (Fernandez, Cleare, Jackson, May, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders) / A.808C (Kelles)

This bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to establish an enhanced drug checking program to test drugs or controlled substances for contaminants, toxic substances, or hazardous compounds. The bill also authorizes DOH to establish public health surveillance of the unregulated drug supply to monitor trends.

Proponents: Drug Policy Alliance, Housing Works, InUnity Alliance, Legal Action Center, NYS Harm Reduction Association, Evergreen Health Unconditional, The Alliance for Positive Change, Vocal NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 35-25 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

DOH Review of Correctional Facility Health Services

S.360 (Rivera, Baskin, Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez) / A.2149 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, to annually review correctional facility practices related to Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, Hepatitis C, COVID-19, emerging infectious diseases, women's health, transgender health, chronic health conditions, health care services for individuals 50 years of age or older, discharge planning, and substance use disorders.

Proponents: Legal Action Center and Correctional Association of New York

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Lead Service Line Identification for Certain Water Systems**S.3581 (Rivera, Ashby, Bottcher, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Kavanagh, Martins, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.2181 (Paulin)**

The bill authorizes water providers to access customers' properties to test and replace lead service lines and support the federal and State goal to eliminate lead exposure.

Proponents: NYS American Academy of Pediatrics; American Water Works Association NY; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Clean and Healthy; Environmental Advocates of New York; Long Island Water Conference; Natural Resource Defense Council; NY League of Conservation Voters; NYS Laborers PAC; WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-6 (Borrello, Chan, Oberacker, O'Mara, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Complex Care Assistants**S.4462B (Mayer, Addabbo, Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Fahy, Griffo, Mattera, Parker, Rhoads, Rivera, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco) / A.464-B (Steck)**

This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and seek federal approval for a program to certify family members of medically fragile children enrolled in Medicaid and eligible for private duty nursing to become "complex care assistants" for the child. Upon completion of all qualification criteria, a family member may work under the direction of a registered nurse through a private duty nursing agency and can be paid for up to 50 hours of care per week.

Proponents: CCHS Network, Voices of the Medically Fragile of New York, Disability Rights New York, NY Alliance for Developmental Disabilities

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Opioids Patient Right to Know Act**S.6758B (Fernandez, Borello, Harckham, Oberacker, Rivera, Ryan) / A.9010B (Rosenthal)**

The bill requires practitioners to discuss certain risks with a patient or a patient's parent/guardian when prescribed an opioid analgesic. The bill further requires prescribers to counsel patients on overdose risks and the availability of naloxone when issuing a first-of-year opioid analgesic prescription lasting more than one week.

Proponents: LI Council of Alcoholism Drug Dependence, National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse, Prevent Opioid Abuse, The Fed Up! Coalition

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Disseminates Information on Screening for Placenta Accreta

S.9662 (Fernandez) / A.10514A (Zaccaro)

This bill directs the Department of Health to publish guidance on how to incorporate screening for the condition of placenta accreta into routine prenatal care.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 142-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Fair Pricing Act

S.705B (Krueger, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Ryan, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Sutton, Webb, Zellner) / A.2140B (Jackson)

This bill would limit the prices that all health care providers can charge patients and health insurance companies for outpatient, low-complexity services to 150% of the Medicare physician rate or the negotiated rate agreed upon by providers and health plans. It also prohibits insurers from paying more than this rate for these services and bans facility fees.

Proponents: 32BJ; Coalition for Affordable Homes; NY Health Plan Association; NYCD 15 16 Indivisible; NYPIRG; Purchase Business Group on Health; Small Business Majority; The Professional Staff Congress; United States of Care; DC37; NAACP New York State Conference;

Opponents: Medical Society of the State of NY; NY Independent Physician Practice Association; 1199SEIU; Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA); HANYS

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Medical Indemnity Fund Ombudsperson and Advisory Panel

S.3364 (Rivera, Krueger, Mayer, Ryan) / A.4972 (Buttenschon)

This bill creates an ombudsperson for the Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF) responsible for receiving and resolving complaints relating to the MIF and referring them to appropriate agencies for resolution. It also creates an advisory panel comprised of at least nine members, including the Commissioner of Health, qualified plaintiffs, physicians, medical suppliers, and advocates.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Higher Education

Analyst: Elena Kilcullen
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Graduate Student Fee Phase-Out**

S.9034B (Stavisky, Baskin, Gallivan, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer Palumbo, Ramos, Ryan, Skoufis, Webb) / A.10334A (Solages)

This bill phases out mandatory university fees for graduate students serving a full-time or half-time term as a graduate teaching assistant, graduate assistant, graduate research assistant, graduate research associate, or graduate teaching associate employees at SUNY and CUNY schools.

Proponents: Communication Workers of America (CWA)

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Allows Dental Hygienists to Administer Local Block Anesthesia Under Supervision

S.5727 (Harckham, Cooney, Jackson, Webb) / A.98 (Paulin)

This bill allows a dental hygienist to monitor and administer local infiltration anesthesia/nitrous oxide analgesia, and local block anesthesia, provided they are certified and are supervised by a dentist. Supervision requires that the dentist remain in the dental office where services are performed, personally authorize and prescribe the use of block anesthesia, and personally examine the condition of the patient after the block anesthesia is completed.

Proponents: New York State Dental Hygienists' Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

S.7136 (Skoufis, Bynoe, Cooney, Gonzalez) / A.6744 (Simone)

This bill requires New York to enter into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact which allows psychologists licensed in other compact states in the U.S. to practice within New York state under New York State's scope of practice and allows psychologist licensed in New York state to perform therapy services to patients when they travel to other compact states through telepsychology and temporary in-person services.

Proponents: New York State Psychological Association, NYU Langone Health, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, Teladoc Health, Weill Cornell Medicine

Opponents: New York State Psychiatric Association, New York State Public Employees Federation

Senate Vote: 56-5 (Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 122-16

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

License Qualifications for Dentists in Postdoctoral Specialty Programs

S.8401B (Sepulveda, Harkham, Skoufis) / A.10753A (Paulin)

This bill allows those participating in advanced specialty dental residency programs to begin their license application process before the completion of their residency to avoid a lapse in licensure.

Proponents: New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Allows Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors to Cross-Supervise Under Certain Conditions

S.8899 (Stavisky, Sutton) / A.9321 (Berger)

This bill allows Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) and Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs) to provide post-masters supervision to either profession if certain licensure and training requirements are met.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Extended Limited Permits for Social Workers

S.9123 (Sutton) / A.9566A (Berger)

This bill extends the duration of limited permits to practice Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) and use the title licensed clinical social worker, and practice licensed master social work and use the title licensed master social worker from twelve to twenty-four months with the ability to renew the limited permit for up to two additional one-year periods.

Proponents: National Association of Social Workers, New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center, Fordham University

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Amends Entities of Reference for Vaccine Mandates

S.9598 (Stavisky, Myrie) / A.10711 (Paulin)

This bill changes the entities of reference that may make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health when determining vaccine regulations and authorizes pharmacists to administer Covid-19 vaccines to 2-year-olds. Under influence of the current federal administration, ACIP and the CDC have undermined confidence in vaccines and rolled back recommendations for COVID-19 and previously routine childhood vaccinations. The bill amends these vaccine requirements to be in accordance with regulations issued by the commissioner, utilizing generally accepted medical standards and taking into consideration recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and/or other similar nationally or internationally recognized scientific organizations. Including a broader pool of entities that the Commissioner may consider will ensure the Department of Health can make decisions based on scientific evidence and medical consensus.

Proponents: New York State American Academy of Pediatrics

Opposition: None

Senate Vote: 39-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 90-48

Chapter 115

Certificate of Residence Policies for State University of New York Community Colleges

S.9612 (Hinchey) / A.10541 (Powers)

This bill authorizes the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees to amend their certificate of residency policies to provide flexibility for students who certify late.

Proponents: The State University of New York

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-0

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Chapter 124

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Eligibility for District Attorney and Indigent Legal Services Attorney Loan Forgiveness (DALF) Program

S.161A (Ramos) / A.1602A (Simon)

This bill expands the number of years an eligible indigent legal service attorney can receive loan forgiveness under the DALF Program and increases the maximum annual award to \$8,000. Currently district attorneys, and indigent legal services attorneys are eligible for annual student loan forgiveness for a period of six years so long as they remain employed in an indigent legal services role, and can receive a maximum of \$3,400 each year.

Proponents: New York County District Attorney, Brooklyn Defender Services, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation, Broome County Public Defenders Office, Chief Defenders Association of New York, Citizens Concerned for Children Inc., Columbia County District Attorney, CAMBA Legal Services, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), Bronx County District Attorney, District Attorneys Association of NYS, District Council 37, Kings County District Attorney, Fulton County District Attorney, Lawyers for Children, Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Legal Aid Society, Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County, Legal Services Staff Association, The National Organization of Legal Services Workers /UAW Local 2320, Livingston County DA, Queens County District Attorney, Monroe County Assigned Counsel Program, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, New York County Defender Services, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, New York Legal Assistance Group, New York State Defenders Association, New York State Bar Association, Office of the Appellate Defender, Office of the Genesee County Public Defender, Ontario County Public Defender, Schuyler County District Attorney, The Association of Legal Aid Attorneys UAW 2325, The Bronx Defenders, UAW-Region 9A, Washington County District Attorney, Wayne County Public Defender, Westchester Legal Aid Society

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Healthcare Providers to Notify Patients of Professional Misconduct

S.1476B (Krueger, Brisport, Brouk, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer, Salazar, Sepulveda, Webb) / A.10022A (Lee)

This legislation requires healthcare licensees who have been found to have committed misconduct by the board for professional medical conduct, or found guilty of a crime or liable of an offense in a court of law relating to their licensure practice, to provide written notification of their disciplinary status to new and current patients once an order has been issued by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct or a court of law, or once an order of summary suspension against the licensee has been signed by the Health Commissioner.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Uniform State University of New York (SUNY) Police Standards

S.4707B (Stavisky, Bynoe, Cooney, Gallivan, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.5887A (McMahon)

This bill establishes a Commissioner of SUNY Police to centralize and make SUNY police operations uniform across SUNY campuses. The Commissioner will have authority to appoint and have supervisory and administrative authority over university police officers in New York State. The bill also expands the geographic area of employment for SUNY Police Officers to be any SUNY campus within New York state to allow SUNY police to be able to operate at more than one campus at a time or are able to transfer campuses based on staffing needs.

Proponents: PBA, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), United University Professions (UUP)

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Immunization by Medical Assistants

S.5340C (Stavisky, Jackson) / A.5460D (Paulin)

This bill authorizes physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to delegate the administration of vaccinations to Medical Assistants. Such vaccinations must be recommended by the Commissioner of Health who shall take into account recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or other similar nationally or internationally recognized scientific organizations and the Medical Assistants must receive proper training and adequate supervision.

Proponents: New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, Community Health Care Association of New York State, Family Health Centers at New York University Langone, New York State, Westchester Community Health Center

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-7 (Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martinez, Ortt, Palumbo, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Mandatory Continuing Education Requirements for Acupuncturists**S.9223 (Liu) / A.10187 (Kim)**

This bill establishes mandatory continuing education requirements for licensed acupuncturists and aligns the profession with national standards. The bill requires acupuncturists registered with the state to complete 45 hours of mandatory continuing education requirements every registration period (every three years). The bill also recognizes the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM) as the accrediting body which will determine acceptable continuing education courses.

Proponents: Acupuncture Society of New York**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Authorizes the Comptroller to Establish a Scholarship Savings Program****S.10445 (Gianaris) / No Same As**

This bill authorizes the State Comptroller, in consultation with the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), to develop and administer a scholarship and savings program to provide a pathway for eligible children to save for higher education expenses. The State Comptroller's office would have authority to establish and manage one omnibus account that it will use to dispense awards to students when they reach higher education or trade school.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Authorizes Pharmacists to Dispense HIV Pre and Post Exposure Prophylaxis****S.10467 (Bottcher) / A.358 (Barrett)**

This bill authorizes pharmacists to dispense HIV pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis under a patient specific order or a non-patient specific order from a physician or a nurse practitioner.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Ortt)**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Housing, Construction, And Community Development

Analysts: Bobbi Barnett and Nayram Gasu
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Requires Manufactured Home Park Owners to Justify Rental Increases

S.228A (Skoufis, Brouk, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Rolison, Webb, Weber) / A.340A (Barrett)

This bill requires owners of mobile and manufactured home parks to provide a written justification to manufactured homeowners for a rent or fee increase of over three percent. If requested by a resident of the park, the owner must make any documentation that shows the costs and completion of work that justifies the rent increase available to the tenant. Additionally, the bill establishes that a justified rent increase must be a community property service completed which was necessary to meet the owner's warranty of habitability obligations, including but not limited to, increases in operating expenses, preventive maintenance, replacement, or repair of the roads and infrastructure.

Proponents: MHAction

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 43-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 98-43

Establishes Standards for the Reuse of Deconstructed Building Materials

S.2091A (Kavanagh, May, Webb) / A.3029A (Kelles)

This bill amends the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Act to direct the Codes Council to adopt standards on the use of reclaimed lumber in building construction. Reclaimed building materials are different from recycled ones, as they use the material in its original form, whereas recycled ones break down the original material and use it in a new way. The bill requires that the Uniform Code set standards for the use of salvage lumber that is in good condition and devoid of areas of decay, but does not otherwise meet existing code requirements. Salvage lumber is lumber cut from a single log. The bill would require that reclaimed salvage lumber comply with conditions established in guidance in the International Building Code.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-4

HOPP Codification

S.2627A (Kavanagh, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Fahy, Gounardes, Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, Myrie, Rolison, Skoufis) / A.1625A (Solages)

This bill codifies the Homeownership Protection Program (HOPP) into law to ensure that these protections remain available to homeowners across the state. HOPP serves as a vital resource to property owners facing foreclosure, connecting homeowners with necessary legal services and information.

Proponents: Empire Justice Center, Center for NYC Neighborhoods, Legal Services NYC, New York Legal Assistance Group

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Raises the Allowable Registration Fee for Mortgages in Default**S.7933A (Cooney) / A.8244A (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill amends the foreclosure process rules for residential mortgages in default to increase the allowable fee that localities can charge a mortgagee or their agent for filing a registration of a mortgage in default from \$75 to \$300. The maximum \$75 fee and underlying rules relating to registration of mortgages in default was authorized by Chapter 600 of 2022, in part, due to the rise in popularity of mortgage default registries. Municipalities typically contract with third parties to administer mortgage default registries. Under current law, municipalities may not register a mortgage as in default prior to a mortgagee filing a notice of pendency in court. A notice of pendency is the first formal, public notice filed by a lender noting that a foreclosure is pending against a property's title. The law also states that the mortgagee may not pass along the cost of the fee or any fines for violation of the law to the mortgagor in default.

Proponents: None Available.**Opponents:** None Available.**Senate Vote:** 59-2 (Mayer, Ortt)**Assembly Vote:** 92-49**Permits Multiple Transfers of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits****S.9571 (Kavanagh) / A.10588 (Rosenthal)**

This bill amends the Public Housing Law to permit more than a single transfer of New York State Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (SLIHC). New York State has its own low-income housing tax credit program based on the federal equivalent that provides developers of affordable rental housing with tax credits that they can sell to investors to raise capital funds to construct affordable housing. Investors then receive a reduction in state income taxes for a period of ten years. Currently, state credits may be transferred one time from a developer to an investor. This bill would allow additional transfers after the initial transfer. By allowing additional transfers, the tax credit becomes more valuable to investors. As a result of greater value, proponents argue that more affordable housing capital can be raised for a given project.

Proponents: New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSFAH)**Opponents:** None Available.**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Skoufis)**Assembly Vote:** 139-0**Requires Marshals to Complete an Electronic Eviction Filing within One Day of Service****S.9907 (Bottcher) / A.8567 (Simon)**

This bill amends the section of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law dealing with New York City marshals in eviction proceedings. The bill requires that marshals complete an electronic filing within one business day of service of a notice of eviction. It also amends the underlying section of law to change the marshal's obligation to provide notice of an execution of a warrant of eviction to just a notice of eviction.

Proponents: None Available.**Opponents:** None Available.**Senate Vote:** 44-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** 135-4

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Requires Localities to Share Zoning and Construction Data with the State

S.919A (May, Jackson, Kavanagh, Webb) / A.5291A (Lasher)

This bill requires localities to report housing production and zoning data to the Department of State (DOS) annually. Such data includes the number of units and any associated government funding for such housing and zoning maps and requirements. Under this bill, DOS is required to make such information publicly available on its website.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 38-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None.

Establishes the New York First Home Savings Program

S.1157 (Cooney, Addabbo, Ashby, Baskin, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Comrie, Gallivan Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, Martins, Mattera, May, Murray, Myrie, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Walczyk, Webb, Weber) / A.5098 (Ramos)

The New York State First Home Savings Program would authorize individual mortgage savings accounts to make it easier for would-be home buyers to save for a down payment. The proposed program would allow participating accountholders to deduct deposits of up to \$5,000 a year from their state taxable income. An individual or head of household would be able to deduct up to \$5,000 a year, and married couples who file joint tax returns would be able to deduct up to \$10,000 a year. Interest earnings would not be taxed. The total contributions to first home savings accounts would be limited to \$100,000 per account. Accountholders could be a relative, such as parents or grandparents, of the first-time home buyer. The account holder would receive the income tax benefit, and the first-time home buyer would have a tax-free down payment for their first home.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Preventing the Naming of Dependent Children in Petitions to Recover Real Property and Eviction Warrants

S.1615A (Brisport, Brouk, Jackson, Webb) / A.1656A (Rosenthal)

The bill amends the Article dealing with summary proceedings to recover possession of real property and the section covering the contents of petition. The bill explicitly prevents naming a dependent child under the age of 18 on any petition or warrant for eviction. The bill also seals any mention of dependent children under the age of 18 in any eviction records and prohibits any future use of that information. The current law does not specify specific treatment for dependent children under 18 in property recovery and eviction proceedings. The purpose of this legislation is to prevent the listing of children in eviction warrants and proceedings, which can appear on such an individual's rent history and negatively affect his or her ability to rent or buy a home or acquire a loan at a future date, regardless of whether such a dependent child was responsible for issues and/or circumstances that resulted in the petition or warrant for eviction.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows the Department of Financial Services and Municipalities to Enforce the Duty to Maintain a Foreclosed Property After a Judgment of Foreclosure

S.2122A (Fahy, Rhoads) / No Same As

This bill empowers the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and the local municipality to seek civil penalties for violation of the duty to maintain a foreclosed property. Such civil penalty may be up to \$650 per day for each day a violation persists after a judgment of foreclosure has been issued. Before pursuing civil penalties for a violation of this section, DFS or the municipality must first provide seven days notice. If the property requires emergency repairs, a local municipality may enter the property to cure the emergency sooner than seven days. A municipality must provide DFS with at least ten days notice prior to bringing an action under this section. The bill also authorizes DFS to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to enforce the duty to maintain a foreclosed property.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Chan, Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: None

Amends the Requirements for a Building Owner to Refuse to Renew a Rent-Stabilized Lease When the Building is to be Demolished

S.2134A (Krueger, Jackson) / A.1867A (Rosenthal)

This bill requires building owners who refuse to renew a residential lease for a rent-stabilized unit to prove that they intend to demolish the building and construct a new one. The owner must prove to the satisfaction of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) that they intend in good faith to demolish the building and construct a new one, have obtained a permit from the New York City Department of Buildings (NYCDOB) for the demolition of the old building, have submitted plans to NYCDOB for the new construction for approval, and have the financial ability to demolish and construct the new building. This bill applies to all future cases following the bill's passage.

