



LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP 2025

New York State Senate Democratic Majority



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2025 Legislative Wrap-Up Summary

In 2025, the Senate Democratic Majority continued its fight to make New York a safer, more affordable, and equitable state, where all New Yorkers can feel safe, secure, and prosperous. In support of this goal, the Majority passed 855 two-house bills, including worker protections, reforms to statewide correctional facilities, housing affordability measures, critical protections for reproductive healthcare, and making progress on climate goals. Highlights are described below by topic area.

BUDGET

The New York State Senate Majority enacted a budget for SFY 2025-26 that prioritized affordability and relief for New York's families and businesses. The Enacted Budget balances economic and fiscal security and prepares the State for potential financial challenges, all while making strategic investments in education, housing, healthcare, public safety, and environmental protections that provide a stronger and more equitable future.

Investing in Public Education. The Senate Democratic Majority has remained committed to ensuring our public schools are fully funded and receive the money that they have been owed for decades. This year, the Enacted Budget continues the Majority's commitment by providing a record \$26 billion in Foundation Aid funding, a \$100 million increase over the Executive Budget. It included a minimum two percent funding increase for every school district, as well as increased funding for schools based on their number of English language learners. The budget also created a new regional cost index for Westchester to account for the high cost of living for working families in the County.

Expanding Universal School Meals. The Senate Democratic Majority has been the primary advocate for expanding universal school meal programs to include all students, and this year, for the first time, the Enacted Budget included \$340 million to provide free breakfast and lunch to every student across New York State.

Child Care Block Grants. The Senate Democratic Majority allocated \$400 million in additional funds for child care subsidies, bringing the total to \$2.19 billion, to address the high cost of child care around the State. Other initiatives approved in the budget will make child care more affordable and accessible to families, including \$110 million to renovate and build new child care centers, as well as increasing the Child Tax Credit to up to \$1,000 per child under the age of four, and a \$500 credit for kids ages 4-16, effectively doubling the credit for the average family.

Investing in Higher Education. The Senate secured increases in capital funding for SUNY of \$160 million over the Executive and CUNY of \$83 million over the Executive. It also delivered

\$450 million in capital funding for SUNY Upstate to expand its emergency room, supporting a vital hospital for the region. In total, the Senate Democratic Majority secured over \$3 billion in capital funding, which allows schools across the State to access funding for critical improvements and upgrades that reinforce SUNY and CUNY's reputation as world-class higher education systems. In order to enhance quality higher education access across the state, the Senate increased community college operating funding for SUNY by \$6 million, for a total of \$14 million, and for CUNY by \$4 million, for a total of \$9.3 million.

Enhancing BOCES and CTE. As more students pursue career and technical education, the Senate Majority successfully fought for the first increase to BOCES salary reimbursement in over 30 years. This allows school districts to hire more qualified teachers to meet the increased student demand for critical programs. The Enacted Budget also increases the maximum per-pupil cap and expands eligible grades for reimbursement to include 9th grade.

Funding for Affordable Housing. As part of the Senate Majority's continued commitment to expanding and maintaining affordable housing across New York State, the Enacted Budget provided a record \$225 million in funding for NYCHA, \$75 million for public housing authorities outside NYC, and \$140 million for Mitchell-Lamas across New York State.

Housing Access Voucher Program. The Senate successfully championed a four-year, \$50 million per year program to expand access to housing vouchers for individuals and families who are homeless, or at risk of facing homelessness. These vouchers will provide direct support to and allow more New Yorkers to maintain stable housing.

Unemployment Insurance. The Senate Majority has consistently prioritized alleviating unemployment insurance debt while securing and improving benefits for workers. Through this budget, the \$8 billion debt is completely eliminated in conjunction with an increase in the maximum weekly benefit. The Senate also shortened the waiting period for striking workers to support the State's thriving workforce.

First Responder Pension Reform. The State relies on its first responders to ensure public safety. This year, the Enacted Budget ensured that these responders had sufficient retirement plans, including a 20-year retirement option for a number of law enforcement officers.

Reproductive and Maternal Healthcare. In this year's budget, the Senate successfully advanced reforms to modernize pregnancy loss reporting to better protect patient confidentiality. The Senate also successfully secured \$25 million total for abortion medication grant funding and funding to expand the number of providers trained in abortion care.

Medicaid Rate Increases. The Majority secured important Medicaid increases as well, with an aggregate increased amount of \$425 million to hospital services, \$445 million to nursing homes, \$15 million to assisted living programs, and \$40 million to Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Daniel's Law Pilot Program. The Senate has continued to advocate for improved behavioral health services. This year, the budget allocated \$2 million to create a Behavioral Health Crisis Technical Assistance Center to help localities develop a community-based, peer-led local behavioral health crisis response to mental health crises. The budget also included \$6 million to establish and fund pilot programs to implement community-based, nonpolice, peer responses to mental health crises.

Enhancing New York's Climate Resilience and Green Energy Future. The Senate successfully secured funding for critical programs lined out within the \$1 billion Sustainable Futures Program, including \$200 million for thermal networks at SUNY and CUNY, \$50 million for clean green schools, \$50 million for EmPower+, a key energy affordability program, \$250 million for zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure, and \$200 million for renewable energy projects. This funding will help New York transition to a clean, affordable energy economy while achieving the historic goals set out in the CLCPA.

Increasing the Environmental Protection Fund. The Senate Majority successfully fought to expand the Environmental Protection Fund, securing a record \$425 million for projects involving waste management, open space protection and preservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation across New York State.

SESSION

Ensuring Cost Savings in Healthcare. The Majority once again advanced key measures to bring down the cost of pharmaceuticals and healthcare. The Senate passed the New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act to secure more generic alternatives to prescription medications (S.1618 by Senator Rivera). The Senate also passed legislation to require insurance to cover inhalers at no cost (S.1804A by Senator Rivera) and expanded the definition of epinephrine devices to ensure coverage (S.7807A by Senator Gounardes). To support those who rely on medical devices, the Senate passed legislation that requires insurance coverage for backup cochlear implants (S.8265A by Senator Sutton) and makes it easier for individuals to repair their own wheelchairs (S.4500A by Senator Fahy). The Majority also took steps to encourage more dentists to practice in underserved areas through loan repayment projects (S.5339 by Senator Fahy).

Strengthened Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight Across DOCCS. The Senate Majority took action to reform New York State correctional facilities and Department of Corrections and

Community Supervision (DOCCS) operations in response to two murders at the hands of correctional officers in the past year. This package of reforms (S.8415 by Senator Salazar) includes disclosing of video evidence when there is a correctional officer involved in a death, fixing cameras throughout correctional facilities, making prompt notification to the next of kin when an incarcerated individual dies while incarcerated, studying deaths in DOCCS correctional facilities, requiring autopsy reports after the death of an incarcerated individual, dies safeguarding against conflicts of interest during the investigation process, increasing data reporting, adding members to the State Commission on Correction (SCOC), expanding the authority of the Correctional Association of New York (CANY), and tolling of the statute of limitations when an individual is released from custody. These reforms prioritize transparency, accountability, and safety for both staff and individuals in custody.

Protecting the Right to an Abortion and Contraception. The Senate Majority advanced legislation to shield the names of prescribers from prescription bottles for abortion medications, instead allowing just the practice name to be listed (S.36A by Senator Mayer). The Majority also expanded the Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program to cover costs to access reproductive care (S.135 by Senator Cleare) and protected contraceptive access by requiring SUNY and CUNY to maintain emergency contraception vending machines (S.2058 by Senator Webb). The Senate passed legislation that establishes privacy standards for health products and services (S.929 by Senator Krueger) and passed legislation to prohibit automatic license plate readers from sharing data to go after individuals who are seeking reproductive care (S.7713 by Senator Krueger).

Strengthening Ratepayer Protections. The Senate Majority continues their efforts to protect ratepayers from predatory practices, as well as surprise billing and speculative pricing. These efforts include passing legislation that increases restrictions on companies using utility bill estimate calculations (S.2182A by Senator Hinchey), requiring a 45-day notice for utility rate increases (S.1194 by Senator Addabbo), and creating the State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (S.6277 by Senator Scarcella-Spanton). The Senate also worked to make the rate case process more responsive to the current affordability crisis by passing legislation to require they take into account economic factors (S.1846 by Senator Comrie) and limiting the return on equity ratio for utility companies (S.7693 by Senator Mayer). The Senate also enhanced consumer protections regarding energy service companies (ESCOs) by passing legislation expanding unclaimed deposits and refunds regulations to cover ESCOs (S.7230 by Senator Comrie), as well as requiring ESCOs to provide price comparisons on customer billing statements (S.3876 by Senator Hoylman-Sigal). Understanding the need to promote a more sustainable future, the Senate passed legislation removing the obsolete “100 foot rule” subsidy that provided handouts to gas companies installing residential gas systems (S.8417 by Senator Krueger).

Protecting IVF Access and Fertility Treatment. As the federal administration threatens in vitro fertilization (IVF), the Senate Majority expanded access and protected family planning options. The Conference passed legislation to protect families from the out-of-pocket costs that can come after unsuccessful IVF cycles (S.698 by Senator Krueger) and passed a bill to improve insurance coverage of IVF (S.3155 by Senator Cooney). The Senate also took steps to broaden coverage for egg freezing beyond instances of medically caused infertility (S.4497 by Senator Hinchey).

Standing Up for LGBTQ+ Rights. New York will always be a haven for LGBTQ+ individuals, which is why the Senate passed the Gender Affirming Care Protection Act to strengthen shield laws for those seeking and providing gender-affirming care (S.4914B by Senator Hoylman-Sigal). The Majority Conference also strengthened protections for LGBTQ+ families, clarifying that a judge may not prohibit a parent from undergoing gender reassignment when making a determination in a child custody case (S.7451 by Senator Hoylman-Sigal).

Progressing New York's Climate Goals. The Senate Majority has always been committed to protecting New York's natural resources and open spaces, while taking steps to combat climate change. To those ends, the Senate passed legislation prohibiting oil and gas production on protected State land, which is of greater importance amid significant rollbacks on federal policies that previously restricted these practices on federal land (S.1069 by Senator Serrano). Understanding the role industry plays in waste production, the Senate passed the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, holding packaging producers accountable for the unnecessary waste their products create (S.1464 by Senator Harckham). The Senate also passed legislation that would provide the necessary resources to ensure a cleaner energy future in New York, including legislation to establish a State Office of Resilience (S.3590 by Senator Harckham), develop a blueprint to replace high-polluting fossil fuel facilities (S.5111 by Senator Parker), and assist schools in converting to renewable energy (S.2482 by Senator Parker). In order to ensure accountability in the clean energy transition, the Senate also passed the Public Renewables Transparency Act, strengthening public participation in the process (S.2462 by Senator Gianaris).

Honoring and Supporting Veterans. The Senate Majority stood in solidarity with veterans and active-duty service members who protected and served the United States. This commitment establishes a real property tax exemption for active-duty service members and military personnel who served in a combat zone (S.2068 by Senator Scarcella-Spanton), creates an official Honor and Remember flag for honoring fallen veterans (S.2364 by Senator Scarcella-Spanton), establishes a real property tax exemption for eligible disabled veterans (S.1183 by Senator Addabbo), allows a qualified veteran to transfer their unused tuition awards and benefits to their spouse or children under the Veteran Family Educational Attainment Act (S.4358A by Senator Bailey), and sets September 22 of each year as Veteran Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day (S.4152A by Senator Sanders).