Proponents: City of New York

Opponents: Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY); Extell Development

Senate Vote: 36-24 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Ensuring Proper Code Enforcement

S.4534 (Skoufis, Jackson) / A.5289 (McDonald)

This bill expands the powers of the Department of State (DOS) to compel municipalities to comply with and enforce the state Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and State Energy Conservation Construction Code. Under this bill, DOS has the power to investigate reports of a failure of municipalities to enforce the state's codes. The bill also gives DOS the ability to appoint an oversight officer for local code enforcement and delegate code enforcement and certain functions like permit review to an adjacent municipality or the county.

Proponents: Department of State

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 36-16 (Ashby, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Enacts Technical Changes to the Good Cause Eviction Law

S.8612A (Kavanagh, Salazar) / A.9370A (Rosenthal)

This bill enacts technical changes to the Good Cause Eviction Law. Enacted in the FY24-25 Budget, the Good Cause Eviction (GCE) Law created tenant protections, including lease renewals and protection from unconscionable rent increases, for market-rate tenants. State law required enactment in New York State outside of the City of New York, with over a dozen municipalities having adopted such a law.

Proponents: Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), Legal Aid Society

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 40-21 (Addabbo, Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Comrie, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Relaxes Standards for Openable Windows in Commercial Conversions in New York City

S.9742A (Kavanagh) / A.8766A (Lee)

This bill would amend the light and ventilation section of the Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL) to create standards for openable windows in converted residential units. The MDL is currently applicable in New York City and the Town of Newburgh. The purpose of the bill is to improve the feasibility of commercial conversions to residential buildings in New York City. Office buildings built after the 1950s generally do not have operable windows, meaning that the windows do not open from the inside. Therefore, to convert an office building to residential, owners must first add openable windows to each room. While openable windows may remain a concern for small-scale residential building fire safety, high rise fire rescue typically uses stairwell access, sprinklers, and standpipe systems rather than window access to extinguish fires.

Proponents: American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); Open New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 48-10 (Ashby, Bynoe, Gallivan, Griffo, Murray, Oberacker, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Reforms the Multiple Dwelling Law

S.10199 (Kavanagh) / A.11308 (Rosenthal)

This bill amends the Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL) and New York City Administrative Code to provide updates to the existing MDL. The Multiple Dwelling Law applies only in New York City and Newburgh. It was written by the New York City Department of Buildings (NYCDOB) the New York City Law Department after a review of the Building and Construction Codes found that more recently updated codes often superseded or created redundant requirements to the MDL. The MDL was enacted in 1929, and while it has been updated in the intervening decade, includes references that are either out-of-date or create unnecessarily duplicative requirements in the existing construction process that are otherwise provided for in the City's Housing, Building, and Construction Codes.

Proponents: City of New York; American Institute of Architects (AIA); International Code Council; Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Amends Window Requirements to Allow In-Window Heat Pumps in New York City**S.10200A (Kavanagh, Salazar) / A.11319A (Rosenthal)**

This bill revises the Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL) to lower its requirements for window light and ventilation where the window is being made more efficient or incorporates an in-window heat pump. The purpose of revising the existing law is to accommodate in-window heat pumps and high-efficiency windows in existing window frames. The Multiple Dwelling Law applies only in New York City and Newburgh. This bill was introduced by the Sponsor at the request of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) when the agency ran into obstacles incorporating window-based heat pumps into some of the developments. While the in-window heat pumps used by NYCHA are typically smaller than a window air conditioning unit, because they are permanent, they are restricted by the MDL. Relative to older windows with air conditioning units, heat pumps and high-efficiency windows should allow for more light and air for tenants.

Proponents: City of New York; Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY); New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSFAH)

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Establishes the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)****S.10169 (Salazar, Myrie, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb) / No Same As**

The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) gives each tenant the first right to purchase their rental housing. This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR) to establish standards, policies, and procedures for the implementation of TOPA. This legislation applies statewide to rental housing properties that contain three or more rental units. This bill requires that before an owner of a rental housing accommodation may offer the rental housing accommodation for sale to, solicit any offer to purchase from, or accept any unsolicited offer to purchase, the owner must give the tenant, tenant organization, or qualified purchaser associated with such rental housing accommodation an opportunity to purchase the rental housing at a price and terms that represent a bona fide offer of sale. Once a tenant organization or qualified purchaser accepts the offer of sale, the owner must give the tenant organization or qualified purchaser time to secure financing and close on the offer. If no tenant organization or qualified purchaser accepts the offer of sale, or does not respond within the timeline, the owner may immediately proceed with the sale to a third-party purchaser.

Proponents: Housing Justice for All; New Economy Project; Churches United for Fair Housing

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: None.

Assembly Vote: None.

Faith-Based Affordable Housing Act

S.3397B (Gounardes, Bailey, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.3647B (Cunningham)

This bill creates a process to streamline the development of permanently affordable housing on land owned by religious institutions. Under this proposal, any municipality must allow the construction and occupation of residential buildings with permanently affordable housing on covered sites owned by religious corporations up to the specific densities detailed in the bill. Residential buildings may be new construction, enlargements of existing buildings, or conversions of existing buildings and may be rental or ownership units.

Proponents: Open New York; Bricks and Mortals; Interfaith Affordable Housing Collaborative; Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing; New York State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSFAH); New York State Council of Churches; Building and Realty Institute of Westchester; ERASE Racism, Fair Housing Justice Center; Fiscal Policy Institute; Habitat for Humanity; Trinity Church; New York Housing Conference; VOCAL NY; New York Neighbors Coalition

Opponents: None.

Senate Vote: None.

Assembly Vote: None.

Rent Emergency Stabilization for Tenants (REST) Act

S.4659D (Kavanagh, Bailey, Baskin, Bottcher, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.4877D (Shrestha)

This bill amends the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974 (ETPA) to expand the range of factors municipalities outside of New York City may consider to establish a housing emergency and to expand rent stabilization to new classes of building based on size and age. The bill allows places outside of New York City to establish a housing emergency either by 1) considering publicly available data including, but not limited to, overall supply, housing vacancy rate, the availability of affordable and habitable housing, rent burdens for tenants, and other measures of housing affordability and conduct at least one public hearing or 2) if the vacancy rate is found to be less than five percent. The bill would also make it possible to add buildings containing four or more units to rent stabilization if the municipality decides to do so. Finally, the bill allows municipalities outside of New York City that have opted into rent stabilization to add buildings other than those built or substantially rehabilitated in the past fifteen years. Currently, rent stabilization is generally limited to pre-1974 buildings with six or more units.

Proponents: Housing Justice for All; Make the Road New York; New York Communities for Change; Working Families Party; For the Many, TenantsPAC; Open Markets Institute; New Economy Project; Metropolitan Council on Housing; United Tenants of Albany; Capital District DSA; Hudson Valley Justice Center; Ithaca Tenants Union; Sustainable Port Chester

Opponents: Apartment Professionals Trade Society of New York; Homeowners for an Affordable New York; The Business Council

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Insurance; Investigations and Government Operations; and Housing, Construction, and Community Development. *Hearing on the Cost and Availability of Insurance for Residential Property* (November 18, 2025).

Insurance

Analysts: Korra O'Neill and Vincent Rodriguez
(518) 455-2593 and (518) 455-2849

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Continuing Education Carryover for Insurance Licensees

S.6122A (Bailey, Addabbo, Cooney, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Helming, Skoufis) / A.6652B (Weprin)

This bill permits licensed insurance agents, brokers, adjusters, consultants, and intermediaries to carry over up to five excess continuing education credit hours from one biennial licensing period to the next for the same class of license. Current law requires these licensees to complete 15 hours of continuing education every two years and does not allow excess credits to be carried forward. This bill is intended to provide greater flexibility for licensees while encouraging additional professional education.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Insurance Discrimination Against Widowed Policyholders

S.9179A (Skoufis) / A.10279A (Weprin)

This bill prohibits insurers from refusing to continue, canceling, declining to renew, or limiting coverage; increasing premiums; or imposing less favorable renewal terms solely because an applicant or policyholder is widowed or their marital status reflects the death of a spouse. This bill applies to various types of insurance, including property, casualty, homeowners, renters, and automobile insurance.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Dog Breed Consideration Restrictions in Renters' Insurance

S.9207 (Gianaris, Comrie, Cooney, Harckham, Hinchey, Murray, Skoufis, Webb) / A.10272 (Rosenthal)

This bill prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew, canceling, charging higher premiums, or limiting coverage under homeowners' or renters' insurance policies based on a policyholder owning a dog of a specific breed or mixture. This bill extends existing protections to renters' insurance and prohibits insurers from considering dog breed as a factor in underwriting or coverage decisions.

Proponents: New York State Bar Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-3 (Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 98-43

Insurance Advertising Requirements**S.9403A (Bailey) / A.10611A (Woerner)**

This bill exempts digital advertisements for insurance agents and brokers from the requirement to include the insurer's full legal name and the city, town, or village of its principal office. The bill applies only to digital advertisements, including websites, emails, text messages, and similar electronic communications.

Proponents: Big I New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Martinez, Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Out-of-State Application of Insurance Law**S.9746A (Bailey, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.10443A (Weprin)**

Current insurance law prohibits insurers from engaging in misleading or deceptive practices. The law does not explicitly state whether these prohibitions apply to policies issued outside of New York State by insurers who do business in the state. This legislation clarifies that these prohibitions apply only to policies or contracts purchased and delivered or issued for delivery in New York State.

Proponents: Life Insurance Council of New York (LICONY)

Opponents: New York State Association of Realtors

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 134-0

Insurance Licensing Examination Standards**S.9832 (Bailey) / A.10987 (Hunter)**

This bill requires organizations that administer insurance licensing examinations under contract with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to develop, administer, and score examinations in accordance with standards and best practices established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), unless DFS adopts an alternative standard by regulation. This bill codifies existing DFS practice.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 128-0

Auto Insurance Protections for Volunteers**S.9941 (Bailey) / A.5710A (Solages)**

This bill prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew a private passenger automobile insurance policy solely because a vehicle is used to provide volunteer social service transportation for a nonprofit charitable organization or governmental agency. This bill expands an existing protection for volunteer firefighters.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 142-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Pet Insurance Regulatory Framework

S.10225 (Bailey) / A.11164 (Hunter)

This bill establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for pet insurance in New York, including standardized definitions, consumer disclosure requirements, limits on waiting periods, a 30-day review and refund period, and licensing and training requirements for insurance producers. This bill also requires insurers to provide consumers with clear information regarding coverage limitations, exclusions, premiums, and claims practices.

Proponents: New York Insurance Association, North American Pet Health Insurance Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

New York Travel Insurance Act

S.10344 (Bailey) / A.11411 (Hunter)

This bill establishes a statutory framework governing travel insurance, travel insurance agents, travel retailers, travel protection plans, cancellation fee waivers, travel assistance services, and group and blanket travel insurance. This legislation authorizes licensed travel insurance agents and registered travel retailers to market and sell travel insurance products subject to Department of Financial Services oversight and consumer protection requirements.

Proponents: United States Travel Insurance Association (USTIA), Expedia, Hotels.com, VRBO, United States Tour Operators Association

Opponents: Department of Financial Services

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Commercial Coverage of Pharmacist Contraceptive Services

S.8869 (Skoufis, Addabbo, Cleare, Fernandez, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, May, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.9519 (McDonald)

This bill requires State-regulated commercial insurance policies to cover self-administered contraceptives dispensed by pharmacists. Current law requires these commercial plans to cover all FDA-approved contraceptive devices, including emergency contraception without cost sharing when prescribed, and allow for 12 months of a contraceptive to be prescribed at one time.

Proponents: New York Birth Control Action Fund

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-7 (Borrello, Canzeroni-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Lanza, Rhoads, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 135-7

Commercial Coverage of Speech Therapy for Stuttering

S.8969B (Bailey, Addabbo) / A.10030B (Weprin)

This bill requires commercial health plans to cover speech therapy for individuals experiencing stuttering, including habilitative and rehabilitative speech therapy. The bill also prohibits health plans from requiring cost-sharing or placing limitations on the number of visits allowed.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 135-7

Expands Insurance Coverage for Diabetes Screening**S.634B (Liu, Cooney, Jackson) / A.1206B (Kim)**

This bill requires commercial insurance to cover screening for diabetes and prediabetes pursuant to national evidence-based practice guidelines. It prohibits cost-sharing requirements. Current law requires screening without cost-sharing for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in adults aged 35 to 70 years who are overweight or obese.

Proponents: Association of Chinese American Physicians; Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Inc.; Chinese American IPA, Inc.; Medical Society of the State of New York (Committee for Physicians' Health); The Medical Society of the County of Queens

Opposition: New York Health Plan Association (HPA)

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Dental Insurer Reporting**S.6254B (Skoufis, Comrie) / A.3919B (Weprin)**

This bill requires group, individual, and non-profit insurance plans that issue, sell, renew, or offer a specialized dental benefits plan policy or contract to report annually to the Department of Financial Services (DFS). The bill also requires DFS to issue a report on the data collected to the Assembly and the Senate. On the first of January after the initial report is submitted to the Legislature, DFS shall make the collected information organized by plan type available to the public in a searchable format on their public website.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Insurance Coverage for Lactation Support**S.1670B (Salazar) / A.4677B (Jackson)**

This bill requires State-regulated individual, group, not-for-profit, and health maintenance organization health plans to cover comprehensive lactation support services, including services provided by lactation consultants licensed as health care professionals and certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 138-6

Vaccine Insurance Coverage**S.9599 (Bailey, Myrie) / A.10710 (Dilan) / Governor Program # 21**

This bill expands the list of vaccinations that state-regulated commercial insurance plans must cover to include recommendations from the Department of Health (DOH) informed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, and other similar scientific organizations. Previous statute only required commercial coverage for vaccines recommended by the Federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 99-39

Chapter 114

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Regulation of Prepaid Legal Services Plans

S.3147 (Cooney, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.8006 (Lavine) This bill exempts non-indemnity prepaid legal service plans from regulation as insurance products under New York law. These plans provide legal services through contracted attorneys without indemnification or reimbursement, often to members of associations.

Proponents: LegalShield

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Electronic Delivery of Auto Insurance Notices

S.3352 (Sanders, Helming, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.114 (Berger)

This bill permits auto insurance cancellation and nonrenewal notices required under the Vehicle and Traffic Law to be delivered electronically when a policyholder has consented in accordance with existing Insurance Law requirements. This bill aligns auto insurance notices with the existing electronic delivery framework for other property and casualty insurance communications.

Proponents: New York Insurance Association, The Business Council, NYCM Insurance, USAA.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Independent Adjuster Licensing Certification Recognition

S.5049A (Bailey, Helming) / A.11042A (Berger)

This bill provides that the written examination requirement for an independent insurance adjuster license is deemed satisfied for applicants who hold a claims certification issued by a national or state-based claims association, provided the certification program meets specified education, examination, and continuing education requirements and is approved by the Department of Financial Services (DFS). This bill is intended to streamline the licensing process for qualified adjusters.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Retroactive Cancellation of Fraudulent Auto Insurance Policies**S.5052 (Bailey, Helming, Murray) / A.7322 (Pretlow)**

This bill permits automobile insurers to rescind or retroactively cancel a newly issued auto insurance policy within the first 60 days if the initial premium payment was made using a nonexistent or unauthorized bank account or credit card. Innocent parties who did not participate in fraud would remain entitled to access no-fault, uninsured motorist, supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorist, and Motor Vehicle Accident Indemnification Corporation (MVAIC) benefits under the bill.

Proponents: National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, New York Insurance Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Excess Line Insurance Diligent Effort Waiver**S.5310 (Bailey, Gallivan, Helming, Palumbo, Webb) / A.6060 (Hunter)**

Current law generally requires insurance brokers to document that at least three authorized insurers declined coverage before placing customers in the excess line market, which is known as the “diligent effort” requirement. This bill waives that rule for commercial insurance placements made by retail insurance brokers through unaffiliated wholesale excess line brokers. The excess line market insures risks that New York-licensed insurance companies will not cover, such as when they deem a business too risky. The excess line market is made up of insurers that are not licensed in the state but approved by DFS to write coverage.

Proponents: Excess Line Association of New York (ELANY), Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Contingency Reserve Flexibility**S.5311 (Bailey) / A.4254 (McDonald)**

Mortgage guaranty insurance protects lenders against losses when borrowers default on residential mortgage loans. Current law requires these insurers to maintain contingency reserves; they may only withdraw funds from these reserves before a 10-year holding period if the insurer’s incurred losses in a given year exceed 35 percent of earned premiums and with DFS approval. This bill authorizes DFS to approve withdrawals from mortgage guaranty insurance contingency reserves even when the statutory loss threshold has not been met, provided DFS determines the withdrawal will not be harmful to policyholders.

Proponents: Arch Mortgage Insurance Company, Essent, National MI, Radian Guaranty, U.S. Mortgage Insurers.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Principle-Based Reserving Permanency

S.8097 (Bailey, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.8494 (Weprin)

This bill makes permanent New York's adoption of the NAIC Valuation Manual and principle-based reserving standards for life insurance policies and annuity contracts. It also eliminates the requirement for the Department of Financial Services to issue a final report on the implementation of these standards and retains only the existing second- and fifth-year reporting requirements. Principle-based reserving allows insurers to calculate reserves using more flexible actuarial models that reflect the actual risk of their products.

Proponents: Life Insurance Council of New York (LICONY), MetLife.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Property/Casualty Insurance Transparency

S.8583C (Kavanagh, Krueger, May) / A.9016D (Torres)

This bill requires property/casualty insurers to submit annual zip code-level underwriting and claims data to the Department of Financial Services, establishes mitigation-based premium discounts and related disclosure requirements, extends notice periods for property insurance cancellations and nonrenewals, prohibits certain adverse underwriting actions based solely on a property's location in a disadvantaged community, and expands the membership and reporting requirements of the New York Property Insurance Underwriting Association (NYPIUA).

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: New York Insurance Association (NYIA).

Senate Vote: 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Life Insurance Compensation

S.10017 (Bailey, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.11110 (Weprin)

Current law limits the compensation insurers may provide to agents and producers, including training subsidies, prizes, and awards, in order to prevent abuses. This bill modifies those rules by indexing certain compensation thresholds to future minimum wage increases, so that amounts set in statute do not become outdated over time.

Proponents: Life Insurance Council of New York (LICONY).

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prescription Drug Supply Chain Transparency Act

S.438A (Myrie, Liu, Webb) / No Same As

This bill requires pharmacy services administrative organizations, switch companies, and rebate aggregators to register with the Department of Financial Services and disclose information on their ownership and activities. The goal is increasing transparency regarding the pharmacy supply chain.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Optum, Healthcare Distribution Alliance

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Oberacker, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Outpatient Substance Use Cost-Sharing**S.1763A (Fernandez, Addabbo, S. Ryan) / A.3148A (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill caps cost-sharing for any outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program covered under commercial health insurance at \$250 for up to 60 visits.

Proponents: InUnity Alliance; Community Service Society; Friends of Recovery New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Fahy, Martinez, Ortt, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: None

Commercial Insurance Coverage for Anesthesia**S.3820B (Rivera, Gianaris, Brisport, Comrie, Fernandez, Hinchey, Krueger, Mayer, Persaud, Ramos, Stavisky, Webb) / A.7562A (Reyes)**

This bill requires commercial health insurance policies to cover anesthesia for the duration of a medical procedure and prohibits time limits on anesthesia care. It also prescribes payment methods by defining how insurance plans should determine “anesthesia time,” requiring plan coding and billing standards, and specifying a payment formula.

Proponents: The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists

Opponents: New York Health Plan Association

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Commercial Insurance Coverage of Fertility Preservation**S.4497 (Hinchey, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Myrie, Salazar) / A.7339 (Rozic)**

This bill requires State-regulated commercial insurance policies to provide coverage for fertility preservation services. Current law only covers “standard fertility preservation services” caused by iatrogenic infertility, meaning infertility caused by medical treatment. The fiscal year 2026 Enacted Budget (HMH Part Q) required Medicaid coverage for fertility preservation services for individuals experiencing iatrogenic infertility.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 47-11 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzeroni-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Murray, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Coverage for Serious Mental Health Conditions**S.4867A (Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, Rolison, Webb) / A.7522A (Lavine)**

This bill requires health plans to cover outpatient prescription drug treatments for serious mental health conditions. It also prohibits limitations like fail-first, step therapy, or prior authorization.

Proponents: Alliance for Patient Access, Community Healthcare Network, Greater New York Hospital Association, Legal Action Center, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Opponents: Elevance Health

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Lead-Based Paint Insurance Coverage

S.10403 (Bailey) / A.1067 (Rivera)

This bill prohibits insurers from excluding coverage for losses or damages caused by exposure to lead-based paint in liability policies issued to rental property owners. This bill requires any existing lead paint exclusions approved by the Department of Financial Services to terminate within 26 months of this bill's effective date and prohibits DFS from approving new lead paint exclusions unless specifically authorized by law.

Proponents: Lead Free Kids

Opponents: New York Insurance Association (NYIA); American Property Casualty Insurance Association (AP-CIA); NYCM Insurance.

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 100-45

Disclosure Requirements for Life Insurance Policy Loans

S.3862 (Comrie) / A.6833 (Cook)

This bill requires insurance agents to fully explain all terms and conditions of a life insurance policy loan to the policyholder. It also requires that the terms and conditions of the loan be provided in writing in at least ten-point type and signed by both the insured and the agent.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: LICONY, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors New York

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Motor Vehicle Insurance Financial Transparency Act

S.1655 (Bailey, Salazar) / A.10616 (Dinowitz)

This bill requires all motor vehicle insurers to annually submit detailed financial and claims data to the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and requires DFS to make that information publicly available. This bill requires insurers to report income, expenses, claims, settlements, and other financial information broken out by line of insurance, including private passenger and commercial automobile coverage. It also requires reporting of claims data by geographic area, annual public reports by DFS, CEO certification of filings, and authorizes civil penalties and other enforcement actions for noncompliance.

Proponents: New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

Opponents: State Farm; New York Insurance Association (NYIA)

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Captive Insurance for Transportation Providers**S.4809B (Comrie, Bailey, Brisport, Cleare, Cooney, Fernandez, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Sanders, Stavisky, Webb) / A.5113B (Anderson)**

This bill authorizes commuter vans, black cars, ambulettes, paratransit vehicles, small school buses, and other pre-arranged for-hire and accessible vehicles to establish group captive insurance companies. This bill directs the Department of Financial Services to regulate and oversee the captives, requires participating captives to provide all insurance coverages required by law, and requires no-fault claims to utilize existing workers' compensation medical treatment guidelines. This is intended to provide an alternative insurance market for transportation providers facing high commercial insurance costs.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None**Child Victims Act Insolvent Insurer Reimbursement Program****S.8174A (Martinez, Mattera, Murray) / A.10065 (Kassay)**

This bill authorizes the New York Liquidation Bureau to establish a reimbursement program for school districts facing liability under the Child Victims Act when the insurer that provided coverage at the time of the underlying conduct has since become insolvent. Reimbursements would be paid from available assets of the insolvent insurer's estate, with additional funding mechanisms authorized if estate assets are insufficient.

Proponents: Association of School Business Officials of New York; Bay Shore School District; East Islip Union Free School District; Eastern Suffolk BOCES; Eastport-South Manor Central School District; Kings Park Central School District; Longwood Central School District; Middle Country Central School District; Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association; New York State School Boards Association; Port Jefferson School District; West Babylon Union Free School District; NYSUT.

Opponents: None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None**UNRESOLVED ISSUES**

The SFY 2026-27 Enacted Budget included significant property and casualty insurance reforms, including the repeal of flex rating, restrictions on the use of certain socioeconomic rating factors, and the creation of an excess-profits framework. However, several major insurance issues remain unresolved including homeowners' insurance availability and affordability, insurer reporting requirements, consumer disclosures related to underwriting and nonrenewal decisions, and reforms to the governance and operation of the New York Property Insurance Underwriting Association (NYPIUA). Questions also remain regarding the use of predictive models, risk scores, and other underwriting tools as insurers continue to respond to increasing catastrophe losses and market pressures. In addition, the implementation and effectiveness of the newly enacted reforms will require continued oversight to evaluate their impact on insurance rates, market competition, and consumer access to coverage.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Insurance; Investigations and Government Operations; and Housing, Construction, and Community Development. *Hearing on the Cost and Availability of Insurance for Residential Property* (November 18, 2025).

Internet and Technology

Analyst: Nayram Gasu

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Prohibition on Unsafe Chatbot Features for Minors

S.9051B (Gonzalez, Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Kavanagh, Martins, Mayer, Palumbo, Rhoads, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Weber) / A.10379C (Bores)

This legislation makes it unlawful for an AI Companion operator to provide unsafe chatbot features to a user unless the user is not a minor, which is contingent on the operator using reasonable age assurance methods to determine that the covered user is not a minor. This bill carves out chatbots that are made available to users solely for the purpose of customer service, information about commercial services and goods provided by an entity, or account information, or employee productivity with respect to systems used by an entity or local government for internal use.

Proponents: National Association of Social Workers; Public Citizen; Young People’s Alliance; Common Sense Media

Opponents: Computer & Communications Industry Association; NetChoice; The Business Council; Tech: NYC

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

New York Health Information Privacy Act

S.9269 (Krueger, Harckham, Mayer, Webb) / A.10357 (Rosenthal)

This bill establishes data privacy standards for entities that collect health-related personal data. It applies to any business handling health-related data of New Yorkers or individuals physically present in the state. The bill bans selling this sensitive information and restricts its use unless it is for specific, clearly defined purposes like providing requested services, ensuring security, or meeting legal obligations. Companies must get clear, separate consent from individuals before using their health data, and that consent must be easy both to understand and revoke. Communications must be accessible and available in the user’s preferred language. People have the right to access and delete their health data, and businesses must make that process simple and straightforward. Enforcement is through the Attorney General.

Proponents: NYCLU; New Pride Agenda; various other privacy and reproductive health advocates

Opponents: Business Council of NYS; Business Council of Westchester; Net Choice; New York Bankers Association; Partnership for New York City; Progress Chamber; Retail Council of NY; TechNet; Tech: NYC

Senate Vote: 48-13 (Borrello, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-45

Requires Warning Labels on Generative AI Systems

S.934A (Gonzalez, May, Webb) / A.3411B (Vanel)

This legislation requires owners, licensees, or operators of generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems to conspicuously display a notice on the system’s interface that alerts the user that the responses and output of the system may be inaccurate.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Greater New York Health Association, Tech: Net

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Requires Governmental Entities to Use Multi-Factor Authentication**S.1139 (Gonzalez) / A.6347 (Otis)**

This bill requires all state and local governmental entities, including authorities, school districts, and the SUNY and CUNY systems, to implement multifactor authentication for any local and remote network access to their servers or email accounts for their employees or consultants. This bill exempts the judiciary, as well as state and local legislatures.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 54-4 (Borrello, Hinchey, Ryan, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 143-0**Stop Deepfakes Act****S.6954B (Gounardes, Fahy) / A.6540E (Bores)**

This legislation requires synthetic content creation systems providers (companies that create generative AI tools) must apply provenance data (metadata that identifies the origin and modification history of digital content) to the synthetic content produced or modified by the synthetic content creation system. The bill applies to providers of synthetic content creations systems (e.g., OpenAI, Adobe, Google DeepMind, Stability AI), large online platforms that host and distribute user-uploaded content (e.g., YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X), and state agencies that publish or distribute digital media electronically. The Attorney General has exclusive enforcement jurisdiction under the bill.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 141-0**AI Training Data Transparency Act****S.6955A (Gounardes) / A.6578B (Bores)**

This bill requires developers to provide detailed documentation regarding training data for their generative artificial intelligence models or services. This bill applies to private developers as well as state and local government agencies. The bill exempts a generative AI model or service whose sole purpose is the operation of aircraft in the national airspace and those developed for national security, military, or defense purposes that are made available only to a federal entity.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 54-6 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Martins, O'Mara, Rhoads, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 138-1

New York Fundamental Artificial Intelligence Requirements in News Act (FAIR News Act)

S.8451B (Fahy, Baskin, Bottcher, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Mayer, Palumbo, Ramos, C. Ryan, Salazar, Sepulveda, Skoufis, Webb) / A.8962B (Rozić)

This bill requires any news media content published, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated or accessible within New York that was substantially composed, authored, or otherwise created using generative AI to be conspicuously disclosed. For written or visual content (pages, webpages, images, graphics, video) the disclosure must be imprinted at the top of the content. For audio content, the disclosure must be verbally stated at the onset of the content. Where the content is eligible for copyright registration, this disclosure is not required. The U.S. Copyright Office has taken the position that AI-generated content lacks sufficient human authorship to qualify, which means the content would have to have sufficient human input to qualify for the disclosure exemption. The Attorney General has enforcement authority under the bill.

Proponents: ABC News; AFL-CIO; BDG Media; Committee to Protect Journalists; Communications Workers of America District 1; CBS News; CBS News Digital; CBS News 24/7; Fast Company and Inc; Fox 5 WNYW; Freelancers Union; Future; FT Specialist; Hearst Magazines Media; James Schamus; Jewish Currents; Lemonade Media; MS NOW; News Guild of NY; Salon; Slate; SAG-AFTRA; The Intercept; The Root; Vox Media; Writers Guild of America East; Writers Guild of America West; 1010 WINS;

Opponents: NY News Publishers Association; NYS Broadcasters Association Inc; The Radio Television Digital News Association;

Senate Vote: 53-7 (Borrello, Mattera, Murray, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 130-1

New York Stealth Crawler Prohibition Act

S.9934A (Gianaris) / A.11292 (Otis)

This legislation prohibits the deployment of a stealth crawler in a manner that damages, impairs, or burdens the operation of a covered news site or otherwise causes economic harm to the news site. The prohibition is not a blanket ban on crawling journalism websites. A crawler that accurately identifies itself and discloses its purpose – including using it to train a language model - does not violate the bill.

Proponents: NY News Publishers Association; NYS Broadcasters Association, Inc

Opponents: Tech: NYC

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 129-1

Requiring Security Features and Warning Labels on Baby Monitors

S.9508 (Gounardes) / A.5175A (Solages)

This bill prohibits the sale, manufacturing, distribution of new baby monitors that broadcast audio or video through an internet connection unless it has security features to prevent unauthorized users from hearing or viewing activity, and a label or notice warning consumers of the risks associated with unsecured baby monitor connections and the importance of using its security features. Violations may incur a civil penalty of not more than \$250 for a first violation and not more than \$500 for each subsequent violation. There is no private right of action. The bill allows for concurrent municipal enforcement.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**New York Artificial Intelligence Act (New York AI Act)****S.1169B (Gonzalez, Bailey, Brisport, Bynoe, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Parker, Persaud, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Webb) / A.8884A (Solages)**

This bill extends the Human Rights Law to include discrimination imposed by artificial intelligence, and provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for an AI developer or deployer to fail to take reasonable care to prevent foreseeable risk of algorithmic discrimination arising from the use, sale, or sharing of a high-risk AI system or a product. The bill establishes a regulatory framework governing AI system development and deployment as used in consequential decision-making contexts affecting New York residents. It applies to private-sector developers and deployers conducting business in New York or targeting New York residents, and excludes state and local government entities, SUNY, CUNY, and community colleges.

Proponents: Consumer Federation of America; DC37; AFL-CIO; DC37; Electronic Privacy Information Center;

Opponents: Business Software Alliance; Chamber of Progress;

Senate Vote: 48-13 (Borrello, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Restricting the Use of Automatic License Plate Reader Information**S.7713A (Krueger, Jackson) / A.8779B (Rozic)**

This bill prohibits the selling, sharing, authorization or transfer of automatic license plate reader information to any state or local jurisdiction for the purpose of investigating or enforcing laws that deny or interfere with a person's right to choose or obtain reproductive health care services or any lawful health care services. Any automatic license plate reader user in New York, including law enforcement agencies that use automatic license plate reader systems, may not share automatic license plate reader information with an out-of-state law enforcement agency without first obtaining a written declaration from the out-of-state law enforcement agency affirming that automatic license plate reader information obtained will not be used in a manner that violates the bill's prohibitions. This includes a requirement that automatic license plate reader information be held confidentially to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Restricting Online Retailers from Pricing Based on Device Conditions**S.8483C (C. Ryan) / A.9348A (Torres)**

This bill prohibits online retailers and retail mercantile establishments from generating prices for consumers based on certain categories of data collected from the consumer's online device, including the device's hardware or hardware state, the presence or absence of software on the device, and geolocation data. The bill provides for some exceptions accounting for differences in costs or demands associated with providing a good or service to different consumers, price variances at different physical locations, and real-time demand for a product or service in the consumer's vicinity, as well as for various bona fide discounts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

New York Digital Choice Act

S.8850A (Gounardes, Mayer, Myrie) / A.8963B (Bores)

This bill requires social media companies to implement social graph portability and third-party interoperability for covered users in New York. Under this bill, upon request from a covered user, a social media company must provide the covered user's social graph or user-selected portions within five business days, in a readily usable format that allows the covered user to transmit the data to another social media platform or third party without impediment. Upon specific request from a covered user, a social media company must allow the user to delete the data in their social graph, as well as any data designated as private by that user.

Proponents: Project Liberty

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Procedural Protections for Independent Third-party Sellers on Online Marketplaces

S.9546A (Sutton, Baskin, Hinchey, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Skoufis, Webb) / A.10762A (Buttenschon)

This bill provides independent entities and individuals who utilize platforms such as large-scale e-commerce sites or advertisement-based marketplaces with specific notice, cure opportunities, and appeal rights before and after their selling privileges are revoked. It applies to platforms facilitating the sale, shipping, or delivery of consumer products within the state. During the two-week notice window, the marketplace is required to provide reasonable documentation and details regarding any and all infractions used to justify the suspension, and must allow the seller to offer a defense or justification and opportunity to cure infractions. The marketplace must also respond to any communication or outreach from the seller during this period.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

No Gambling Ads for Kids Act

S.10092 (Brouk, Rhoads, Skoufis) / A.10712 (Steck)

This legislation prohibits an operator of a covered platform and social media platform from displaying a paid advertisement, sponsored content, influencer marketing, affiliate marketing, algorithmic promotion, targeted amplification, or cross-platform promotional placement for any service permitting online gambling of various forms or predictive market wagering unless the operator has reasonably determined that the user is not a minor in accordance with Attorney General (AG) age assurance regulations. Information collected for age determination may not be used for any other purpose and must be deleted immediately after the determination attempt. Violations constitute false advertising under the General Business Law and may be enforced by the AG or the New York State Gaming Commission.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Liability For Damages Caused By AI Chatbots Impersonating Licensed Professionals****S.7263A (Gonzalez, Hinchey, Liu, Salazar) / A.6545C (Zaccaro)**

This legislation requires that AI chatbot operators ensure their systems do not provide any substantive response, information, advice, or take any action in response to a user's inquiry if doing so, had it been done by a human, would knowingly constitute a crime under the Education Law or Judiciary Law with respect to the unauthorized practice of and use of various professional titles (e.g., medicine, legal, land surveying and architecture, et cetera). AI chatbot operators must provide clear, conspicuous and explicit notice to users that they are interacting with an AI chatbot, and they cannot waive or disclaim this liability merely by notifying consumers that they are interacting with a non-human chatbot. An operator is not liable where the impersonation is a result of a user intentionally circumventing the terms of service or the safeguards implemented by the operator to prevent such impersonation. The Attorney General can enforce violations.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None**Right To Refuse Non-Essential Cookies****S.8641A (May) / No Same As**

This bill establishes rights for website and mobile application users in the state to refuse non-essential cookies, including requiring consent to use non-essential cookies, feature a "reject non-essential cookies" option and continuous mechanism to refuse or disable them, and provide a privacy notice to the user. It also prohibits operators from making additional requests to use non-essential cookies after a user's initial rejection of non-essential cookies, unless the user later seeks to consent to non-essential cookies or enables a feature that requires such cookies. The Attorney General is empowered to enforce the bill.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None**Prohibiting Law Enforcement Biometric Surveillance****S.5609 (Salazar) / A.1045 (Glick)**

This bill prohibits the acquisition, possession, use or enabling of biometric surveillance systems, or information collected by State and local law enforcement or related third parties. This bill also requires a study to be conducted into the impacts of this technology and how best to implement it. This bill provides exceptions for lawful use of mobile fingerprint scanning device for identification purposes during lawful detention and fingerprint comparisons using the statewide automated biometric system; DNA comparisons between forensic evidence and designated offenders using state DNA Identification Index; and any lawfully installed security system that processes biometric information solely for the purpose of verifying law enforcement officials' identities.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Comprehensive data privacy legislation remains an open issue in general. How AI can be regulated in the wake of federal executive activity also remains an open question.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Public Hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Internet and Technology. *To discuss risks, solutions, and best practices with respect to the use of artificial intelligence in consequential or high-risk contexts, and related issues, such as classification of the types and risk levels of AI uses, frameworks for auditing AI tools for bias, and transparency improvements* (January 15, 2026)

Investigations And Government Operations

Analysts: Gabriel Paniza and Joe Vertoske
(518) 455-3594 and (518) 455-2576

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Allows Most On-Premises Retailers to Serve Alcohol Until 4 A.M. During the 2026 FIFA World Cup S.9990A (Skoufis, Cooney, Ramos) / A.11564 (Stirpe)

This bill authorizes on-premises retail licensees to serve alcohol until 4 A.M. statewide, including in counties that may have more restrictive hours of operations, during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, running between June 11 and July 20, 2026. This does not apply to retail licenses that the State Liquor Authority (SLA) granted with more restrictive closing hours.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Chapter 131 of 2026

Preventing Cannabis Inversion

S.8951B (Cooney, Fernandez, Hinchey, Ramos) / A.10698B (Dais)

This bill expands the definition of illicit cannabis to include cannabis products sourced from unlicensed entities or imported into the state and prohibits licensees, permittees, registrants, and laboratory testing facilities from engaging in activities involving fraudulent certificates of analysis, falsified tracking records, undocumented cannabis products, or the sale and transfer of illicit cannabis. The bill authorizes the Office of Cannabis Management to seek suspension orders against licensees or laboratories suspected of cannabis inversion pending investigation and establishes procedures governing such suspensions, including notice, hearing rights, and limitations on suspension duration.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Brownfields Redevelopment Tax Credit Transparency

S.9833 (Bailey, Webb) / A.11412 (Bronson)

This proposal would mandate that the Department of Tax and Finance publish an annual report on the Brownfield Tax Credit Program, with the first report due by June 30, 2026, and with subsequent annual reports due by June 30 annually thereafter, for purposes of increasing awareness about the Brownfields program's impacts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Microbusiness Participation in Cannabis Growers Showcase Program

S.10113 (Hinchey, Krueger) / A.11217 (Lupardo)

This bill allows a microbusiness that can engage in retail to act as its own partner processor or cultivator, if it has the authority to process or cultivate. It also allows microbusinesses with the authority to process or cultivate to serve as the partner for a retail licensee trying to apply for a showcase permit.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 47-13 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 88-53

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Prohibiting Housing Discrimination

S.1130 (May, Cleare, Jackson, Kavanagh, Salazar) / A.4120 (Solages)

This bill creates a new subdivision within the Human Rights Law to prohibit discrimination by housing providers using minimum income requirements for prospective and current tenants who use housing subsidies, vouchers, or housing or public assistance to pay their rent.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 44-14 (Ashby, Borello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Palumbo, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Awards Attorneys' Fees in Open Government Cases When the Plaintiff Prevails

S.1418A (Liu, Brisport, Cleare, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson, Krueger, Skoufis, Webb) / A.950A (Steck)

This bill requires courts to award reasonable attorney's fees and litigation costs when an individual prevails against a government body in an open government-based wrongful denial of access proceeding and lowers the requirements for assessing attorney's fees and litigation costs in successful wrongful denial proceedings.