Reducing Forever Chemicals and Toxic Waste. The Senate Majority understands the harms and prevalence of carcinogens such as PFAS in our society and has taken steps to protect New Yorkers from their serious harms. To that end, the Senate passed legislation prohibiting PFAS from common household products such as cookware (S.187A by Senator Hoylman-Sigal), as well as banning it from playgrounds to keep our children safe (S.3852A by Senator Hinchey). In order to reduce exposure to toxic substances, the Senate passed the Beauty Justice Act, which prohibits a number of harmful compounds from being included in cosmetics (S.2057A by Senator Webb).

Supporting Small Businesses. The Senate Majority supported the State's small businesses by giving Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) more time to cure defects in their certification paperwork and strengthening debriefing requirements when their bids are rejected (S.6020 by Senator Baskin). Senate Democrats also passed legislation to create small business energy assistance and advocacy services (S.6484A by Senator C. Ryan) and looked to establish a vacant storefront registry to help prospective small business owners find available real estate (S.6626A by Senator Baskin).

Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence. The Senate Majority enacted protections in the development and deployment stages of AI systems, aiming to eliminate bias and unintended consequences that may arise when these emerging technologies are used. The New York AI Act (S.1169A by Senator Gonzalez) establishes clear standards of accountability and transparency for corporations that develop and deploy AI for high-risk use cases involving consequential decisions about people's lives. A non-discrimination clause weeds out bias that can be replicated from AI tools, and there are whistleblower protections for workers who sound the alarm on careless practices from corporations responsible for ensuring the safety of these products. The Automate Decision Making Systems in Government Act (S.7599C by Senator Gonzalez) mandates that any automated systems used by State agencies, especially in areas like public assistance or civil liberties, undergo regular impact assessments and include meaningful human oversight. The Responsible AI Safety and Education (RAISE) Act (S.6953A by Senator Gounardes) requires the largest AI developers to implement a safety plan to protect against automated crime, bioweapons, and other forms of widespread harm and destruction. This bill is a targeted effort that establishes safety standards and incident reporting requirements for the most advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models, ensuring New York State remains ahead of emerging threats without stifling innovation.

Advancing Labor Protections. To support the State's workers, Senate Democrats advanced several bills to increase wages and benefits. The Majority passed legislation to increase the Temporary Disability Insurance benefit to eventually align with the State's Paid Family Leave program (S.172 by Senator Ramos) and fought to extend annual paid sick leave to domestic

workers (S.4515 by Senator Ramos). The Senate also advocated for legislation to protect employees from certain severance ultimatums (S.372A by Senator Gianaris), went after those who misappropriate payroll funds (S.4188 by Senator Comrie), and cracked down on the misclassification of employees as independent contractors to avoid paying minimum wage (S.1514 by Senator Harckham).

Promoting Affordable Homeownership, Supporting Renters. The Senate Majority took steps to promote affordable homeownership by creating the New York State First Home Savings Program, allowing first-time home buyers to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts that can be used to purchase their first home (S.1157 by Senator Cooney). The Senate Majority also codified the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) and Block-by-Block Infill Program (S.2627 by Senator Kavanagh and S.1398 by Senator S. Ryan) to ensure residents are kept in their homes and new housing can be built in our upstate cities. The Senate Democrats also took steps to strengthen the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), ensuring that seniors and those who are disabled can remain in their communities without facing financial insecurity (S.2534 by Senator Sanders).

2025 Senate and Assembly Bills Tally

| Year | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Senate Bill Introductions | 8,139 | 8,441 | 7,571 | 9,008 | 7,246 | 8,398 | 6,616 | 8,073 | 6,812 |
| Senate Bills Reported to Calendar | 2,024 | 1,898 | 1,859 | 1,923 | 1,790 | 1,018 | 1,830 | 2,143 | 2,228 |
| Senate Bills Passed* | 1,742 | 1,679 | 1,648 | 1,636 | 1,559 | 796 | 1,555 | 1,542 | 1,895 |
| Senate Bills Died on Calendar | 282 | 219 | 211 | 289 | 231 | 222 | 275 | 601 | 335 |
| Assembly Bill Introductions | 8,626 | 9,310 | 7,817 | 9,902 | 8,032 | 10,041 | 8,434 | 9,673 | 8,524 |
| Assembly Bill Reported to Calendar | 1,091 | 1,122 | 1,100 | 1,405 | 1,179 | 828 | 1,259 | 1,576 | 1,258 |
| Assembly Bills Passed | 1,023 | 987 | 1,026 | 1,245 | 1,054 | 581 | 1,099 | 1,113 | 998 |
| Assembly Bills Died on Calendar | 68 | 135 | 74 | 154 | 125 | 247 | 160 | 423 | 269 |
| Bills Passed Both Houses | 855 | 805 | 896 | 1,009 | 892 | 413 | 935 | 641 | 606 |
| Bills Passed by Democratic Conference Members* | 1,565 | 1,540 | 1,465 | 1,503 | 1,428 | 714 | 1,383 | 210 | 151 |
| Bills Passed by Republican Conference Members* | 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**Establishes the Interagency Elder Justice Task Force****S.1202A (Cleare, Cooney, Jackson, Webb) / A.7277A (Bichotte Hermelyn)**

This legislation establishes the Interagency Elder Justice Task Force within the New York State Office for the Aging with the goal of encouraging collaboration between elder justice stakeholders and developing strategies, systems, and programs to protect older adults from abuse and mistreatment.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Requires Reporting Unmet Need at Area Agencies of the Aging**S.6035 (Parker) / A.384 (Eichenstein)**

This bill requires the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to collect the unmet need for each program and service offered by Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Area Agencies on Aging currently do not report unmet need lists publicly. The FY 19-20 budget initiated a program to eliminate waiting lists across the State at AAAs by funding \$15 million into the Aging network targeted at suppressing the wait lists. The State Office for the Aging wants to assess the impact of this funding to continue to suppress wait lists at the AAAs statewide.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Expands Non-Medical In-Home Services for Seniors

S.7077 (Cleare, Comrie, Jackson) / A.7907 (Seawright)

This bill empowers local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to focus on efficient and effective delivery of services by ending the de minimis cost sharing provisions for Expanded in Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) Programs and ending the requirement that non-medical model home care services be subject to a physician's order.

Proponents: NYS Association of Counties, The Association on Aging in New York.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Raises Maximum Income Threshold and Indexes Income Cap for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE to the CPI-U

S.1457A (Kavanagh, Addabbo, Cleare, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.5344 (Glick)

This bill raises the maximum income threshold for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) to \$67,000. It also adjusts the maximum income threshold annually to reflect any rise in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) in the New York-Newark-Jersey City region.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Increased Oversight of Social Adult Day Care Programs

S.3759 (Cleare) / No Same As

Under this legislation, the Director of the New York State Office of the Aging (NYSOFA) will be required to inspect social adult day care programs prior to commencing operation, and no less than every five years thereafter to ensure that the program has met all requirements established by the Director, including, but not limited to, appropriate physical capacity for the number of individuals enrolled in the program.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-0

Requires the Department of Tax and Finance to Verify Income for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

S.4805 (C. Ryan, Jackson, Scarcella-Spanton, 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 Commissioner of the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to extend the program enrollment period for property owners who fail to enroll in the permissible time frame. The Commissioner, where appropriate and in conjunction with municipalities, is authorized 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

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Housing, Construction & Community Development; Aging; and Social Services. *To assess rental assistance programs and examine the need for expanded residential rental assistance to prevent evictions* (February 18, 2025).

AGRICULTURE

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Food Retail Store and Warehouse Sanitation Act

S.8388 (Hinchey) / A.8419 (Conrad)

This Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) departmental bill creates a new license for food service establishments, food retail stores and food warehouses in order to maintain safe working, shopping conditions, food safety, and bring additional oversight to these businesses. Licenses would cost \$250 for food retail stores and establishments or \$400 for food warehouses which are the same fees charged under the current law. In addition to codifying many of the existing practices DAM already uses in approving and revoking licenses. This bill would also give DAM discretion to close a food retail store or warehouse that has failed three consecutive inspections over a two and a half year period, and after being given at least three opportunities to correct unsanitary conditions and deficiencies.

Proponents: Department of Agriculture & Markets (Departmental)

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Producer Security Fund Increase

S.8243 (Hinchey) / A.8420 (Ramos)

This bill increases the cap of the producer security fund from \$4 million to \$6 million to keep pace with inflation from when it was first enacted. This bill then adds a new provision that allows for DAM to raise the cap in the future due to inflation.

Proponents: Farm Bureau

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Requires the Inclusion of A Donations Section on Dog License Applications with Municipal Animal Pounds or Shelters**S.1373 (Serrano, Borrello, Murray, Rolison) / A.4910 (Simone)**

This bill provides that the dog license application must include a space where an owner may elect to make a contribution in support of the pound or shelter of the municipality where the owner resides or any organization which is contracted by such municipality to provide animal shelter services. The application must list the organization that the contribution will be sent to and may list suggested reasonable contribution amounts with an option for any amount. This bill also requires that municipalities establish a dedicated fund for all the donations to be deposited into, that must be properly accounted for, and requires that the donations be given to the animal pound or shelter annually. Lastly, this bill provides that these contributions cannot replace any existing funding commitments to the animal shelter.

Proponents: ASPCA, NYCOM, NYSAC

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 143-0

New York Native Plant's Designation for Native Grown Plants**S.7359A (May) / A.7964A (Kelles)**

This bill directs DAM in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to offer seals or logos identifying native plants as grown in New York State and certified for their quality, product labeling, advertising, and displays, in order to promote the sale and education of native plants to consumers.

Proponents: Adirondack Garden Club, Finger Lake Native Plant Society and Wild Ones

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Agrivoltaics Viability Pilot Program****S.6286A (Hinchey, Fahy) / A.7584A (Lupardo)**

This bill directs the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM), to provide grants for a pilot program in order to identify best practices and strategies for dual-use solar energy projects that protect soil health during construction and decommissioning of solar arrays, utilize sustainable agricultural production practices, monitor any benefits solar energy may have on farms and for the state, track economic viability, study the commercialization of dual-use energy projects, and encourage equitable engagement of stakeholders.

Proponents: Farm Bureau; Blue Wave

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 48-10 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, Chan, O'Mara, Weber, Ortt, Weik, Griffo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Tucker's Law**S.197 (Martinez, Addabbo, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Palumbo, Rolison, Tedisco, 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: 61-1 (Brisport)

Assembly Vote: None

Regulates False or Misleading Food Advertising and Provides a Special Consideration for Advertising Directed at Children

S.397 (Myrie, Bailey, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Hoylman-Sigal, Kavanagh, May, Ramos, Sepúlveda, Skoufis, Webb) / A.2584 (Reyes)

This bill provides that when determining whether a food advertisement is false advertising, the State shall consider if an individual was unable to protect their interests due to their age; illiteracy; understanding of the language; or similar factors. It also provides special consideration for advertisements directed at children.