Proponents: Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, et al; New York Coalition For Open Government; NYPIRG et al

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 52-6 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martinez, Martins, Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Raising Awareness for Veteran Suicide

S.1787 (Hinchey, Addabbo, Fernandez, Harckham, Sanders, Skoufis, Webb) / A.7657 (Lavine)

This bill makes the Suicide Awareness and Remembrance (SAR) flag the official State flag for the raising of awareness of veteran suicide. It also directs the Commissioner of General Services to establish a protocol for the flying of this flag. According to the 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, suicide was the second-leading cause of death for veterans under the age of 45, and there were 6,407 veteran suicide deaths in 2022.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 63-0

Assembly Vote: None

Clarifies the Standard for Intentional Discrimination and Retaliation Claims**S.2447 (Mayer, Webb) / A.4992 (Bichotte-Hermelyn)**

This bill clarifies that under the Human Rights Law (HRL), intentional discrimination and retaliation claims can succeed if the individual bringing the claim can prove that an unlawful motivation was a motivating factor of the challenged treatment. This bill also clarifies that it is not required to show that the unlawful motivation was the sole motivating factor or a but-for cause of the challenged treatment.

Proponents: National Employment Lawyers Association**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 50-8 (Ashby, Borello, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**Expands the Definition of "Military Status" For Purposes of the Human Rights Law****S.2640 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Jackson, Persaud, Ramos, Ryan, Webb) / A.9674 (Cashman)**

This bill adds to the definition of "military status" in the Human Rights Law's prohibition on discrimination those who served as commissioned officer in the public health service, national oceanic and atmospheric administration or the environmental sciences services administration and a cadet at a United States armed forces services academy. The bill also states that "military status" also includes past participation if someone has been released from service.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Expands Discrimination Protection to Employees who are Actual and/or Perceived Victims of a Sex Offense or Stalking****S.3371A (Persaud, Cleare) / A.5606B (Lucas)**

This bill adds victims of a sex offense and victims of stalking to the groups of individuals against whom discrimination is prohibited under the Human Rights Law, and creates two types of victims: "actual" or "perceived" victims of domestic violence, a sex offense, and/or stalking. This bill also extends reasonable accommodations to actual and perceived victims of domestic violence, sex offenses, and stalking. This bill requires that after January 1, 2027, workplace training programs must include guidance on workplace protections for victims of domestic violence, sex offenses, and stalking.

Proponents: Legal Momentum**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Allows Liquor Stores to Sell Non-Alcoholic Versions of Alcoholic Beverages****S.3836 (Hinchey, Cooney, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.7457 (Stirpe)**

This bill allows liquor stores to sell the non-alcoholic versions of alcoholic beverages, which are beverages containing five-tenths percent or less of alcohol by volume that are marketed to appeal to people over 21 as a substitute for an alcoholic beverage. The bill also allows liquor distributors to carry and sell these beverages.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 57-1 (Oberacker)**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Improving FOIL Requests

S.10098 (Skoufis, Comrie, Jackson) / A.10759 (Raga)

This bill requires state agencies to acknowledge Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests and produce an approximate date, within a reasonable time frame, for the request to be approved or denied.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Enhances the Ability of the Attorney General to Conduct Certain Civil Litigation

S.10593 (Skoufis) / A.11332 (Romero)

This bill provides the Attorney General (AG) with statutory cause of action for repeated and persistent unlawful discrimination against local municipalities, private actors, law enforcement agencies, and in public schools, school districts, and educational entities. The bill exempts confidential sources and process in civil litigation from the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), similar to the exemption granted in criminal cases. Finally, the bill removes the AG's responsibility to approve certain waivers for charges for service and reimbursement at specific medical facilities.

Proponents: Office of the Attorney General

Opponents: New York State School Boards Association

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Mayer, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

Requires State and Municipal Agencies to Report FOIL Requests to the Committee on Open Government

S.9739A (Kavanagh) / A.2321A (McDonald)

This bill requires State agencies that are subject to FOIL and perform a governmental or proprietary function for the State to submit their request logs to Committee on Open Government (COOG) each year. The logs must include requests and pending requests which the bill defines as requests that were open at any point during the 12-month period including requests submitted from previous years and information on fees, redactions, and whether a request was appealed, and the appeal status. This bill also requires COOG to publish this information in its annual report.

Proponents: Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, et al; City of Syracuse City Auditor; NY Coalition for Open Government; NYPIRG et al; Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly: 136-0

Requires Certain Entities Periodically Re-Apply For FOIL Exceptions**S.9777 (Sepúlveda, Brisport, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson) / A.1410A (Rosenthal)**

This bill requires entities applying for a portion of their records to be excluded from FOIL to specifically identify the portions which they believe should be excluded, and thereafter re-certify the need for the FOIL exception. Additionally, the entity requesting a FOIL exclusion would set an expiration date for the exclusion of their choice under this proposal, but it may not exceed three years. If no expiration date is set, then the exclusion would automatically expire upon three years. In the event that the exception expires, the previously-confidential portion of the entity's records would become accessible to the public.

Proponents: NYPIRG et al; Reinvent Albany**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None

Assembly: 93-50

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Work continues on potential legislative reforms to the Ticket (Scalping) Laws. Roundtables have been hosted, while state attorneys general have successfully sued Ticketmaster and Live Nation for violating antitrust laws.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Insurance; Investigations and Government Operations; and Housing, Construction, and Community Development. *Hearing on the Cost and Availability of Insurance for Residential Property* (November 18, 2025).

Judiciary

Analyst: Gabrielle Bruno
(518) 455-2855

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Corrections to Pleading Errors within the Court of Claims

S.9792 (Sepulveda) / A.8047B (Rajkumar)

This bill allows a party to amend their Court of Claims pleadings without permission from the court in certain circumstances. Under the bill, a claimant (the party bringing the case) can amend their claim without the court's permission if it is within 20 days of when they first served the claim against the State. A claimant can also amend their claim without the court's permission if the State has filed a motion to dismiss based on the claimant's pleading error.

Proponents: NYS Unified Court System; The New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA).

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Ceasing Repeated and Extremely Egregious Predatory (CREEP) Behavior Act

S.3394A (Gounardes) / A.3226A (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill creates a new order of protection called an Anti-Stalking Order, a protective order against an individual who engages in "stalking" or other predatory behaviors against an individual they have no intimate relationship with. Current orders of protection are only available where there is some intimate relationship or connection between the parties.

Proponents: Center for Elder Law & Justice; New York State Trial Lawyers Association; Safe Horizon; District Attorneys Association of the State of New York; Met Council; NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault; Police Benevolent Association of New York State; Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN).

Opponents: Brooklyn Defender Services; Legal Aid Society of Nassau County; Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem; Tompkins County Assigned Counsel Program.

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 139-2

Criminal Court Opinion Transparency Act

S.3864A (Gianaris) / A.4674A (Burdick)

This bill directs the chief administrative judge of the state court system to submit a report to the legislature and governor analyzing the feasibility and benefit of publicly publishing suppression rulings by trial-level criminal courts, among other things.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 88-52

Kyra's Law**S.5998C (Skoufis) / A.6194C (Hevesi)**

This bill requires Family Court judges, when determining parental custody or visitation, to conduct an enhanced inquiry if one party makes a facially credible allegation of domestic violence, child abuse, or another act posing a substantial risk of harm to the child, and that allegation warrants the court's immediate attention.

Proponents: NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Safe Horizon; Sanctuary for Families

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 131-0

Consumer Debt Definition Expansion**S.9760 (Gounardes) / A.10182A (Taylor)**

This bill extends the Consumer Credit Fairness Act (L.2021, ch.593) protections to a broader range of consumer transactions. Under the bill, CCFA protections apply to all "consumer debt." The bill defines consumer debt as any obligation arising out of a transaction for personal, family, or household purposes. That includes the narrower category of consumer credit transactions. The goal is to reach a broader range of transactions, including medical debt and tuition debt.

Proponents: Access Justice Brooklyn; Community Service Society; Empire Justice Center; End Medical Debt; Institute for College Access and Success; Legal Aid Society Civil; Legal Services NYC; Mobilization for Justice; National Consumer Law Center; New Yorkers for Responsible Lending; NYPIRG; Receivables Management Association International; The Center for Elder Law and Justice.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattered, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 94-46

Judicial Redistricting**S.10626 (Gianaris) / A.11550 (Rivera)**

This bill reorganizes the Fourth Judicial Department by creating the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth judicial districts and altering the county composition of the fifth, seventh, and eighth judicial districts. Under the bill, the Fourth Judicial Department will consist of a total of six judicial districts which are the reconfigured Eastern Rural (fifth), Central Rural (seventh), Western Rural (eighth) districts, and the new judicial districts for the counties of Onondaga (fourteenth), Monroe (fifteenth), and Erie (sixteenth).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 95-46

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Seventeen-Year-Old Eligibility to Vote in Primary Elections

S.3231 (Bottcher, Fernandez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer, Salazar, Sepulveda) / A.6590 (Rozić)

This constitutional amendment permits a seventeen-year-old to vote in a state, county, city, or village primary if that individual will be eighteen years old at the time of the general election. This bill does not change any other eligibility requirements needed to vote. Twenty-one states and Washington, D.C. allow citizens who are seventeen but will be eighteen at the time of the general election to vote in the relevant primary elections. Delaware and Maryland enacted their statutes in 1972. New Jersey is the most recent state to enact a similar statute, enacted in 2024.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Deed Theft Claim Revival

S.7491B (Brisport, Baskin, Bottcher, Bynoe, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Kavanaugh, Liu, Myrie, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.8222B (Simon)

This bill revives claims currently barred by the existing statute of limitations which allege fraud, fraudulent inducement, or fraudulent misrepresentation in obtaining title to a residential dwelling. Further, the bill revives claims for a period of 18 months and for plaintiffs who are natural persons and resided at the property as their primary residence for at least two consecutive years immediately prior to the alleged deed theft.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-6 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martins, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Arbitration Procedure Amendments

S.9788 (Sepulveda) / A.3461A (Lavine)

For all arbitrations, this bill expands the possible court venues where a civil action related to arbitration may be commenced to any county where any of the parties resides or does business. In the consumer and employment context, this bill targets fees related to beginning an arbitration proceeding. Under the bill, an arbitrator must promptly deliver all parties any invoices related to the arbitration. If the party that drafted the arbitration agreement (typically the employer or consumer-facing business) fails to pay its share of costs within thirty days of the due date, then that party is: (1) in material breach of the agreement; (2) in default of the arbitration; and (3) waives its right to compel arbitration.

Proponents: Miriam Gilles, Law Professor at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Mobilization for Justice; New Yorkers for Responsible Lending.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Child Victims/Adult Survivors Act Pleading Standard in the Court of Claims**S.9848 (Salazar, Cleare, Harckham, Ramos, Zellner) / A.8635B (Rosenthal)**

This bill exempts claims under the Child Victims Act and Adult Survivors Act from the heightened pleading standard that typically applies in the Court of Claims. Currently, a plaintiff must plead, among other things, the specific time, date, and location of the alleged harm. This bill relieves plaintiffs of this heightened pleading standard and applies retroactively to claims previously dismissed because of the plaintiff's failure to satisfy the heightened standard.

Proponents: NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault; Safe Horizon.**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 57-3 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Rhoads, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY****Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Act****S.4265A (Kavanagh, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Jackson, Krueger, May, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Ryan, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.1529A (Rivera)**

This bill requires the seller of residential real property to certify to any prospective buyer that the property has been tested for the presence lead paint. The seller must provide the certification and test results, to the seller before any sale. The bill separately requires a landlord to disclose lead-based paint test results to residential tenants.

Proponents: NYS American Academy of Pediatrics; Clean and Healthy New York; Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning; Environmental Advocates of New York; New York League of Conservation Voters; New York Sustainable Business Council; Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; PUSH Buffalo; The Children's Defense Fund-New York; WE ACT For Environmental Justice.

Opponents: NYS Association of Realtors.**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** 99-43**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE****Housing Court Part for Affordable Housing Providers and Small Landlords****S.9482 (Kavanagh, Sepulveda, Sanders) / No Same As**

This bill creates a separate part in NYC Housing Court to hear eviction matters specifically for tenants living in affordable housing or units owned by small landlords. Small landlords in this context are defined as a landlord with no more than 10 units in the state. Affordable housing in this context means the housing unit is subject to a regulatory agreement with a state or local housing agency.

Proponents: None**Opponents:** None**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None

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No Cap Act

No Same As / A.1100A (Bores)

This constitutional amendment removes the restriction that there be no more than one Supreme Court justice for every fifty thousand residents within a given judicial district. Removing this restriction enables the Legislature to add Supreme Court justices to judicial districts without being restricted by population size.

Proponents: Center for Community Alternatives; District Attorneys Association of New York State; Family Legal Care; Her Justice; Jobs to Move America; Manhattan Borough President; New York County Defender Services; New York Jewish Agenda; NYC Bar Association; NYS Association of Acting Supreme Court Justices; NYS Creditors Bar Association; Reinvent Albany; Scrutinize; The Business Council; The Collective; Village Independent Democrats.

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Labor
Analysts: Alex Carlin
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Enacts The Remedial Construction of New York Labor Law Act

S.9330 (Ramos) / A.10365 (Bronson)

This bill adds a new section to the Labor Law requiring courts to construe the Labor Law's provisions liberally in favor of workers for the accomplishment of the remedial purposes of the Labor Law, regardless of whether similarly-worded provisions of federal laws, such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, have been so construed.

Proponents: National Employment Lawyers Association NY, SEIU Local 32BJ, Legal Aid Society Civil Division, Popular Democracy in Action

Opponents: NY Insurance Association

Senate Vote: 53-7 (Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, O'Mara, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 129-12

Creates a Cannabis Wage Board

S.10643 (Ramos) / A.11562 (Bronson)

The bill repeals the requirement that applicants for cannabis licenses enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization and establishes a wage board to recommend minimum wages for the cannabis industry. Instead of requiring LPAs to provide protections to workers, the bill would create a Cannabis Industry Wage Board, which would be comprised of three members: a representative of the New York State licensed cannabis industry, a representative from the AFL-CIO, and a chairperson selected by the commissioner, and issue a report prior to December 31, 2027 to the Governor and the Legislature outlining its findings and providing recommendations for a minimum hourly wage for all cannabis industry workers. The Commissioner of Labor may accept, reject, or modify the recommendations of the board. If the commissioner accepts, the recommendations will have the force of law.

Proponents: AFL-CIO, RWDSU, UFCW

Opponents: Cannabis Farmers Alliance, Empire Cannabis Manufacturer's Alliance, New York State Cannabis Retail Association

Senate Vote: 37-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Hinchey, Krueger, Lanza, Martins, May, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rivera, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 98-34

Enacts the "No Severance Ultimatums Act"

S.372A (Gianaris, Jackson, Webb) / A.6480A (Bronson)

This bill provides safeguards for public and private employees being asked to sign a severance agreement by their employer or former employer. Under the bill, an employee or former employee must be notified that they have a right to consult an attorney about an offered severance agreement, have a consideration period of at least 21 days, and that they may revoke their agreement within seven days of its execution. Any severance agreement that violates the requirements of this bill are void.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: National Right to Work Committee

Senate Vote: 42-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 110-29

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Requires Notice of Initial Determinations for Unemployment Benefits

S.2076 (Mayer, Addabbo, Brouk, Harckham, Jackson, Webb) / A.3068 (Burdick)

This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to provide notice to each claimant of the initial determination of approval or denial of a claim for unemployment benefits no later than 30 days after the claimant has furnished all information required to make such determination. If the Commissioner is unable to issue a determination within 30 days due to exigent circumstances, they must give claimants notice of the new estimated period for issuing a determination.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 128-0

Enacts the Wage Payment Integrity Act

S.2236A (Gounardes, Jackson, Ramos, Webb) / A.2222A (Simon)

In response to a court holding, this bill would require all compensation to be treated as “wages”, including bonuses not payable at an employer’s sole discretion. This would ensure that other compensation is subject to requirements in the Labor Law, such as notice provisions, unless the employer notifies the employee that a bonus or other form of compensation is not a “wage” and is in their sole and absolute discretion to decide whether or not to pay it.

Proponents: AFL-CIO, Catholic Migration Services, National Employment Law Project, National Employment Lawyers Association NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 132-9

Grants Employees Access to Personnel Records

S.3460 (Gounardes, Addabbo, Jackson, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Webb) / A.2107 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill requires that an employer furnish personnel records, at no cost, to an employee upon request and that an employee may also request to review their records when notified that negative information is going to be added. An employee may submit a written statement into their personnel file if they disagree with its content, can pursue an action for injunctive relief to remove false information, and the Attorney General may bring an action for violations of the provisions of this bill.

Proponents: National Employment Lawyers Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 92-49

**Prohibits Insurance Carriers and Employers from Withholding Certain Benefits from Injured Workers
S.6376A (Scarcella-Spanton, Mayer) / A.8482A (Cruz)**

This bill prohibits insurance carriers and employers from withholding indemnity, or wage replacement benefits from injured workers based on a claim that such workers have voluntarily withdrawn from the labor market by not seeking alternate employment that their injury or illness does not preclude them from performing.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 125-10

Authorizes Mental Health Practitioners to Participate in the Workers' Compensation System

S.6912A (Ryan, Oberacker) / A.9581B (Bronson)

This bill expands the mental health practitioners able to provide services under the Workers' Compensation Law from psychologists and licensed clinical social workers to include mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, or psychoanalysts in the State, who have diagnostic privilege under the Education Law.

Proponents: National Alliance on Mental Illness

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Annual Reports on AI Use by Companies

S.8706B (Hinchey) / A.9581B (Bronson)

This bill requires any business entity doing business in New York that employs more than 50 people or is a publicly traded entity to submit information on the impact AI has had on their hiring and the nature of their AI use during the calendar year. Failure to report is punishable by a fine, and the Department of Labor is required to review all submissions and provide an annual report on the impact of AI.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: Partnership for NYC, Tech NYC

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 105-35

Enacts The Construction Reporting Pay Act

S.9843 (Ramos, Hinchey, May, Mayer, Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.6950 (Cruz)

This bill requires employers to provide four hours pay at an employee's regular hourly rate when a worker comes to a job site and is sent home without cause and two hours of pay at the same rate if an employee is not given 12 hours' notice by an employer not to report to work. This builds off the 2017 Department of Labor "Call in Pay" rules, providing a higher rate to reflect the wage standards in the construction industry.

Proponents: AFL-CIO, Building & Construction Trades Council, NYS Laborers

Opponents: Associated Builders and Contractors, National Electrical Contractors Association, NYS Electrical Contractors, SMACNA, AGC

Senate Vote: 50-10 (Ashby, Gallivan, Helming, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 125-14

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Increases Short-Term Disability Benefits

S.172B (Ramos, Addabbo, Bynoe, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer, Parker, Rivera, Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Webb) / A.9571A (Bronson)

This bill increases the weekly Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) benefit over a five-year period to eventually align with the New York State Paid Family Leave (PFL) benefit. This bill also provides temporary PFL coverage for birthing parents who experience a pregnancy loss from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2031. An individual who has reached twenty weeks of gestation and was deemed eligible to take family leave prior to the pregnancy loss would qualify. This benefit expires upon the full phase in of the TDI benefit.

Proponents: A Better Balance, NYS Catholic Conference, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Legal Momentum, The Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund, Long COVID Justice, National Alliance on Mental Illness, AFL-CIO, Prevent Child Abuse New York, Small Business Majority, UAW CAP Council, WIC Association

Opponents: AGC, Business Council of Westchester, Capital Region Chamber, Empire State Forest Producers Association, Farm Bureau New York, Food Industry Alliance, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, Greater Rochester Chamber, National Right to Work Committee, NFIB, NYACS, NYS Economic Development Council, NYS Restaurant Association, NYSHTA, Retail Council of NYS, The Business Council, Trucking Association of NY, Upstate United

Senate Vote: 50-9 (Borrello, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Mandatory Iris and Retina Scanning as a Condition of Securing or Continuing Employment

S.681 (Martinez, Comrie, Webb) / No Same As

This bill prohibits mandatory iris and retina scanning as a condition of securing or continuing employment for private sector employees. This section of law currently prohibits fingerprinting as a condition of securing or continuing employment. This prohibition does not apply to state or municipal employees or certain hospital employees.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 52-10 (Fahy, Helming, Oberacker, O’Mara, Rhoads, Skoufis, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Compensation for Minors in Online Video Content

S.825B (Liu, Harckham, Ryan) / A.774B (Rosenthal)

This bill creates a new section of the Labor Law covering “Child Performers and Minors Featured in Compensated Video Content” and creates certain compensation requirements and other protections for minors appearing in video content. Under this bill, any “featured minor”, which includes any individual under the age of 18, who appears in at least 30% of a content creator’s compensated video content within a 30-day period, would have a “minor content creator trust account” established and filled by monies from the video content that the minor features in. This account would only be accessible by the minor when they turn 18 or are emancipated. The bill also authorizes enforcement measures, including a private right of action.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

**Authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to Issue Stop-Work Orders for Misclassification of Employees
S.1514 (Harcckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Martins, Mattera, Mayer, Murray, Palumbo, Ramos, Rolison, Ryan, Webb) / A.6664 (Bronson)**

This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to issue a stop-work order against an employer if they find, through an investigation, that the employer has knowingly misclassified employees as independent contractors or provided false, incomplete, or misleading information to an insurance company on the number of employees. An employer then has 72 hours to cure the issue and notify the Commissioner that they have come into compliance. Failure or refusal to comply with a stop-work order issued by the Commissioner will result in the assessment of a penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000 for each day the employer is found not to be in compliance, in addition to any other penalties authorized by law.

Proponents: AFL-CIO, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Building Trades

Opponents: NFIB

Senate Vote: 54-2 (Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Suspension of Business Licenses For Wage Theft

S.2078 (Mayer) / A.7405 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to determine whether and for how long an employer's license to do business should be suspended, for up to two years, upon a conviction of wage theft. Employers who may be subject to a suspension of their business license must be given notice by the commissioner and an explanation of their rationale and have the opportunity to be heard on the matter. This bill also permits a court to prohibit an employer charged with wage theft from applying for a license to operate a business under a different business name and/or opening or operating a successor business engaged in the same or equivalent trade or activity for the pendency of the criminal proceeding.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: NFIB

Senate Vote: 54-6 (Borrello, Gallivan, Murray, Oberacker, Stec, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Domestic Workers

S.4515 (Ramos, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, Webb) / A.4996 (Bronson)

This bill requires all employers of one or more domestic workers to provide them with up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year. This amount of leave is equal to the amount employers with four or fewer employees and net income of greater than \$1 million in the previous tax year are required to provide up to per calendar year. New York City and Westchester County currently require domestic workers to be given this amount of paid leave.

Proponents: AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes Prohibitions on Non-Compete Agreements and Restrictive Covenants

S.9759 (Gianaris, Harckham) / A.10023 (Bronson)

This bill bars any employer or its agent, or the officer or agent of any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity, from seeking, requiring, demanding or accepting a non-compete agreement from any covered individual (which does not include highly compensated individuals who earn an income of \$500,000 or more). This bill also voids every contract by which anyone is restrained from engaging in a lawful profession, trade, or business of any kind. This bill does not limit the ability of an employer to enter into an agreement with a prospective or current covered individual or health related professional that: (a) establishes a fixed term of service and/or exclusivity during employment; (b) prohibits disclosure of trade secrets; (c) prohibits disclosure of confidential and proprietary client information; or (d) prohibits solicitation of clients of the employer; provided that such agreements do not otherwise restrict competition in violation of this section.

Proponents: Economic Innovation Group, National Empowerment Lawyers Association

Opponents: Citadel

Senate Vote: 40-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Clarifies That Statutory Damages in Labor Law are Compensatory

S.4473 (Ramos, Jackson, Salazar) / A.5000 (Bronson)

This bill enacts the Labor Law Enforcement Parity Act which amends Sections 198 (remedies for wage theft) and 663 (civil action for wage theft) of the Labor Law to clarify that statutory and liquidated damages provided are not punitive in nature, but compensatory, allowing plaintiffs to recover them in a class action in State court.

Proponents: Catholic Migration Services, Citizen Action of NY, Legal Aid Society Civil, National Center for Law and Economic Justice, National Employment Law Project, National Employment Lawyers Association NY Chapter

Opponents: NFIB

Senate Vote: 48-9 (Borello, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Oberacker, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

New York State Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting Act

S.6228 (Bailey, Kavanagh, Salazar, Skoufis) / A.2749 (Bronson)

This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to adopt the rules and regulations necessary to satisfy federal requirements (set out 40 CFR 745.85) to receive authorization from the EPA to enforce the Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule. To do so, a state must establish a program that contains specified elements. This bill directs the Commissioner to include those elements in their rules and regulations, which are to create pre-renovation education programs, procedures, and requirements for distribution of lead hazard information to targeted housing and child-occupied facilities and renovation training, certification, and accreditation and work practice standards programs. It also requires the use of lead dust clearance testing, bars the disturbance or removal of lead by unsafe methods, and makes violations of this act punishable as a misdemeanor and by a civil penalty.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Enacts the Boundaries on Technology (BOT) Act****S.10147 (Gonzalez) / A.3779A (Alvarez)**

This bill creates labor protections around an employer's use of automated employment decision tools primarily by making unlawful for a private employer of 100 or more individuals operating in the state, including independent contractors, to use an automated decision tool for an employment decision, unless they have completed an impact assessment. Additionally, there are notice requirements to employees, restrictions on the use of tools that result in labor violations, a prohibition on automated tools being solely relied upon for making hiring, promotion, termination, disciplinary, or compensation decisions, and allows for civil penalties or Attorney General action to address violations of this bill.

Proponents: DC37, AFL-CIO

Opponents: TechNet

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Disabilities and Labor. *Examining barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities in New York and assessing the effectiveness of existing state policies in promoting equitable employment opportunities* (May 6, 2026).

Libraries

Analyst: Christiana Wierschem
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Establishes the Libraries Literacy Education Guidance Acts

S.8044A (Bynoe, Rolison) / A.5835B (Carroll, R.)

This bill requires that the State Librarian, State Education Department (SED), and any other group deemed necessary to provide guidance to every public library and association library in the State on evidence-based practices for literacy education. The guidance shall be focused on literacy education practices for students in grades pre-kindergarten through five and must focus on reading competency in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, comprehension including background knowledge, oral language and writing, and oral skill development, based on evidence-based and scientifically based reading instructional best practices established by SED. The State librarian shall update the guidance every two years and shall consider feedback from libraries to which the guidance is distributed.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 138-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Open Shelves Act

S.1100A (May, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harkham, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Myrie, Rivera, Rolison, Salazar, Serrano, Webb) / A.3119B (Kelles)

This bill requires the New York State Board of Regents, through its current authority to establish rules over the management of public libraries, include a requirement for every library to adopt policies and procedures that ensure library staff are able to curate and develop collections, services, and programming that reflect the interests of all people of the community that the library serves.

Proponents: NY Library Association, Hachette Book Group, MacMillan Publishers, Penguin Random House et al, Simon Schuster, Sourcebooks

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 41-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Pilot Program to Fund Social Workers in Libraries in Economically Disadvantaged Communities

S.5494A (Bynoe) / A.7948A (Levine)

This bill creates a three-year pilot program to provide funding, subject to appropriation, to public libraries, association libraries, and public library systems in economically disadvantaged communities for social workers or social worker supervisors. Grants can be used by libraries and library systems either to hire social workers and social worker supervisors or to contract with local departments of social services or nonprofits for social worker services.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-5 (Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Requires All Public and Not-for-Profit Libraries to Implement Workplace Violence Prevention Programs and Install Panic Buttons

S7993A (Ramos, Jackson, Myrie, Rivera) / A.6903B (Bronson)

This bill requires all libraries in the State, including association libraries, to implement programs to prevent workplace violence and to install panic buttons.

Proponents: District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 140-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Prohibits Licensing Agreements Between Libraries and Publishers from Including Provisions About Restrictive Lending for Electronic Library Materials

S.9339 (May) / A.3589 (Carroll, R.)

This bill prohibits contracts between a library and a publisher to purchase or license electronic literary material from containing any provision that: requires the library to acquire a license for any electronic literary material at a price greater than that charged to the public for the item; restricts the library's right to determine loan periods for licensed electronic literary materials; restricts the total number of times the library may loan any licensed electronic literary materials over the course of any license agreement; or restricts the duration of any licensing agreements.

Proponents: None

Opponents: Association of American Publishers

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Delivery of Good Faith Deposit of Bonds

S.900 (Martinez) / A.9534 (Solages)

This legislation amends the Local Finance Law by removing the requirement that each bidder must deposit a good faith deposit (at least 0.5% of the amount of bonds to be bid for) when participating in a bid for a bond issued by a local government and instead requires that only successful bids be required to make such a good faith deposit. While this bill waives that requirement, it retains the option for a municipality, school district, or district corporation to require that a bond deposit be submitted prior to the consideration of a bid for bonds if they so choose.

Proponents: Bernard P. Donegan, Inc.; Capital Markets Advisors LLC; Fiscal Advisors; Municipal Financial Advisory Service; Municipal Solutions Inc.; NYS Government Finance Officials Association; NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Special Accidental Death Benefit to Children of Certain Deceased Members

S.3815C (Rivera, Rhoads) / A.8810A (Dinowitz)

This legislation provides a special accidental death benefit to the children of certain deceased members of the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System if there is no surviving spouse until the youngest child reaches the age of 26.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 137-1

Forfeiture of Benefits to a Volunteer Firefighter Related to a Service Awards Program

S.7316 (Hinchey, Rolison) / A.8008 (Lunsford)

This legislation makes volunteer firefighters ineligible for benefits to be paid pursuant to a service awards program if they have been convicted of felony crimes against a volunteer fire department, volunteer fire company, fire district, or fire protection district.

Proponents: NYS Association of Fire Chiefs (2025); Association of Fire Districts of NYS (2025)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Expands the Clergy Property Tax Exemption to Include Co-ops**S.8527B (Kavanagh) / A.9570C (Lee)**

This legislation expands the clergy property tax exemption to include cooperative units (co-ops) and grants New York City the option to authorize the exemption concurrently with the partial tax abatement for residential cooperative or condominium housing.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 56-2 (Martinez, Skoufis)**Assembly Vote:** 134-0**Statewide Authorization for Real Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Corrections Officers Who Died in the Line of Duty****S.9325 (Martinez, Jackson, Murray, Rolison) / A.10562 (Stern)**

This legislation gives all local governments the option to provide a property tax exemption to surviving spouses of corrections officers who died in the line of duty.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 134-0**Cooperative Purchasing (Piggybacking) One-Year Extension for Local Governments****S.10075A (Zellner, C. Ryan) / A.11162A (Solages)**

This legislation extends the authority to provide local governments greater contract flexibility and cost savings by permitting certain shared purchasing among political subdivisions through the use of cooperative purchasing (also known as “piggybacking” contracts) for one year, until June 30, 2027. This authority was last extended in 2022 for three years and is set to expire June 30, 2026.

Proponents: Association of School Business Officials; BOCES of NYS; Farm Bureau of New York; NY Association of Town Highway Superintendents; NYS Council of School Superintendents; NYS School Boards Association; NYS School Facilities Association; Tremco Construction Products Group

Opponents: None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 128-0

Chapter Number 147 of 2026

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Grants for Open Space Preservation, Parkland Improvements, and Conservation Easements from IDAs****S.17 (Skoufis, Ashby, Jackson, Rolison, Webb) / A.5668 (Levenberg)**

This legislation allows industrial development agencies (IDAs) to make grants to municipalities for open space preservation, parkland improvements, and conservation easements, provided the municipal governing board accepts the grant and finds that it encourages tourism and improves quality of life.

Proponents: The Nature Conservancy (2024)**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 58-0**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Timely Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Worker Death Benefits

S.190 (Martinez, Addabbo, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Walczyk, Webb, Weber) / A.4675 (Eachus)

This legislation requires volunteer firefighters' and volunteer ambulance workers' death benefits to be paid to the beneficiaries within 90 days from when they apply, and for the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to conduct outreach to assist beneficiaries with the application process.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Directs the State Board of Real Property Tax Services to Conduct a Study on Real Property Tax Saturation

S.265 (Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Rolison) / A.7647 (Burdick)

This legislation directs the State Board of Real Property Tax Services to conduct a study on real property tax saturation (the impact of high percentages of tax-exempt real property in municipalities).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Expands Training Time for Environmentally Conscious Planning Training for Local Municipalities

S.600A (Hinchey) / A.476A (Clark)

This legislation requires municipal planning boards and zoning boards of appeals to receive an additional hour of training on environmentally conscious planning.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Helming, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Imposes Property Taxes on For-Profit Businesses Operating on Tax-Exempt Land

S.664 (Skoufis, Gounardes, Krueger) / A.5680 (Eachus)

This legislation allows municipalities to impose property taxes on for-profit businesses operating on tax-exempt land.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Training Requirements for Sheriffs and Undersheriffs**S.1982A (Harckham, Ashby, Jackson, O'Mara, Rolison, Stec, Webb) / A.10026 (Cashman)**

This legislation authorizes elected and appointed sheriffs who were previously sworn members of the State Police to apply for a certificate of substantially equivalent training, instead of having to complete the approved municipal police basic training program.

Proponents: NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC)**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 57-1 (Brisport)**Assembly Vote:** None**Require a Determination of Public Interest to Ensure Comprehensive Plans Address Housing Needs****S.2084 (Kavanagh) / A.49 (Burdick)**

This legislation requires municipalities to determine whether it is in the public interest to create and periodically update a comprehensive plan, and to consider whether it should address housing needs.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 52-9 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Prevents Elected Officials from Serving on IDA Boards****S.2317A (Skoufis, Krueger, Mattera, Mayer, Webb) / A.931A (Magnarelli)**

This legislation prohibits certain elected officials from being a member of an Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 45-15 (Baskin, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Martinez, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Tedisco, Walczyk, Zellner)**Assembly Vote:** None**Expands Eligibility for the SONYMA Low Interest Rate Program****S.3190 (Kavanagh, Rhoads) / A.8493 (Steck)**

This legislation expands eligibility for the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) Low Interest Rate Program for graduates of post-secondary education or a comparable apprenticeship or workforce training program, for a period of seven years post-graduation.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 53-0**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

IDA Membership Expansion and Mandatory Members

S.4464A (Mayer, Hinchey, Skoufis) / A.838A (Solages)

This legislation increases the membership cap of industrial development agency (IDA) boards from seven to nine and requires that the membership composition of IDA boards must include at least one local labor representative and one school district representative.

Proponents: CSEA, NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 49-10 (Ashby, Borrello, Griffo, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Notification to Adjacent Municipalities Under Certain Circumstances

S.4780 (Skoufis, Harckham) / No Same As

This legislation requires that a municipality notify adjacent municipalities of any public hearings scheduled for the purpose of enacting a new local law, zoning ordinance, or comprehensive plan that concerns property situated within 500 feet of those bordering jurisdiction(s).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Closes the IDA "Tourism Loophole"

S.4980 (Martinez, Webb) / A.10044 (Solages)

This legislation closes IDAs' "tourism loophole," which allows retail businesses (e.g., car dealerships and self-storage facilities) to receive tax benefits originally intended to enhance tourism destinations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-16 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Martins, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes Observation Protocols for Youth Volunteers to Learn from Firefighters During Active Emergencies and Participate in Drill Team Programs

S.6009B (Baskin) / A.1633A (McMahon)

This legislation allows youth program participants to learn about fire department operations through observation during active emergency situations, establishes safety and insurance protocols relating to such observation, and protects volunteer fire departments from liability arising from operating youth programs.

Proponents: FASNY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Directs the State Board of Real Property Tax Services to Conduct a Study on the Feasibility of Property Tax Revisions for Senior Citizens on Fixed Incomes

S.10170 (Cleare, Rolison) / A.10219 (Jensen)

This legislation directs the State Board of Real Property Tax Services to conduct a study on the feasibility of revising real property tax policies, procedures, and practices for senior citizens located in special districts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Requires 911 Call-Takers and Dispatchers to Complete T-CPR Training

S.7261B (Fahy, Helming, Ramos) / A.5371B (Paulin)

This legislation requires 911 call-takers and dispatchers to complete telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“T-CPR”) training and annual follow-up trainings, which must include: recognizing signs of cardiac arrest during emergency calls, providing instructions for initiating CPR instructions to callers, coordinating with emergency medical services dispatch, and using automated external defibrillators when available and appropriate.

Proponents: American Heart Association; Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation; Infinity Vitalis

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Coroner Notification Protocols for Eye and Tissue Donations

S.8296 (Martinez) / A.6824-B (Woerner)

Establishes protocols for eye and tissue donation for coroners and medical examiners to use.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Requires Tax Collecting Officers to Accept Payments of Tax Rounded to the Nearest Five Cent Denomination for Cash Payments

S.9541A (Skoufis) / A.10207A (Kay)

This legislation requires a collecting officer of taxes to accept payments of tax rounded to the nearest five cent denomination for cash payments.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 141-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Allows Local Taxing Bodies to Waive Interest on Property Owners Who Are Property Tax Fraud Victims S.9958 (Fahy) / A.10641A (Shrestha)

This legislation allows municipalities to relieve property owners of interest and penalties due to lack of payment if such property owner was a victim of property tax fraud.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 134-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Next Generation 911 System

S.192 (Martinez, Baskin, Ryan C, Skoufis) / A.4369 (Rajkumar)

This legislation requires the State to offer a statewide Next Generation 911 system, an emergency services internet protocol network.

Proponents: NYSAC

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

IDA Housing Policy in New York State

S.256A (Martinez, Comrie, Harckham, Jackson, Webb) / A.9299 (Solages)

This legislation amends certain provisions of the General Municipal Law and the Public Authorities Law to explicitly allow IDAs to provide assistance to housing projects.

Proponents: NYSAC

Opponents: Reinvent Albany (2024)

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

AIM Redesign Task Force

S.3269 (Cooney) / No Same As

This legislation establishes a task force for the reevaluation of the New York Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding. A version of this legislation was placed in the Senate one-house budget bill, but was not part of the adopted budget.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Local governments continue to face significant operational and fiscal challenges, particularly around infrastructure, emergency services, workforce recruitment, civil service hiring, water and sewer systems, cybersecurity, and the long-term adequacy of state municipal aid. Municipal stakeholders continue to seek more predictable Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding, a modernized AIM formula, stronger infrastructure support, mandate relief, and a greater local voice in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements and other economic development decisions that affect local tax bases and service obligations.