Proponents: Center for Science in the Public Interest; CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute; New York State Pediatricians; SDC; 1199SEIU; The Campaign Against Hunger

Opponents: Association of National Advertisers; Consumer Brands Association, et al (2024)

Senate Vote: 48-14 (Borrello, Oberacker, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Tedisco, Weik, Gallivan, Hoylman-Sigal, Lanza, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

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

S.592 (Hinchey, Ashby, Borrello, Cleare, Fahy, Helming, May, Oberacker, Rolison, Webb) / A.8265 (Lupardo)

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets to establish a summer youth employment program to focus on teaching economically and socially disadvantaged students with an opportunity to be educated on the agricultural industry and entrepreneurship. It also provides a subsidy to support wages and transportation of the students.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Garden Protection Act

S.879A (May, 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: 54-3 (Martins, C. Ryan, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

**Prohibits the Use of Certain Food Color and Additives in the Production of Food for Sale
S.1239E (Kavanagh, Sepúlveda, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Hoylman-Sigal,
Jackson, May, Myrie, Oberacker, Rhoads, C. 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 DAM to catalog all substances that are "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS).

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: 58-1 (Borrello)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Carbon Farming Tax Credit

S.1529 (Parker, Fahy, Fernandez, May, Rolison, Webb) / A.5660 (Barrett)

This bill establishes a tax credit for agricultural businesses that produce farm products and practice carbon farming. The value of the credit is based on the economic value of carbon farming, as determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM). "Carbon farming" is defined as the implementation of land management techniques that reduce, sequester and mitigate emissions of GHGs from farm operations. For example, compost use and restoration of riparian areas on working lands has the capacity to sequester significant amounts of carbon.

Proponents: Farm Bureau

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Misrepresentation of or Collection of Certain Fees for Petroleum**S.1783A (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 paid for by the consumer that the seller 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: 41-18 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, Ashby, Chan, Helming,

O'Mara, Rolison, Weber, Martins, Ortt, Weik, Griffo, Mattera, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Veterinarians from Performing the Devocalization of Dogs and Cats With Exceptions**S.3026 (Gianaris, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Murray, Palumbo, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.8551 (Dais)**

This bill prohibits the devocalization of dogs and cats unless the procedure is medically necessary to treat or relieve a physical illness, disease, or injury or correct a congenital abnormality suffered by the animal, that is causing or may reasonably cause the animal physical pain or harm.

Proponents: None available

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 62-0

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, Fahy, Fernandez, Harckham, Jackson, May, Murray, Palumbo, Rolison, C. 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: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Transfer-On-Death Process for Farming Implements

S.3277 (Skoufis) / A.6011 (Woerner)

This bill avoids probate by allowing family farms to transfer ownership of farming implements to a beneficiary filed in a document to the Department of Agriculture and Markets (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 purposes of this bill.

Proponents: Farm Bureau

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Expands the FreshConnect Program to Supermarkets and Grocery Stores**S.4162 (Bailey, Oberacker, Webb) / A.4515 (Hyndman)**

This bill expands the FreshConnect rebate program to participating supermarkets and grocery stores. The FreshConnect program currently provides a \$2 incentive for every \$2 of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits used at participating farmers' markets.

Proponents: Grow NYC

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: N/A

Converts the Office of Community Gardens into the Office of Urban Agriculture**S.4754 (Bailey, Comrie, May, Ramos, Rolison, Webb) / A.124 (Cruz)**

This bill converts the Office of Community Gardens into the Office of Urban Agriculture (Office), under the purview of the Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM). It would expand the types of agriculture the Office covers, update the Office's duties, modernize the relevant taskforce, and establish a website and interactive map of land available for urban agriculture.

Proponents: None available

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

Establishes the "Recovery Ready Workplace Act"

S.3740A (Fernandez, Jackson, May) / A.521 (Steck)

This bill allows an employer to receive certification through the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to become a recovery ready workplace (RRW). OASAS will work with the Department of Labor (DOL) to establish a recovery ready workplace program, that includes an application process for employers to become RRW participants, an orientation process, consultation and guidance to support applicants and current participants, outreach to stakeholders, and creation of an informational RRW program webpage on the OASAS website.

Proponents: Friends of Recovery New York; New York Committee for Occupational Safety & Health

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Amends the Opioid Settlement Law Relating to Opioid Settlement Agreements and Releases

S.6757 (Fernandez, Jackson) / A.8459 (Solages)

This bill amends the definition of statewide opioid settlement agreements to include any party. This is to clarify the intent to encompass all related entities involved in the opioid crisis who may enter into opioid settlement agreements. Accordingly, it amends the law to include those related entities as parties who can be released from future lawsuits related to illegal conduct that may have contributed to the opioid epidemic.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 44-16 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**Requires Hospitals to Distribute Updated Information on Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services and Offer Treatment 72 Hours After Diagnosis****S.489 (Fernandez, 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 referrals to be arranged 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: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Directs OASAS to Develop a Statewide Certification Process for In-Home Substance Use Disorder Treatment Service Providers**S.1812 (Fernandez, Webb) / A.4118 (Reyes)**

This legislation directs the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to develop a statewide operating certification process for entities seeking to provide in-home based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services. Applicants must show that they are able to 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

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

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

This bill requires that the Judicial Diversion Program keep the participant urinalysis results process private and confidential. It 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 33-26 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Fahy, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Problem Gambling Advisory Council**S.3632 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Webb) / A.2151 (Kelles)**

This bill establishes the Problem Gambling Advisory 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Creates Standards for Approval of Onsite 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 49-10 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Fee Schedule for OASAS Addiction Treatment Center Services**S.4950 (Harckham, Jackson) / No Same As**

This bill requires the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to publish a fee schedule for services not covered but provided at OASAS-operated addiction treatment centers (ATCs). Additionally, it prohibits ATCs from denying patients treatment services based on their inability to pay.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes an Intensive Addiction and Medical Services Integrated Services Pilot Program**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 intensive addiction and medical services integrated services to individuals who have significant addiction and medical issues.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Directs OASAS to Issue Rules and Regulations for Rural Providers**S.5105 (Harckham, Fernandez, Webb) / A.2622 (Kelles)**