Local governments also continue to navigate the practical consequences of *Tyler v. Hennepin County* (2023), a U.S. Supreme Court case that changed the landscape for in rem tax foreclosure by requiring procedures to protect former owners' claims to surplus value after a tax foreclosure sale. Although New York updated its tax foreclosure process to address the decision through the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget legislation, municipalities continue to face uncertainty and administrative burdens in enforcing delinquent tax liens, calculating and distributing surplus proceeds, and transferring distressed or abandoned properties to land banks for rehabilitation. This remains a significant local government issue because tax foreclosure is not only a revenue collection tool, but also a key mechanism for returning vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use.

Local governments and the Legislature also continue to monitor the ongoing litigation with respect to how broadly cooperative purchasing (piggybacking) can be applied and how it is currently being used, particularly in the context of Wicks and separate purchase requirements and where/who contracts are being piggybacked from.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Mental Health

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Access to Guardian-Related Court Records

S.1728A (Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez, Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Tedisco, Webb, Weik) / A.6804A (Griffin)

This bill prohibits courts from allowing the disclosure of guardianship court records related to personal needs and/or property management to anyone other than the parties involved, counsel, the appointed guardian, court evaluator, or court examiner, except by order of the court.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Integrated Behavioral Health Services

S.3051B (Harckham, Fernandez) / A.329B (Jackson)

This bill authorizes the Offices of Mental Health (OMH) and Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to jointly develop and oversee licensing standards for providers delivering integrated behavioral health (IBH) services for the treatment of individuals with co-occurring disorders. Services include preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative care and treatment.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Chapter 60

Allows Descendants of a Deceased Person to Access Medical Records

S.4713A (Fahy, Skoufis) / A.3733A (Bronson)

This bill designates clinical records of individuals who were treated at facilities licensed or operated by the Office of Mental Health (OMH) or the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and have been deceased for 50 years or longer as historical records. This bill will facilitate access to records for individuals seeking information on their family's mental health history.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 122-16

Competency Restoration Workgroup**S.10309 (Brouk) / A.11024 (Simon)**

This bill directs OMH and the OPWDD to establish a workgroup to evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the competency restoration process. Competency restoration is the court-ordered legal and clinical process used when an individual charged with a crime is found by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, typically due to an active mental illness or an intellectual disability. This process is aimed at helping a defendant regain the mental capacity required to stand trial. The workgroup will submit two reports to the Governor and the Legislature.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Prohibits Suicide Hotline Automation****S.1366 (Serrano, Helming, Rhoads, Webb) / A.1579 (Jackson)**

This bill directs the Commissioner of Mental Health to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting any suicide prevention or mental health services hotline operated or sponsored by the state from being automated.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Community Housing Waiting Lists**S.4102 (Parker, May, Webb) / A.6425 (Walker)**

This bill requires OMH to create community housing waiting lists for adults with a documented mental illness who meet the eligibility requirements for OMH-funded and/or licensed housing programs. Individuals that would qualify for the waiting list must have been referred to or applied for community housing but not yet received housing services in the OMH service system.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

First Responder Peer Support Programs**S.5407A (Harckham, Ashby, Addabbo, Borrello, Brouk, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Fernandez, Gallivan, Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, Murray, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rivera, Rolison, Ryan, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Webb, Weber, Weik) / A.7285-A (Burdick)**

This bill directs the OMH to establish a grant program providing funding to organizations to create peer-to-peer mental health programs for first responders. It is modeled on the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Support Program.

Proponents: Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, New York State Association of Fire Chiefs

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Release of Mental Health Records

S.8082 (Brouk) / No Same As

This bill directs the OMH to develop a process allowing the release of records of deceased residents of OMH-operated mental health facilities to family members. Such records shall include the individual's name, date of birth, dates of admission and discharge, date of death, cause of death, treatment and services provided, employment, and residential history. The bill also authorizes the release of clinical records concerning OMH patients to family members if a physician determines it is "relevant" to an individual's health care. Records are prohibited from being released where the deceased person previously objected to the release of their records in writing.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

LGBTQ+ Crisis Hotline and Website

S.9093 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Bottcher, Brouk, Rivera, Ryan, Webb, Zellner) / A.10093 (Woerner)

The bill establishes a 24-hour, toll-free hotline and website for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning plus (LGBTQ+) individuals experiencing emotional distress, suicidal ideation, or crisis-related challenges. It allows the Department of Mental Hygiene to coordinate with local crisis-intervention organizations, LGBTQ+ community centers, mental health providers, and relevant state and local agencies to provide support.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-6 (Gallivan, Griffo, Rhoads, Sutton, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Mental Health Housing Evaluation Task Force for Aging in Place

S.9869 (Brouk, Ashby, Cleare, May Palumbo, Rivera, Salazar, Webb) / A.5569 (Simon)

This bill creates a task force within the OMH to make recommendations on several issues, including ensuring residents of community-based mental health housing programs can successfully age in place while receiving adequate care.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Release of OMH Patient Records****S.8532 (Brouk, Skoufis) / A.5546 (Simon)**

This bill directs the OMH to issue regulations authorizing the release of patient records. This bill is similar to S.8082 (Brouk) which passed the Senate, however, S.8532 does not specify which records are subject to the future regulations (as outlined in S.8082) and does not require a decedent's prior objection of records release to be in writing (as required in S.8082).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 132-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Youth Mental Telehealth Program****S.1005 (Brouk, Cleare, Webb)**

This bill creates a mental telehealth program to facilitate access to counseling and substance use disorder services for youth and families who may not be able to access them in person. It will provide up to five visits at no cost for acute crisis response, mental health assessments, or initiating services to facilitate long term care.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Behavioral Health Social Worker Residency Pilot**S.1727 (Brouk, Rivera) / A.5570 (Simon)**

This bill establishes a residency pilot program to provide post-graduate clinical social workers with the experience required for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. It requires the Commissioner of Health to create up to three three-year programs in community behavioral health organizations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

New York City Education
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Extends the New York City Class Size Reduction Compliance Deadline to 2030

S.10615 (Liu, Addabbo) / A.11539 (Alvarez)

This bill extends the deadline for full compliance with the New York City (NYC) class size reduction mandate by two years, to September 2030. Additionally, it requires New York City to achieve 70% compliance with class size limits by the 2026-27 school year, and an additional 10% each school year thereafter. The requirements of the law currently phase in between September 2023 and 2028. Under the current law, an additional 20% of New York City classrooms must meet the class size limits each year until 100% of classes are in compliance by September 2028.

Proponents: NYC Office of the Mayor

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 138-1

Chapter 155

Expands Eligibility to Serve on Councils in NYC to Parents of Students Enrolled in Bilingual or English as a Second Language Programs at Any Time

S.6355A (Liu, Cleare) / A.10079A (Gibbs)

This bill expands eligibility for the Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) and the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS) by allowing parents of students who are or who at any time in the past were enrolled in a bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program to be eligible to serve on these Councils. One member of CCHS must be a parent of a student in a bilingual or ESL program in a public high school appointed by CCELL. Currently, to be eligible to serve as a parent on CCELL or CCHS, a parent must have a student who is currently enrolled in a bilingual or ESL program, or who was enrolled in such programming within the past two years. This bill also clarifies that if a parent has a child currently enrolled in a bilingual or ESL program, the parent can continue serving in their role on either council after their child is no longer enrolled in such programs.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Requires at Least One Assistant Principal in All New York City Public Schools****S.82B (Liu, Cleare, Krueger, Lanza, Ramos, Scarcella-Spanton) / No Same As**

This bill requires that at least one assistant principal be assigned to each public school in New York City who is certified as an assistant principal and who will be responsible for the safe operation of the school whenever the principal is not present.

Proponents: Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, School Administrators Association of NYS**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Requires All Special Education Students in NYC Schools to be Assigned to New Schools that are Able to Accommodate the Student's Needs Prior to School Closure****S.79 (Liu) / A.10649 (Zacarro)**

This bill requires that all special education students attending schools scheduled to be closed or to undergo a significant change be assigned to new schools that can accommodate the students prior to the implementation of the closing or change.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Requires Annual Notification of Special Services Procedures and Provides New York City Families an Opportunity for Expedited Review of an Individualized Education Services Program for Services Not Provided During the 2024-2025 School Year****S.10007A (Liu, Addabbo) / A.3950D (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill requires all school districts statewide to provide written notice to all parents or persons in parental relation to students with disabilities parentally placed in nonpublic schools about the process for requesting special education services. In New York City, by the first Friday in October of 2026, a parent or person in parental relation to a student who had an Individualized Education Services Program (IESP) for the 2024-2025 school year and who was obligated to file a request for services by June 1, 2024, but failed to do so, and did not receive some of or all of the services recommended on the student's IESP because the school district did not make them available, may request an expedited annual review of their IESP. The expedited review must be conducted within 60 calendar days of the request.

Proponents: Agudath Israel of America, NYS Association of Independent Schools, NYS Catholic Conference**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Requires New York City Department of Education to Establish a School-Based Food Pantry Program S.9565A (Bailey) / A.9556A (Cruz)

This bill requires the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education to establish and maintain a school-based food pantry program in schools in New York City, subject to appropriation. The Chancellor must prioritize schools serving communities with the highest levels of student economic need, poverty, and food insecurity when determining where to establish school-based food pantries. This bill provides that the Chancellor must encourage and facilitate cooperation between high-needs school operating school-based food pantries and local food pantries, food banks, and other community-based organizations with expertise in food distribution and hunger relief.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Establishes Employee Protection Provisions (EPPs) in All New York City School Transportation Contracts

S.1018 (Jackson, Fernandez, Liu, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Sutton) / A.8440 (Tapia)

This bill requires the New York City (NYC) Department of Education (DOE) to include in contracts for the transportation of students bid through the competitive bidding process employee protection provisions (EPPs) for the retention or preference in hiring of school bus workers, the preservation of wages, health, welfare, and retirement benefits and industry tenure for school bus workers who are hired pursuant to such provisions for retention or preference in hiring, in connection with such contracts.

Proponents: Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), NYC Office of the Mayor, NYC Panel for Education Policy, NYSUT, NYC Citywide Council for District 75, NYC Citywide Council on Special Education, New York Appleseed, Advocates for Children of New York

Opponents: TWU Local 100

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Procurement And Contracts

Analyst: Joe Vertoske
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Authorizes Reciprocal Certification between Local and State MWBEs

S.267 (Sanders, Fernandez, Parker, Webb) / A.8294 (Septimo)

This bill requires the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (DMWBD) to accept New York City certified MWBEs without requiring a separate application. Other municipal MWBE programs would be able to enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for the Division to accept their municipal certifications, if the business enterprise meets the State definition of an MWBE. Upon entering into an MOU, each municipal corporation with its own MWBE program will establish a procedure requiring them to accept state verification for MWBE applicants without them having to do a separate application.

Proponents: City of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Requires Contractors to Utilize the MWBE Listed on their Utilization Plan

S.4155A (Sanders, Cooney, Fernandez, Parker, Webb) / A.3518A (Bichotte Hermelyn)

This bill requires contracting agencies to notify MWBEs listed on utilization plans when a contract is awarded and limits post-submission changes to the utilization plan unless there is good cause and written approval from the contracting agency. This is meant to address concerns that MWBEs may be listed on utilization plans during the bidding or approval process but later removed, replaced, or not given a meaningful opportunity to perform work.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-2 (O'Mara, Ort)

Assembly Vote: 140-1

Increases a Business Enterprise's Cure Time for Errors in its MWBE Application

S.6020A (Baskin, Webb) / A.4134A (Stirpe)

Increases the time that a business enterprise or existing MWBE has to cure an omission or technical error on a statewide certification application from 30 days to 60 days. This bill also increases the amount of time for applicants whose applications were denied to request a hearing before an independent examiner.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

**Creates Values-Based Procurement Standards for Food Purchase Contracts and Bid Preference
S.7638B (Hinchey, Bailey, Brouk, Cooney, Fahy, Harckham, Krueger, May, Myrie, Parker, Salazar, Sanders, Webb) / A.8091B (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill establishes a set of values-based procurement standards for food purchase contracts and allows an otherwise qualified New York state-based bidder who meets at least one of the standards to submit a bid that is 10 percent higher than the lowest responsible bid (bid preference). These standards include: utilizing a majority of products located locally or participating in the Department of Agriculture and Markets' "Grown and Certified" program, utilizing environmentally-sustainable production practices, being a registered MWBE or a socially-disadvantaged farmer, employing fair labor standards, valuing its workforce and ensuring the protection of workers' rights, providing humane care for farmed animals, or promoting nutritious and healthy foods. The bill also allows food purchase contracts to be awarded based upon the lowest bid or through the best value analysis, which awards contracts based upon offers that optimize quality, cost, and efficiency.

Proponents: New York City Council

Opponents: Farm Bureau

Senate Vote: 45-16 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 90-48

**Requires Public Contracts to Be Split into Different Sizes for Purposes to the Extent Feasible
S.8291 (Sanders) / A.7125 (Bichotte-Hermelyn)**

This bill would require the Office of General Services (OGS) and other state agencies to categorize the contracts by size into large, medium, small and micro contracts to the extent feasible, for the purpose of increasing opportunities for small businesses and MWBEs to participate in state contracts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Updates the List of Prohibited Tropical Hardwoods and Defines Exemptions for Specific Transportation Projects

S.8851(Krueger, Cooney, May, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Webb, Zellner) / A.9598 (Glick)

This bill implements new limits for New York State's procurement of tropical hardwoods by updating the names of species on the list of tropical hardwoods to reflect changes in market terminology, and requires the list be evaluated and updated by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in conjunction with the Office of General Services (OGS) at least every three years, beginning no later than January 1, 2030, to reflect the most current data on production, trade, marketing, and to account for changes to trade names which vary by species. The bill removes most possible exemptions from the ban on using tropical hardwoods, though the ban does not apply where the prohibition would be inconsistent with the terms and conditions of a grant, subvention, or contract with a federal agency. There are specific exemptions for the use of certain hardwoods for transportation infrastructure managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) and the New York City Department of Transportation, with timelines established for when these agencies must transition to different materials.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 98-38

Establishes a Public Database of LLCs Doing Business with the State**S.9310 (Brisport) / A.7820 (Gallagher)**

This bill requires the Department of State to establish a publicly available database of LLCs in the state that enter into procurement contracts with various state entities such as agencies, departments, board, bureaus, commissions, and so on. The database shall include information like the business's name, address, beneficial owners, corporate history, and so on.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 56-4 (Helming, Martins, Walczyk, Weber)**Assembly Vote:** None**Increases the Utilization Goal for Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses****S.9594A (Martinez, Addabbo) / A.11225A (Schiavoni)**

This bill increases the utilization goal for State contracting for service-disabled veteran-owned business (SDVOBs) enterprises from six percent to eight percent.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 138-0**Improve Prompt Contract Payment to Not-For-Profit Organizations****S.9761 (Mayer, Webb) / A.10741(Paulin)**

This bill expedites contract payments from the state for nonprofit organization, tightens certain exemptions used by the State to not pay interest on late payments and requires more reporting on what the State is doing to pay nonprofits organizations on time.

Proponents: Central American Refugee Center; CAMBA Legal Services; Empire Justice Center; JustCause; Lawyers Alliance for New York; Mobilization for Justice; Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; The Legal Aid Society of Rochester; The Legal Project; Volunteers of Legal Service

Opponents: None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 131-0**Creates New Requirements for Prepayments and Contract Modifications****S.9855A (Mayer, Webb) / A.11179 (Paulin)**

This bill imposes new requirements for advanced payments. When a state agency enters into any contract with a nonprofit and the funds for that contract have been appropriated, the agency will have to provide the nonprofit with an advanced payment of 25 percent of the value of the contract within 30 days of executing the contract, to ensure that first quarter expenses are paid. Additionally, contract modifications that do not require Comptroller review must be approved within 60 days, and all modifications that require Comptroller review shall be approved within 90 days.

Proponents: CAMBA Legal Services; Empire Justice Center; JustCause; Lawyers Alliance for New York; Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY; Legal Project; Mobilization for Justice; Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; United Way of New York State; Volunteers of Legal Service

Opponents: None Available**Senate Vote:** 56-4 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** 132-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

School Food Service Contracts

S.3336 (Cooney, Helming, Hinchey, Oberacker, Rhoads, Rolison, Walczyk, Webb) / A.2576 (McDonald)

This bill authorizes a Board of Education (BOE) or a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), on behalf of its school district, to consider factors essential to a safe and nutritious food service program when awarding contracts for goods, services, or management within their food service contracts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Contracting Vendors from Making Certain Political Contributions

S.8246 (Myrie) / No Same As

This bill prohibits vendors on state contracts from making campaign contributions to elected officials, statewide candidates, or their authorized political committee during the contract's restricted period; and requires every contract to include an affirmative statement made by the vendor certifying that the vendor has not engaged in such activities during the restricted period.

Proponents: State Comptroller (Departmental)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-2 (Weik, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Transparency for Bid Protest Procedures

S.8385 (Comrie) / No Same As

This bill requires state agencies and authorities to include their bid protest procedures in the solicitation documents and requires the contracting agency or authority to provide all bidders with a written notice of the contract award. The deadline for submissions are either ten business days from notice of the contract award or five business days from the debriefing, whichever is later.

Proponents: State Comptroller (Departmental)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

Retention of Payment on Public and Private Construction Projects for Materials Delivered

S.4750 (Martinez) / A.2212 (Braunstein)

This bill prohibits the retention of any payment due for materials delivered, accepted, and covered by warranty, for a public or private construction project while the project is not fully completed (retainage). Currently, retainage is withheld on construction jobs to ensure that the public owner is satisfied with the project's progress and quality. This bill removes the current retainage regulations for material suppliers so they are not liable for subsequent performance on a project in which they only supplied the materials.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York State School Boards Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 132-12

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Racing, Gaming, And Wagering

Analyst: Paul McCarthy

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Expands Recreational Bingo Frequency for Certain Authorized Organizations

S.5614 (Addabbo) / A.3681A (Woerner)

This bill modifies the restrictions on the frequency of certain authorized organizations, such as senior centers and churches, conducting recreational bingo games. It increases the allowable frequency from once per week (or 30 times per year) to twice per week (or 60 times per year), providing more recreational opportunities for participants.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Expands Eligibility for the New York Sire Stakes Program

S.9183 (Addabbo) / A.9234B (Woerner)

This bill expands eligibility for the three racing levels of the New York Sire Stakes program by allowing all foals sired by a New York stallion to participate, regardless of where the mare was bred. The bill also maintains bonus payments for foals conceived in New York and dropped from mares residing in New York for a period established by the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund.

Proponents: Harness Breeders of NYS, New York Farm Bureau, Blue Chip Farms, Diamond Creek Farm, Allerage Farm, Cameo Hills Farm, Winback Farm of NY, Leatherstocking Equine Services, Winner's Bet Syndicate, Preferred Equine Marketing

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Brisport, Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Requires Monthly Account Activity Statements for Mobile Sports Wagering

S.9415 (Addabbo) / A.10329 (Kassay)

This bill requires mobile sports wagering operators to provide each account holder with a monthly activity statement. The statement must include information regarding deposits, withdrawals, amounts wagered, winnings and losses, net gain or loss, the number of wagers placed, time spent logged into the platform, promotional credits and free bets, and responsible gaming resources.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Permits Electronic Gambling Self-Exclusion Requests**S.8636-B (Fernandez) / A.9113-B (Woerner)**

This bill requires Gaming Commission procedures for placement on, and removal from, the list of persons who self-exclude from gambling to allow requests to be submitted electronically. The bill also requires parity between electronic and non-electronic self-exclusion requests with respect to record retention and transmission of requests to licensed gaming facilities and mobile sports wagering platforms.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**Allows Minors (18 and Under) to Play Bingo If Accompanied By An Adult****S.2611 (Addabbo) / A.3400 (Santabarbara)**

This bill permits minors under the age of 18 to participate in licensed bingo games if accompanied by an adult. The bill retains current prohibitions on minors conducting, operating, or assisting in the conduct of a bingo game, except that a person 16 years of age or older may perform ancillary non-gaming activities conducted in conjunction with a licensed bingo game.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-4 (Bynoe, Krueger, Martinez, May)

Assembly Vote: None

Prevents Involuntary Disclosure of Lottery Winners' Identities**S.2613 (Addabbo, Bailey) / No Same As**

This bill requires the Division of Lottery to keep the name, address, and other identifying information of state lottery winners confidential unless the winner consents to public disclosure. The bill also prohibits the Division of Lottery from requiring a winning ticket holder to perform any public actions in connection with the awarding, payment, or collection of prize money unless the winner consents.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Griffo, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires the Redistribution of Lottery Tickets from Closed Vendors**S.6970 (Addabbo) / No Same As**

This bill requires unsold instant lottery game tickets to be returned to the Division of Lottery and redistributed to other licensed sales agents when a licensed lottery sales agent goes out of business, sells their business, or has their license suspended or revoked, unless the instant lottery game has been terminated. The bill is intended to ensure that unsold winning tickets, including grand-prize tickets, are not removed from circulation in a way that prevents a game from ending once all grand prizes have been awarded.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Prevents Minors from Participating in Sports Wagering

S.7908B (Gounardes, Kavanagh) / A.10440B (Steck)

This bill requires mobile sports wagering platforms to use commercially reasonable and technically feasible age assurance methods to prevent minors from creating accounts or participating in mobile sports wagering. The bill also prohibits reliance on self-attestation alone, requires platforms to accept certain device-level age signals, and creates a process to exclude identifying information where necessary to prevent a minor from using another person's information to create a wagering account.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

Requires Annual Reports by the Franchise Oversight Board

A.9575 (Woerner) / No Same As

This bill requires the Franchise Oversight Board to file a mandatory annual report with the Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year. The report must include information regarding the board's activities, NYRA's financial performance and operation of thoroughbred racing and pari-mutuel wagering, compliance with franchise documents and applicable law, any material breach notices, policy and regulatory challenges, and legislative or regulatory recommendations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 134-1

Enhances Know Your Customer and Responsible Gaming Procedures

S.10069 (Addabbo) / A.9584A (Woerner)

This bill enhances know-your-customer requirements and responsible gaming procedures for mobile sports wagering licensees. The bill requires written account opening, account closing, identity verification, multi-factor authentication (MFA), account monitoring, risk assessment, documentation, recordkeeping, and responsible gaming procedures, and authorizes certain individuals who engage in fraud, account sharing, proxy betting, or other unlawful activity to be designated as prohibited sports bettors.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Establishes a Proposition Betting Task Force

S.10153 (Zellner) / A.10538 (Bores)

This bill establishes an independent proposition betting task force to study and make recommendations regarding proposition betting, including the regulation of under bets and other wager types that may raise concerns regarding athlete safety, integrity, or problem gambling. The task force must examine the issue and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 100-43

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Authorizes Fixed Odds Wagering on Horse Racing****S.8433A (Addabbo) / No Same As**

This bill authorizes mobile sports wagering operators to offer fixed odds wagering on horse racing, provided that the operator enters into a fixed odds sports wagering agreement with the applicable horse racing content provider and obtains Gaming Commission approval. The bill also provides for revenue distribution to the thoroughbred and standardbred racing industries, including support for purses and applicable breeding funds.

Proponents: New York Racing Association, Standardbred Owners Association, Empire State Harness Horsemen's Alliance, Yonkers Raceway, Saratoga Casino Hotel, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Inc., New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc., Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack, Finger Lakes HBPA

Opponents: Suffolk OTB, Churchill Downs, New York Gaming Association (NYGA)

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Regulation of Prediction Markets**S.9414 (Addabbo) / A.9251A (Vanel)**

This bill enacts the Oversight and Regulation of Activity for Contracts Linked to Events (ORACLE) Act to regulate prediction market platforms. The bill prohibits New York consumers under the age of 21 from participating in prediction markets, bars certain categories of markets, including political markets, death markets, catastrophic event markets, security markets, and athletic event markets, and requires platforms to comply with consumer protection, advertising, at-risk trading, self-exclusion, settlement source disclosure, insider trading, and market manipulation requirements. The bill also prohibits licensed gaming entities from offering prediction markets to New York consumers and authorizes enforcement by the Attorney General, State Police, and the Gaming Commission.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Certain Individuals Convicted of Crimes Against Sports or Horse Race Participants, or of Wagering Integrity Offenses, From Wagering**S.7482C (Stavisky) / A.7903C (Lavine)**

This bill designates certain individuals as prohibited sports bettors if they have been convicted of qualifying offenses against athletes, coaches, officials, or other participants in sporting events or horse races, or if they have been convicted of certain offenses involving sports contests, horse races, or wagering. The bill requires the Gaming Commission to provide notice and an appeal process, creates tiered prohibition periods, and requires wagering licensees to prohibit designated individuals from establishing or maintaining wagering accounts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Sports Wagering Push Notifications and Text Message Notifications

S.5537 (Gonzalez, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Krueger, Salazar, Skoufis) / A.4279A (Bores)

This bill prohibits mobile sports wagering operators and platforms from initiating or sending push notifications or text message notifications soliciting sports wagers or deposits. The bill defines a push notification as an automatic electronic message displayed on an account holder's device when the mobile sports wagering platform is not actively open or visible. The bill is intended to reduce gambling-related harms by limiting unsolicited prompts that encourage users to place wagers or deposit funds.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Sports Betting Alliance

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Protects Host County and Host Municipality Aid for Commercial Gaming Facilities

S.7787A (Addabbo) / A.8050B (Kay)

This bill provides that host counties and host municipalities of commercial gaming facilities located in the New York City suburbs may not receive a reduction in appropriated aid after gaming facilities licensed to operate in and around New York City have commenced gaming operations.

Proponents: Sullivan County

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Enacts the GUARD Act

S.8627 (Krueger) / A.9542 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill enacts the Gamblers Unfairly Abused by Reward Dynamics Act (GUARD). The bill prohibits mobile sports wagering operators from offering bonus bets, free bets, money back, special odds, bonus payouts, or other monetary incentives for opening a new account, referring a new account holder, placing an initial bet, reactivating a lapsed account, placing a bet after 90 days without betting activity, or modifying a self-exclusion or self-imposed gaming limit.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Enhances Gaming Self-Exclusion Provisions

S.8238 (Addabbo) / No Same As

NYS Gaming Commission Dept. Bill #20. Strengthens the Gaming Commission's self-exclusion program. The self-exclusion program is an anti-problem gambling tool that allows individuals to add their names to a list that legally prohibits them from entering and wagering at gaming facilities. This bill would extend the forfeiture of winnings for self-excluded individuals beyond commercial casinos to all gaming activities. It establishes a uniform process for self-exclusion and directs forfeited funds to various regulatory accounts, enhancing the disincentives for individuals to violate their self-exclusion terms.

Proponents: New York State Gaming Commission (Departmental)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Permits Employees of Authorized Organizations to Operate Games of Chance

S.2294 (Skoufis) / A.8667 (Stirpe)

Permits employees of “authorized organizations,” such as charities and veterans’ organizations, to operate and manage games of chance, such as bingo and raffles. Current law restricts this activity to bona fide members of the organization, and this change addresses the challenge of relying solely on an aging volunteer member base.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The major unresolved issues in the gaming landscape concern the implementation of the downstate casino licenses and the transition from licensing to operations. Resorts World New York City opened as New York City’s first full casino with live table games in April 2026, while the Bally’s Bronx and Queens Hard Rock Metropolitan Park projects remain in development. As those projects proceed, the State will continue to monitor construction timelines, license conditions, labor and community benefit commitments, traffic and land use impacts, and problem gambling mitigation.

A related unresolved issue is the public dispute over racing-support payments connected to Resorts World’s conversion from a VLT facility to a full commercial casino. Resorts World and the Gaming Commission have disputed whether certain payments supporting NYRA and other racing interests are included within Resorts World’s commercial casino tax obligation or must be paid in addition to that obligation. The Legislature passed, as part of its end-of-session omnibus (S.10644), a short-term measure intended to protect racing entities from any interruption in funding, but the underlying allocation issue remains a significant implementation question as Resorts World operates before the other downstate casinos come online.

The Seneca Nation gaming compact also remains unresolved. The prior compact between the State and the Nation expired at the end of 2023, and the parties have continued operating under short-term extensions while negotiating a new agreement. The lack of a long-term compact creates continued uncertainty for Western New York gaming operations, revenue sharing, and host communities that have historically relied on compact-related payments.

Finally, New York has also seen a significant increase in problem gambling as the universe of authorized gaming options have expanded, with OASAS reporting a 68% rise in voluntary self-exclusion requests between 2017 and 2024 and a 46% increase in the number of New Yorkers engaged in inpatient or outpatient treatment for a gambling disorder between 2020 and 2023. In April, the Governor announced that OASAS would be conducting a 10-year study on adults’ gambling behaviors in the State and directed the Gaming Commission to take steps to ensure that minors are not downloading betting apps in the State of the State, so both of those initiatives are underway.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Social Services
Analyst: Janine Smith
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Prohibits Fingerprinting of SNAP Applicants and Recipients

S.7754A (Persaud, Brisport) / A.2538A (Davila)

This legislation prohibits applicants and recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits from being required to submit fingerprints to qualify or participate in the program. It updates the Social Services Law to explicitly ban fingerprinting requirements and prevent local social services officials from requiring fingerprinting for SNAP. While New York has not required fingerprinting for SNAP applicants since the practice was discontinued administratively, this legislation would codify that policy into state law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 141-1

Providing Financial Reimbursement for Domestic Violence Shelters

S.7738A (Gounardes, Brisport, Harckham, Liu, Mayer, Rivera, Rolison, Salazar, Skoufis) / A.3264B (Hevesi)

This legislation mandates reimbursement for domestic violence shelters when a single individual is housed in a double-occupancy room due to the absence of single-occupancy options. Currently, local social services districts reimburse shelters at daily rates, set annually by the Office of Children and Family Services, for emergency housing and services to domestic violence victims. The bill stipulates reimbursement for the cost difference when a solitary person occupies a double room. For shelters with ten or more beds, reimbursement is phased in at 50% starting April 1, 2027, then 75% from April 1, 2028, and full reimbursement from April 1, 2029. Shelters with fewer than ten beds will qualify for full reimbursement upon the bill's enactment.

Proponents: New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Safe Horizon

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 133-0

Assembly Vote: 60-0

Provides Internet Access to Individuals Residing in Temporary Housing**S.8026A (Gonzalez, Brisport, Cleare, Gianaris, Jackson, Kavanagh, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Sutton, Webb) / A.1755A (Reyes)**

This legislation mandates that temporary housing facilities statewide, such as homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, youth shelters, hotel-based shelters, and refugee shelters, must offer residents high-speed broadband internet and Wi-Fi in both private and communal spaces. These facilities must have the necessary equipment, such as routers and modems, to enable internet access. The legislation establishes a minimum standard of 1 gigabit per second for both download and upload speeds, or the fastest available commercial service in the area if these speeds are not obtainable. The legislation excludes temporary housing facilities located in areas lacking broadband service or considered unserved from the mandatory requirements.

Proponents: Adelante Student Voices; Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development; Bonano Organization; Broadway Community Inc.; Brooklyn Defender Services; Cardozo Bet Tzedek Legal Services; Caribbean Equality Project; Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill; Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC); Church Women United in New York State; Community Voices Heard Power!; Congregation B'nai Yisrael; Desis Rising Up and Moving; Ecclesia Ministries of NY; Electronic Frontier Foundation; Episcopal Mission in Sunnyside; Fair Housing Justice Center; Family Promise of Western NY; For the Many; Gates Presbyterian Church; Goodwill of the Finger Lakes; Henry Street Settlement; Housing Justice for All; Housing Rights Initiative; Housing Works; Human Services Council; Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing; Jericho Road Community Health Center; Lyell Otis Communication Association; Met Council on Housing; Midtown South Community Council; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter; Neighbors Together; New Alternatives for Homeless LGBT Youth; Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition; NY Communities for Change; NY Immigration Coalition, et al; NYC Coalition to Dismantle Racism; NYCBBA; NYCLU; NYLAG; NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Providence House, Inc.; Releasing Aging People in Prison (RAPP); REBNY; Safety Net Project and Activists - Urban Justice Center; Save Section 9; Second Presbyterian Church; South Bronx Unite; Syracuse Peace Council; The Center for Family Representation; The Health and Housing Consortium; The Legal Aid Society; The Mami Chelo Foundation, Inc.; This Land is Ours CLT; United Community Center of Westchester, Inc.; UnlockNYC et al; UHAB; Vocal NY.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Rhoads, Rolison, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 126-6

Establishes a Task Force to Examine Fiscal Cliffs in New York State's Public Assistance Programs**S.8750 (Persaud, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Cooney, Murray, Myrie, Oberacker, Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Walczyk, Webb) / A.10143 (Davila)**

This legislation establishes a 19-member task force to study and recommend solutions for fiscal cliffs, which are sudden losses in public benefits resulting from small increases in income within New York State's public assistance programs. The task force must ensure geographic diversity, meet at least four times a year, and operate with support from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. It will evaluate the effects of fiscal cliffs across various programs, including SNAP, HEAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, and different tax credits.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Increases the FPL Threshold for One-time Disregard of Earned Income to 400%

S.182 (Persaud, Cooney, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.4317 (Davila)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to raise the income threshold for a one-time, six-month earned income disregard to 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Individuals who gain employment after completing an approved state or federal job training program may retain public assistance benefits during this period. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is authorized to pursue any necessary federal waivers to implement this policy, which aims to support financial stability during the transition to work.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Requiring a Court Proceeding to be Initiated to Qualify for Rental Assistance

S.913 (Kavanagh) / A.1501 (Rosenthal)

This legislation would establish that an individual does not need to have a court proceeding initiated against them to qualify for a grant for rent arrears or ongoing rental assistance from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Creates a Refugee Resettlement Program

S.2516A (Gounardes, Brisport, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, May, Myrie, Webb) / A.2374A (Sayegh)

This legislation requires the Department of Social Services to establish a refugee resettlement program that can be funded by the federal and/or state governments. The program would provide services aimed at helping refugees achieve economic and social self-sufficiency and address the needs of victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied refugees. Additionally, the legislation would allow the Department of Social Services to partner with public or private entities that assist refugees in the provision or promotion of resources, including but not limited to foster care programs for unaccompanied minors, initial medical screenings, and immunizations, programs to ease the transition of youth to schools, English language instruction, civic and social engagement, mentoring services for youth, food, clothing, shelter, employment and training, school supplies, English language instruction, and temporary cash and medical assistance.

Proponents: Catholic Charities Community Services; Commonpoint; CAMBA; CWS New York; International Rescue Committee of NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Requires the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to Provide Smart Home Harassment**Materials****S.8045 (Bynoe, Rhoads, Rolison, Zellner) / A.5455A (Rosenthal)**

This legislation requires the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to create and distribute materials on preventing tech-based domestic abuse, primarily through smart home systems. Partnering with a federally designated organization, OPDV will develop resources to help victims recognize harassment tactics, enhance safety, and remove abusers' access. The organization will also recommend policies to reduce technology-facilitated abuse. Materials will be shared with shelters, social services, police, and childcare providers statewide.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Expands Statewide Conciliation and Re-engagement Process for Public Assistance Recipients****S.4417 (May) / A.6448 (Hunter)**

This legislation extends New York City's public assistance re-engagement process statewide for recipients who fail to meet work participation requirements. Currently, outside New York City, such recipients face benefit reductions after a conciliation process and escalating sanctions. The legislation replaces this with a statewide process requiring local social services to send detailed notices, explain good cause exemptions, verify the availability of child care, transportation, and disability accommodations, and offer recipients a chance to resolve noncompliance before benefit reductions. It mandates independent or trained mediators for conciliation and fair hearings for unresolved disputes. Recipients would be able to end sanctions by coming into compliance or demonstrating that they are exempt from the work requirements. The legislation also repeals existing escalating sanctions outside New York City, establishing a uniform process modeled on the current New York City system.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 94-47

Expands Access to Free Menstrual Products in Temporary Housing and Emergency Shelter Settings**S.8498 (Cleare) / A.5420 (Forrest)**

This legislation would expand access to free menstrual products in temporary shelter settings throughout New York State by extending existing requirements to additional facility types. Under current law, state-funded temporary shelters must provide menstrual products at no cost to individuals in need. The legislation expands the definition of temporary shelter to include drop-in centers, intake centers, and emergency congregate housing facilities, ensuring that individuals accessing services at these locations can also obtain free menstrual products.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 131-2

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Transportation

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Driver Education at Licensed Driving Schools****S.3249 (Cooney) / A.494 (Magnarelli)**

This bill authorizes licensed driving schools to offer driver education courses at their schools; currently the courses are offered in high schools and colleges. Students who successfully complete these courses would continue to qualify for the same benefits as those who complete school-based driver education programs, including eligibility for a senior driver's license at age 17. This bill maintains existing Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) oversight and instructional requirements while expanding access to driver education for students whose schools do not offer such courses or who are unable to participate in school-based programs.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Repair Shop Restitution Enforcement**S.4230 (Comrie, Jackson) / A.1673 (Weprin)**

This bill strengthens the enforcement of restitution orders issued against registered and unregistered motor vehicle repair shops. This bill requires repair shops to pay restitution when ordered by DMV, authorizes DMV to increase civil penalties by up to \$500 when a shop fails to pay restitution in the required time and manner, and permits DMV to waive all or part of a civil penalty or registration suspension when restitution is paid. This is intended to ensure that consumers who suffer financial losses due to negligent or fraudulent repair practices receive compensation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Gallivan, Helming, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 92-47

Central New York Regional Transportation Authority Board Expansion**S.8439B (Webb) / A.8470B (Magnarelli)**

This bill expands the maximum number of voting members on the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) Board from 12 to 13 to accommodate representation for Cortland County following its participation in the authority. This bill maintains the existing county-based appointment structure, preserves the requirement that at least one voting member be a transit-dependent individual, and clarifies that CENTRO may have up to 13 voting members in addition to one non-voting member.

Proponents: CENTRO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Charter Bus Pre-Trip Safety Briefings

S.8691 (Cooney) / A.9259 (Magnarelli)

This bill requires motor carriers operating charter buses to provide passengers with a pre-trip safety briefing before departure. The briefing must include information on the mandatory use of seat belts where available and the penalties for failing to wear a seat belt. This bill also updates the statutory definition of a charter bus for purposes of New York's seat belt requirements and aligns charter bus safety briefing requirements with existing pre-trip safety briefing requirements for stretch limousines.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

E-Bike and E-Scooter Lighting Requirements

S.8948A (Ryan C, Addabbo, Zellner) / A.9209A (Conrad)

This bill requires bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters sold or leased in New York to be equipped with specified lighting at the time of sale or lease. This bill requires a white front light visible from at least 500 feet, a red or amber rear light visible from at least 300 feet, and at least one light visible from each side at a distance of 200 feet.

Proponents: PeopleForBikes Coalition

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

Vehicle Window Tint Standards

S.9226 (Cooney) / A.5306 (Reyes)

This bill reduces the minimum light transmittance requirement for side windows, rear side windows, and rear windows on motor vehicles from 70 percent to 50 percent, allowing darker window tinting. This bill maintains the existing 70 percent requirement for the front windshield, establishes a plus-or-minus 7 percent tolerance for DMV window tint measurements, and updates the vehicle inspection statute to conform to the new tinting standards.