This bill requires the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to promulgate rules and regulations for providers who operate in rural locations. OASAS must take into account the specific challenges faced by rural providers, such as increased and/or additional operating expenses.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Privacy of OASAS Treatment Facilities**S.5382 (Harckham) / No Same As**

This bill requires OASAS-funded chemical dependence treatment facilities and facilities funded through sources other than the mental health services facilities improvement program to be designed and constructed in a way that promotes privacy for patients. This means privacy while bathing, sleeping, using restrooms, and receiving individual counseling service. Individuals must still have access to maximum use of the facility. This would only apply to new construction.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Certain Entities to Co-Locate and Stock Opioid Antagonists with AEDs**S.5779 (Fernandez) / 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 (naloxone) by every automated external defibrillator (AED). Entities with collaborative agreements with an emergency health care provider to maintain an AED must also stock and store opioid antagonists nearby. It also requires these entities to participate as an opioid antagonist recipient, allowing any trained employee to administer an opioid antagonist for an individual experiencing an overdose.

Proponents: New York State Academy of Family Physicians

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-1 (Walczyk)

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.

BANKS

Analyst: Bobbi Barnett
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Uniform Special Deposits Act****S.4323 (Krueger) / A.5345 (Hunter)**

This bill enacts the Uniform Special Deposits Act to create rules for special deposit accounts at banks in New York. Special deposits are established for a particular purpose and a beneficiary becomes entitled to payment after a determination that a contingency has occurred. The purpose of a special deposit account is to ensure that funds deposited will be available to the individual entitled to them once their established purpose has been satisfied. The bill is meant to address several legal uncertainties surrounding special deposit accounts that have prevented them from being disbursed upon a triggering event such as the initial depositor going through bankruptcy or their assets going through probate. This law was drafted by the Uniform Law Commission, a non-partisan organization that drafts state model laws. It has been enacted by at least nine other states in 2024 and 2025.

Proponents: Uniform Law Commission, American Bar Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martins, O'Mara, Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Allows the Department of Financial Services to Regulate Unlicensed Entities**S.8408 (Krueger) / A.8804 (Bores)**

This bill allows the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to have additional oversight of financial services that are not currently licensed in this state under the Banking or Financial Services Laws. Currently, DFS has oversight of licensed entities and the ability to penalize entities operating without a license in the area of licensure. However, DFS has very limited ability to regulate financial entities that do not fall under one of the existing licensing regimes in the Banking or Financial Services Laws.

Proponents: Department of Financial Services (Departmental # 52)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**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 on its findings to the Governor and Legislature between six and seven months after the bill takes effect.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

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.

Proponents: Various legal services non-profits and foreclosure prevention organizations

Opponents: New York Bankers Association; JP Morgan Chase; NY Mortgage Bankers Associations

Senate Vote: 37-22 (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

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: 37-22 (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

Establishes Requirements for the Creation and Operation of Limited Purpose Trust Companies**S.3262 (Cooney) / A.6266 (Bores)**

This bill creates statutory requirements for the creation and operation of limited purpose trust companies in New York State. Limited purpose trust companies (LPTCs) are a type of trust authorized by the Department of Financial Services to exercise specific fiduciary powers without the power to take deposits or make loans. Limited purpose trust companies include out-of-state or foreign banking organizations seeking an expanded New York presence, insurance and securities companies seeking to conduct trust businesses through subsidiaries, and more recently those engaging in virtual currency-related activity.

Proponents: Paxos

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Licenses Consumer Debt Collectors**S.4271 (Kavanagh) / A.5537 (Forrest)**

This bill requires consumer debt collectors to obtain an annual, renewable license from the Department of Financial Services in order to conduct business in the state. The bill covers consumer debts arising from transactions with primarily a personal, family, or household purpose. The bill defines consumer debt collector as any person who engages in the business of collecting consumer debts owed to another person.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 47-12 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Ortt, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Increases the Maximum Amount of Allowable State Deposits in Community Banks**S.8406 (Sanders) / No Same As**

This bill raises the amount of money any one bank can hold in state deposits under the Community Bank Deposit Program from \$20M to \$30M. 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. Community banks part of the program need to have a demonstrated history of lending for community needs in small business, farm, community development, and home mortgage lending. By holding more in deposits, banks can then increase their lending activity. The program's deposits enable participating banks to provide more capital to small businesses in their communities, thereby stimulating local economic development.

Proponents: New York Bankers Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**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 or if such statement or representation is false, misleading, or deceptive.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 144-0

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

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 137-11

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

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Public hearing of the Senate Banks Committee. *“Is There Discrimination in the New York Home Mortgage Banking Industry?”* (March 4, 2025).

BUDGET AND REVENUE

Analyst: Gabriel Paniza
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Makes Certain Properties Eligible for the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit

S.405 (Myrie, Cleare, Webb) / A.5588 (Zinerman)

This bill amends the location requirements of the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit Program, allowing any building located in New York City that was owned by the taxpayer in 2010 and was in an eligible zip code as of 2017 to be eligible for this credit. The Historic Homeowner Tax Credit Program provides credits to homeowners who perform rehabilitation work on owner-occupied historic homes in eligible zip codes, which are those identified as being at or below 100% of the state median family income in the most recent federal census. The Senate included this bill in the One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 but it was not enacted in the Adopted Budget.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-1(Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Exempts Meals Bought with Donated Meal Points from Sales Taxes

S.2279 (Webb, May) / A.4216 (Cunningham)

This bill expands the existing sales tax exemption for food purchased by enrolled students at college and universities using a meal plan to include meals purchased by students using donated meal plan points or other approved donations to facilitate meal plan point donations.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

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

S.3330 (Cooney) / A.3141(Lunsford)

This bill requires that, for the purposes of apportionment of business income for calculating the corporate franchise tax, any amounts received with respect to wages, benefits, and other employee expenses disbursed to or for the benefit of a professional employer organizations (PEO) client's worksite employees and the related employment taxes be included in the denominator and numerator (if they are for clients based in New York) if the amounts received are included in the calculation of the business income base for any PEO, or for a combined group return including a PEO.