Proponents: International Window Film Association; Police Conference of NY, Inc

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 50-11 (Addabbo, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Fernandez, Griffo, Martins, O'Mara, Rhoads, Skoufis, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 132-0

Conductor Requirement for New York City Transit

S.9586A (Parker, Addabbo, Fernandez, Martinez) / A.10706 (Chandler-Waterman)

This bill requires New York City Transit Authority subway trains and passenger rail operations to have at least one conductor on board in addition to the train operator. This bill exempts operations where conductorless service is already legally permissible and currently in effect, thereby preserving existing one-person train operations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Griffo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 131-1

Early Vehicle Registration Renewal for Military Personnel**S.9806A (Ryan C, Borrello, Myrie, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Weber) / A.11233A (Magnarelli)**

This bill authorizes active-duty armed forces members to renew their vehicle registrations before the normal renewal window if they will be engaged in official military duties at the time their registration expires. To qualify, the service member must provide military orders or a certified letter from a commanding officer verifying the deployment or assignment. This bill permits renewal regardless of how much time remains before the registration expires and applies to registrations expiring on or after March 1, 2028.

Proponents: None Available.**Opponents:** None Available.**Senate Vote:** Passed Senate 60-0**Assembly Vote:** Passed Assembly 127-0**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY****Rider Representation Act****S.1148 (Gounardes, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gianaris, Harckham, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Martinez, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Serrano) / A.1162 (Dinowitz)**

This bill expands the MTA Board from 17 to 21 voting members by adding four voting seats representing the New York City Transit Authority Advisory Council, the Metro-North Commuter Council, the Long Island Rail Road Commuter's Council, and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. This bill eliminates the rotating non-voting rider representative position and gives riders, commuters, and individuals with disabilities direct voting representation on the MTA Board.

Proponents: Center for the Independence of the Disabled NY; Disabled in Action; NY Lawyers for the Public Interest; NYPIRG; OpenPlans; Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee; Riders Alliance; Rise and Resist; Streets PAC; The Business Council; Tri-State Transportation Campaign; WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Opponents: None Available**Senate Vote:** 49-13 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Electronic Appearances for Parking Violations****S.1511A (Liu, Jackson) / A.1425A (Dinowitz)**

This bill authorizes parking violations bureaus to conduct hearings through electronic appearances and allows individuals contesting parking violations to choose between in-person and remote appearances. This bill establishes procedures governing virtual hearings, including attorney consultation rights, adjournments due to technological failures, recording and notice requirements, and access to hearing recordings. This bill also extends electronic appearance options to other matters adjudicated by parking violations bureaus, including certain camera-generated violations, toll violations, school bus camera violations, bus lane violations, and weigh-in-motion violations. Localities may opt out of providing electronic appearances, and the bill sunsets on September 1, 2028.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-1 (Walczyk)**Assembly Vote:** None

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Three-Foot Passing Rule for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

S.1665 (Harcckham, Addabbo, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Hinchey, Martinez, Palumbo, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.1831 (Steck)

This bill establishes a three-foot minimum passing distance for motor vehicles overtaking bicyclists and pedestrians in cities outside New York City and in all towns and villages. Drivers must either move into another lane when safe to do so or provide at least three feet of clearance when passing. If neither option is possible, drivers may pass only when doing so is reasonable and prudent under existing roadway conditions. This bill retains New York City's existing "safe distance" standard for passing bicyclists.

Proponents: Numerous Cycling and Street Safety Advocates

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: None

Authorizes Camera Enforcement of Street Cleaning Parking Rules in NYC

S.1891A (Jackson, Persaud) / A.4523B (Cunningham)

This bill authorizes New York City to establish a five-year pilot program allowing the Department of Sanitation to use cameras mounted on street cleaning vehicles to enforce alternate side parking and street cleaning parking rules. This bill requires signage on camera-equipped vehicles and along participating routes, provides a 60-day warning period before fines may be issued, includes privacy protections and data retention limits, prohibits the use of biometric and facial recognition technology, and requires biennial reports on the program. Violations would carry fines of up to \$50, plus up to \$25 for failure to respond to a notice of liability.

Proponents: NYC Department of Sanitation

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Community Review of Motor Vehicle Repair Shop Renewals and Transfers

S.2329 (Rivera, Sepúlveda) / A.3699 (Alvarez)

This bill requires motor vehicle repair shops in New York City seeking to renew or transfer their DMV registration to provide notice to the local community board at least 45 days before filing an application. Community boards may submit written opinions regarding the application, which DMV must consider along with factors such as parking violations, parking-related code violations, complaints from the community board, and the shop's impact on local traffic and parking. This bill also authorizes DMV to consider a history of multiple parking violations or unresolved parking-related code violations when reviewing renewal and transfer applications.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Sex Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Program for CDL Applicants**S.2399A (Persaud, Addabbo, Myrie, Ryan C, Skoufis, Webb) / A.3485A (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill establishes a sex trafficking awareness and prevention program as part of the curriculum requirements for commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants. The program must include at least 30 minutes of training using materials from a nationally recognized anti-trafficking organization and cover warning signs of sex trafficking and reporting resources. This bill requires CDL applicants to submit proof of completion of the training, authorizes coordination with the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking and other agencies, and requires annual reporting on the program's effectiveness.

Proponents: Trucking Association of New York**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Strengthening Ignition Interlock Device Compliance****S.2517A (Cooney, Fernandez, Martinez, Mayer, Stavisky) / No Same As**

This bill strengthens New York's ignition interlock device (IID) requirements for individuals convicted of certain alcohol-related driving offenses. This bill requires individuals not only to install and maintain an IID, but also to regularly use it, and requires proof of at least six continuous months of installation, maintenance, and regular use before IID restrictions may be lifted or full driving privileges restored. This bill narrows the good-cause exception for failing to install an IID, requires DMV to establish standards for proving continuous and regular use, limits the use of conditional licenses for passenger-for-hire vehicles, and allows individuals with installed IIDs to start parked vehicles during periods of suspension or revocation to preserve battery life.

Proponents: STOP-DWI; Ignition Interlock Manufacturers**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** None**Free Non-Driver Identification Cards for Homeless Individuals****S.7032 (Sepulveda) / No Same As**

This bill authorizes homeless persons and homeless children or youth to receive a free non-driver identification card from the DMV. Applicants must provide verification of homelessness from a qualified homeless services provider, attorney, school liaison or social worker, law enforcement liaison, governmental agency, nonprofit organization, or other provider approved by DMV. This bill adopts definitions from the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to establish eligibility and verification standards.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 45-15 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Availability Plan Outside New York City

S.7611B (Bynoe, Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Harckham, Kavanagh, Martinez, Myrie, Ramos) / A.8872A (Solages)

This bill directs the DMV to create a statewide plan to assess and increase the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) in every county outside New York City. This bill establishes a statutory definition of a WAV, requires counties to provide data on for-hire transportation services and existing WAV availability, and directs DMV to create a publicly available mapping platform identifying areas with insufficient access. DMV, in consultation with OPWDD and DOH, must establish accessibility benchmarks, identify existing funding sources, and recommend grant programs and tax incentives to expand WAV availability. If a county lacks adequate resources to meet identified needs, DMV must work with local governments and transportation providers to develop and publish a plan to improve access.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Highway Native Pollinator Investments

S.7951B (Mayer) / A.9620 (Levenburg)

This bill establishes a statewide Pollinator Highway Program within the DOT to promote the cultivation and maintenance of native flowering plants, grasses, and shrubs along state highways and other public lands. It also creates a new Native/Pollinator Planting Fund that can make pollinator-friendly investments, including from grants and appropriations, as well as allowing for a distinctive license plate whose proceeds can be dedicated to the Fund.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-7 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Martins, Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Blue Envelope Program for Neurodivergent Individuals and Persons with Mental Health or Behavioral Disorders

S.8059 (Bailey, Addabbo, Fernandez) / A.8719 (Santabarbara)

This bill establishes a statewide Blue Envelope Program through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for drivers and passengers who are neurodivergent or have mental health or behavioral disorders. The program provides blue envelopes designed to hold a person's driver's license, registration, insurance card, and other documents, along with instructions to facilitate communication between individuals and law enforcement during traffic stops. This bill prohibits DMV from requiring medical information or maintaining records on program participants and requires the Municipal Police Training Council to develop training for police officers on the program and effective communication techniques.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Winter Road Maintenance Data Collection and Monitoring**S.10094 (Harckham, Bottcher, Gounardes, May, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.11105 (Magnarelli)**

This bill establishes a statewide winter road maintenance data system administered by the DOT to track snow and ice control activities on state-maintained highways. DOT would be required to collect and publicly report data on road salt and liquid deicer usage, application rates, route information, weather conditions, equipment performance, and operational efficiency. This bill also directs DOT and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to use the data to monitor chloride contamination in surface and groundwater, identify areas with high road salt usage, and inform statewide salt reduction strategies. Additionally, this bill requires annual calibration of highway deicing equipment, establishes statewide calibration standards and recordkeeping requirements, and creates a voluntary municipal partnership program allowing local governments to participate in the statewide data system.

Proponents: Adirondack Council**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 44-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)**Assembly Vote:** None**Annual Tolling Authority Reporting on Toll Enforcement and Toll Reduction Task Force****S.10596 (Martinez) / No Same As**

Requires tolling authorities to report every year on toll violations and revenue collected from repeat violators and other implementation details, and also creates a Toll and Fees Reduction Task Force.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** None**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY****Helmet Requirement for Certain E-Bike Riders****S.1542 (May, Fahy) / A.590 (Paulin)**

This bill requires 16- and 17-year-olds to wear a helmet when operating or riding a Class One or Class Two electric bicycle (electric-assist bikes that can reach 20 miles per hour with or without assistance). This bill applies existing bicycle helmet standards to these riders, establishes a civil penalty of up to \$50 for violations, and allows courts to waive fines if proof is provided that a helmet was purchased, rented, or could not be obtained due to economic hardship. This is intended to address a gap in current law, which already requires helmet use for Class Three e-bike riders (bikes that can reach 25 miles per hour without any pedaling).

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** 144-0

2026 SESSION WRAP-UP

Notification of Bed Bug Infestations on MTA Vehicles

S.4937 (Comrie) / A.1906 (Colton)

This bill requires the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to establish a system to notify customers within 24 hours of discovering a bed bug infestation on a subway, train, or bus. Notifications may be provided through the MTA's website, email, text message, or similar methods. This bill is intended to increase public awareness of infestations and allow riders to take precautions to prevent the spread of bed bugs to homes, businesses, and other transportation systems.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: MTA

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 104-37

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Increases Toll Evasion Enforcement and License Plate Obstruction Penalties While Adding Toll-Payer Protections

S.7905A (Gounardes, Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, Krueger, Persaud) / A.8860A (Dais)

This bill expands enforcement tools for unpaid tolls and repeat license plate concealment violations while also adding consumer protections for toll payers. This bill allows certain repeat plate concealment violations to become part of a driver's abstract and be used for insurance purposes, strengthens registration suspension and VIN-based enforcement against repeat offenders, authorizes police to remove and seize illegal plate coverings in certain circumstances, permits vehicle immobilization for persistent toll violators, limits certain administrative fees, requires additional notice and dispute-resolution information for toll payers, allows toll payers to designate an attorney or elected official to resolve toll disputes on their behalf, and requires reporting on billing errors and dispute resolution practices.

Proponents: Citizens Budget Commission

Opponents: Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits the Use of Virtual Reality Headsets While Operating a Motor Vehicle

S.9752 (Cooney) / No Same As

This bill prohibits operators of motor vehicles, limited use automobiles, limited use motorcycles, and bicycles from wearing a virtual reality headset while operating on a public highway. Current law prohibits operators from wearing more than one earphone attached to an audio device while driving, but does not specifically address virtual reality or augmented reality headsets. This is intended to address safety concerns that such devices may obstruct vision, impair situational awareness, or distract operators from roadway conditions.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The SFY 2026-27 Adopted Budget included several transportation-related initiatives, including the expansion of automated work zone speed enforcement, continued investment in state and local transportation infrastructure, and various roadway safety measures that the Senate will continue to monitor. Additional issues that remain under discussion include toll enforcement, penalties for repeat toll and license plate violators, and roadway safety initiatives aimed at reducing speeding and traffic fatalities.

HEARINGS OR FORUMS

None.

Veterans, Homeland Security, And Military Affairs

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Authorizes The Governor to Join Two Mutual-aid Emergency Response Compacts with Canada, New England States, And Midwest States

S.9757 (Scarcella-Spanton) / A.10540

This bill directs the Governor to enter into two disaster emergency response compacts, the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact (NEMAC) and the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC), to provide mutual aid when requested for disaster assistance. Disasters include flooding, wild-fires, or other natural disasters. This bill was originally included in the SFY 2026-27 Budget.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Governor Signed, Chapter 123 of 2026

Creates a Women Veterans History Trail

S.9940 (Scarcella-Spanton) / A.8061 (Bronson)

This bill establishes a Women Veterans History Trail to celebrate women in military service. First enacted by the Department of Veterans' Services in 2024, this "virtual trail" will celebrate women from the Revolutionary War up to modern times. The Trail will include museums, memorials, battle sites, and historic homes, as well as posting welcome kiosks statewide to publicize the Trail.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 128-0

Updates the New York State Veterans' Memorial Registry To Include Monuments

S.1242A (Addabbo) / A.3397A (Raga)

This bill adds Monuments to the Veterans' Memorial Registry and renames the registry the "New York State Veterans' Memorial and Monument Registry." This addition allows archivists and other veteran organizations to assist with selecting notable monuments and the development of the Memorial and Monument Registry. It also directs the Department of Veterans' Services to accept public submissions of images of potential memorials and monuments and to create a user-friendly database, listing the sites by their historical significance.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Defines “Period of War” for the Alternative Veterans’ Property Tax Exemption**S.3194A (Skoufis, Addabbo, Ashby, Helming, Mattera, O’Mara, Persaud, Rhoads, Ryan, Stec, Weber) / A.3450A (Santabarbara)**

This bill amends the definition of “period of war”, for veterans’ property tax exemption purposes, to include the Persian Gulf hostilities once they are terminated by presidential proclamation or by law.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 143-0**Establishes a Veterans’ Bill of Rights****S.7708B (Fernandez, Addabbo, Ashby, Rhoads, Rolison) / A.6559C (Benedetto)**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans’ Services to print, distribute, and conspicuously post a Veterans’ Bill of Rights, to include: applying for all eligible benefits; receiving explanations for all approvals and denials of benefits; appealing any denials of benefits; and being treated with dignity and respect.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 61-0**Assembly Vote:** 140-0**Authorizes the Department of Veterans’ Services to Develop Educational Materials for Veterans About Home and Community-based Care Services****S.7786B (Addabbo, Rolison) / A.7627B (Kay)**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs and other relevant state agencies to provide information to veterans and their families about home health care and community-based services. This information can be in electronic form, printed form, or on web-sites, and can include both state and federal programs available to veterans.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 60-0**Assembly Vote:** 140-0**SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY****Establishes The Congressional Chartered Veterans’ Service Organization Fund****S.1185 (Addabbo, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Murray, Myrie, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Weber, Weik) / A.1866 (Rajkumar)**

This bill allows taxpayers the option to make a financial contribution to the congressional chartered veterans’ service fund from their personal income tax return. The congressional chartered veterans’ service organizations include American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This bill would also require the Department of Taxation and Finance to include a space on the state personal income tax return forms for taxpayers to include their gift amount to the organization fund.

Proponents: None Available**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** 59-0**Assembly Vote:** None

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Creates An Alternative Judicial Resolution Program for Veterans Accused of Certain Crimes

S.1192 (Addabbo, Ashby, Helming, Myrie, Palumbo) / A.6863 (Cook)

This bill allows eligible veterans to participate in an alternative resolution program through the court system when they are charged with a misdemeanor or certain felony charges. The program is similar to other judicial diversion programs, where the veteran participates for no more than 12 months for low level felonies and misdemeanors and no more than 18 months for more serious felonies. The program provides medical treatment, such as substance misuse and mental health treatment, focusing on the specific needs of veterans' experiences. Upon successful completion, the veteran's charges can be dismissed for lower-level felony and misdemeanor charges, except for domestic violence or sex offenses.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Brisport)

Assembly Vote: None

Grants Members of the Organized State Militia State Employee Status for Purposes of Making a Workers' Compensation Claim During Their World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, And Cleanup

S.6832 (Webb, Addabbo, Ashby, Baskin, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Jackson, Kavanagh, Martinez, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepulveda, Serrano, Weik) / A.5087 (O'Pharrow)

This bill allows state organized militia members who were called to the World Trade Center for rescue and cleanup after 9/11 to qualify as state employees for purposes of workers' compensation claims. This would provide compensation to those eligible members who were injured or who suffered an illness related to their work at Ground Zero.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS IN EITHER HOUSE**Defining “Veteran” To Include State National Guard Members Who Have Served At Least Twenty Years, Part of Which Was During a War or Hostility****S.4889 (Scarcella-Spanton, Jackson) / A.7520 (Stern)**

This bill expands the definition of “veteran” to include all New York State National Guard, Air National Guard, and Naval Militia members who served in that position for at least twenty years, part of that time being during a time of war or recognized conflict. Adding state militia members would allow them to qualify for benefits, resources, and tax exemptions afforded to federal military member veterans. Currently the definition of “veteran” only includes those members who served for the United States federal armed forces such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.

Proponents: New York State Association of Counties**Opponents:** None Available**Senate Vote:** None**Assembly Vote:** None**UNRESOLVED ISSUES**

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

Women's Issues
Analyst: Korra O'Neill
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Access to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings

S.3866B (Hinchey, Webb) / A.1740A (Rosenthal)

This bill requires menstrual products be available for free in all public buildings owned and operated by the Office for General Services.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Martins)

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Cesarean Births Review Board

S.7544B (Brouk, Cleare, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.1541B (Paulin)

This bill establishes a board of experts to review the rate of cesarean births at hospitals in the state. The Board shall issue a final report within 18 months of convening.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Health Care Association of New York State, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District II (ACOG), Greater New York Hospital Association

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Maternal Health Dignity and Consent Act

S.845A (Salazar, Brouk, Addabbo, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Sepulveda, Serrano, Webb, Zellner) / A.860 (Rosenthal)

This bill prohibits medical providers from performing a drug, alcohol, or cannabis test on a perinatal individual or their newborn unless that person gives prior written and verbal informed consent, except in emergency situations.

Proponents: NYCLU, Community Service Society, National Institute for Reproductive Health, Legal Momentum, Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, ACOG

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-22 (Ashby, Baskin, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SUNY and CUNY Contraception Vending Machines

S.2058 (Webb, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Salazar, Sepulveda, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.9175 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill requires every State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) institution offering in-person instruction to have at least one vending machine selling emergency contraception.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 38-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzaneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Martinez, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Doula Health Insurance Coverage

S.6494 (Cleare, Brouk) / A.5140 Solages

This bill requires commercial health insurance policies to include doula services as part of their maternity care coverage. This bill would require doula services to be covered to the same extent as midwives under maternity care coverage.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York Health Plan Association

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Review of Maternity-Related Projects

S.7048 (Webb, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Skoufis) / A.2454 (McDonald)

This bill requires hospitals to secure approval from the Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) if they want to make service changes affecting the provision of perinatal services.

Proponents: Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts

Opponents: Health Care Association of New York State

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Coverage for Interhospital Transfer of Birthing Individuals

S.7731 (Webb, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Jackson, Liu) / A.7384 (Reyes)

This bill requires commercial health plans to cover the costs associated with interhospital transfer for postpartum birthing parents to accompany an infant experiencing a condition requiring treatment at a higher-acuity hospital.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York Health Plan Association

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Cesarean Section Risks

A.1039A (Paulin) / No Same As

This bill requires providers to provide written information to patients receiving cesarean sections about the risks of the procedure.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 131-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.



New York State Senate Democratic Majority
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