Proponents: Greater Rochester Chamber, Paychex

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 49-10 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 142-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Imposes a Noise Tax on Non-Essential Helicopter and Seaplane Flights in New York City
S.1140A (Gonzalez, Cleare, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger) / No Same As

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 One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Proponents: Manhattan Borough President, Brooklyn Borough President, Hudson Classical Theater Company

Opponents: Blade

Senate Vote: 35-23 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows the Transferability of the Historic Commercial Rehabilitation Credit**S.2124 (Kavanagh, May, Serrano) / No Same As**

This bill allows for the transfer of the rehabilitation of historic properties credit from the original applicant to an investor, allowing a non-profit entity to act as the pass-through to make the transfer tax-free at the federal level. The investor that gets control of the credit from the non-profit does not have the right to further transfer the credit. The Senate included this bill in the One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and language setting up a different method of transferability for the rehabilitation of historic properties credit was included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Enacted Budget.

Proponents: Preservation League of NY, NYS Association for Affordable Housing.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-1(Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Decouples State from the Treatment of Gains under the Opportunity Zones Program**S.3340 (Gianaris, Fahy, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Salazar) / 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 One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 but it was not enacted 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: 39-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

**Increases the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Credit
S.6233 (Martinez, Harckham, Jackson, Webb) / A.6790 (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 at local option a volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker property tax exemption.

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

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**Working Families Tax Credit**

S.2082 (Gounardes, Cooney, Baskin, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.3474 (Hevesi)

This bill creates the Working Families Tax Credit, replacing the existing Empire State Child Credit and the portion of the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for individuals with children that qualify for the new credit. The full benefits of this credit would phase in over five years, with the maximum refundable credit per child being equal to \$1,600 plus an inflation adjustment, and a minimum of \$100 per child, with the credit amount being inflation adjusted in the following years. When fully phased in, the program would be making advance payments to families four times a year. The Senate included this bill in the One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and the Assembly included a modified version of it into their One-House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 but it was not enacted in the Adopted Budget.

Proponents: New York City Council, The Business Council, Alliance for Quality Education; Astor Services; Catholic Guardian Services; COFCCA; Downtown Women for Change; Earthjustice; Empire Justice Center; Families Together; Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; New York State Catholic Conference, NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, Prevent Child Abuse New York; Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, et al, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, The Children's Defense Fund – New York, The Children's Defense Fund, The Education Trust—NY, The NYIC, United Neighborhood Houses, United Way of the Greater Capital Region, WCA.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Analysts: Janine Smith and Jessica Keenan
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Eliminates Anonymous Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment

S.550A (Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.66A (Hevesi)

This legislation amends existing law to eliminate anonymous reporting to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment, requiring callers to provide their name and contact information for a report to be investigated by local Child Protective Services. While the caller's identity remains confidential unless legally required, the law exempts mandated reporters from this requirement. It also ensures that callers who refuse to identify themselves are informed of confidentiality protections, alternative support options, and the legal consequences of filing false or retaliatory reports.

Proponents: Civil Service Employees Association; Legal Aid Society; Civil Service Employee Association; Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition; CCC; NYS Defenders Association; Brooklyn Defenders; Children's Defense Fund NY; JMAC for Families; NYCLU; PLAN; Children's Rights; The Children's Law Center; NYSCADV; NYC Bar Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Bynoe, Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 109-36

Maintaining a Wait List of Families Seeking Child Care Assistance

S.1926 (Persaud, Kavanagh, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.7145 (Walker)

This legislation mandates that social services districts collect and submit detailed data on child care assistance, including maintaining a waiting list for eligible families and reporting on their income levels. It aims to enhance the understanding of local demand for subsidized child care, ensuring that families receive the necessary support while preserving their anonymity.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Requires the Office of Children and Family Services to Provide Luggage to Foster Care Youth**S.3781 (Brisport, Bailey, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Jackson) / A.5434 (Hevesi)**

This legislation mandates that the Office of Children and Family Services procure, distribute, and supply durable luggage, such as suitcases, duffel bags, or backpacks, to foster children who do not already have suitable luggage. This applies to children entering foster care, moving between placements, exiting care, going to college, or in any other circumstance where luggage is necessary.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Protections to Families and Treatment Providers of Young People Receiving Gender-Affirming Care or Reproductive Health Care**S.4914B (Hoylman-Sigal, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Krueger, Liu, Rivera, Salazar, Serrano) / A.5480C (Bronson)**

This legislation extends formal protections under New York law for individuals receiving, and healthcare practitioners providing, gender-affirming care, reproductive health care, or other legally protected health activities. It restricts the enforcement of out-of-state legal actions, subpoenas, and investigations related to such care, requiring sworn affirmations under penalty of perjury and imposing fines for false statements. The legislation shields providers, attorneys, and patients from liability, professional discipline, or other legal consequences when acting within the bounds of New York law. It also ensures that minors and families cannot be penalized for accessing such care, limits extradition, protects insurance coverage, and establishes a civil cause of action for unlawful interference with protected health activities.

Proponents: Brooklyn for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Callen-Lorde Community Health Center; Community Health Care Association of NYS; National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund; NYCLU; NYS Academy of Family Physicians; NYS Association of Licensed Midwives; Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts; SAGE: National Resource Center on LGBT Aging

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 37-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 94-50

Right to Counsel in Family Court Proceedings for Violations of Child Support Orders and Establishing Paternity or Parentage

S.8197 (Brisport) A.8271 (Davila)

The legislation grants minors the right to an appointed attorney in cases involving child support violations, paternity, or proceedings related to parentage. Additionally, it provides the right to appointed counsel for all parties unable to afford legal representation in cases involving contempt, deliberate violation of a Family Court order, and paternity and parentage issues, including parties who receive notice and opt to intervene in parentage proceedings.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-5 (Borrello, Griffo, Oberacker, Rhoads, Stec)

Assembly Vote: 141- 1

Required Staff/Child Ratios for Child Care

S.278 (Skoufis) / A.612 (Hevesi)

This legislation removes statutory limitations which inhibit the ability of OCFS to modify staff-to-child ratio requirements for family/group day care, school-age, and center-based programs in order to give OCFS the ability to offer greater flexibility to providers via regulation.

Proponents: Greater Rochester Chamber; Child-care industry groups

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 147-2

Adjusts Child to Caregiver Ratios in Group Family Day Care Homes and Family Day Care Homes

S.4929 (Brouk, Jackson, Skoufis) / A.4003 (Clark)

This legislation lowers the age threshold for children requiring a higher supervision ratio being cared for in group family day care homes and family day care homes. It modifies the caregiver ratio from one caregiver for every two children under two years old to one caregiver for every two children under eighteen months old allowing providers to accommodate a higher number of children and potentially reducing staffing needs in homes with children over the age of 18 months.

Proponents: CSEA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Authorizes the Correctional Association of New York to Inspect Residential Juvenile Detention Facilities

S.7117 (Salazar, Brisport, Fernandez, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.5283-A (Dilan)

This legislation mandates that the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provide a confidential toll-free hotline for youth in secure, limited-secure, and non-secure juvenile facilities to report maltreatment and complaints about conditions. Prisoners' Legal Services (PLS) is authorized to establish this hotline and will have quarterly access to inform youths of their rights. Additionally, the Correctional Association of New York (CANY) is authorized to conduct regular inspections of all OCFS-operated juvenile facilities.

Proponents: Legal Aid Society

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 48-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

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

S.7451 (Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, May, Salazar, Sepúlveda) / 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-10 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Helming, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Relates to Inspections of Childcare Facilities**S.6225 (Rivera, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Salazar) / A.3899-A (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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Certain Forensic Child Custody Evaluators from Appearing as an Expert Witness in Family Court**S.1667 (Harckham, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Krueger, Ramos) / No Same As**

This legislation prohibits courts from considering any testimony or reports from a forensic custody evaluator who has been removed from or voluntarily left the panel of forensic custody evaluators, or who has negotiated a settlement with the panel's committee or supervisory body.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes Center for Fatherhood Initiatives**S.5228 (Bailey, Brouk, Liu) / A.1211 (Dais)**

This legislation establishes the Center for Fatherhood Initiatives within the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to support programs that promote engaged and responsible fatherhood. The Center will provide grants to initiatives that strengthen parenting skills, attitudes, and self-sufficiency, particularly in marginalized communities. The OCFS Commissioner will oversee the Center's operations and establish rules for its administration.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Custodial Interrogation of Minors**

S.878B (Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.2620A (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; BronxConnect; Gathering for Justice; HRFK-NY; NYCDS; WESPAC Foundation; Ontario County Bar Association; YouthRepresent; Visions to Opportunity; Queens Defenders; Ontario County Public Defenders; National Youth Justice Network; Monroe County Public Defenders; It Could Happen to You; Good Call; UCS; NYC Bar Association

Opponents: NYPD; New York State Sheriffs' Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 89-57

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CITIES 1

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**City Charter Commission Repeal Bumping Provision****S.590A (Krueger, Brisport, Hoylman-Sigal, Ramos, Salazar) / A.3665A (Simone)**

This bill eliminates provisions in the Municipal Home Rule Law that give procedural priority to charter reform questions proposed by a charter commission, a tactic often used by mayors to prevent competing proposals from appearing on the same ballot. Under current law, when a charter commission proposes revisions, questions submitted by a city's local legislative body or by citizen initiative can be blocked or postponed to a future election. By repealing these 'bumping' mechanisms, this legislation allows multiple, distinct charter reform proposals from different sources to be presented to voters simultaneously on the same ballot.

Proponents: New York City Council; Reinvent Albany

Opponents: New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM)

Senate Vote: 35-24 (Addabbo, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Fahy, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Stavisky, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 89-56

Retirement and Pension for New York City Police Officers' Service as Traffic Enforcement Agents**S.6988A (Jackson, Chan, Comrie, Harckham, Liu, Mattera, Palumbo, Parker, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis) / A.1778C (Rajkumar)**

This bill amends the Administrative Code of New York City by adding a new section that permits members of New York City's Police Department (NYPD) to receive retirement and pension benefits based on service as traffic enforcement agents.

Proponents: African American Clergy and Elected Officials; Bangladeshi American Police Association; Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island; Greater Zion Hill Baptist; Guardians Association of the NYPD; Haitian American Law Enforcement Fraternal Organization; Harlem Mothers and Fathers; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; NYPD Hispanic Society; Policewomen's Endowment Association; Traffic Squad Benevolent Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Parkland Alienation, Ferry Point Park**S.7049A (Fernandez) / A.7514A (Benedetto)**

This bill authorizes New York City to alienate and sell parklands within Ferry Point Park to Bally's New York Operating Company, LLC for the purpose of constructing a gaming facility.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Save the Sound

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Brisport, Cleare, Krueger, Mayer)

Assembly Vote: 127-5

Parkland Alienation, Flushing Meadows Corona Park**S.7121A (Liu) / A.6781B (Hooks)**

This bill authorizes New York City to alienate and sell parklands within Flushing Meadows Corona Park to Queens Future, LLC for the purpose of constructing a gaming facility.

Proponents: Hotel and Gaming Trades Council; IBEW; Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry et al

Opponents: Save the Sound

Senate Vote: 54-5 (Addabbo, Brisport, Cleare, Krueger, Ramos)

Assembly Vote: 134-11

Amend the New York City REAP and Establish RACE**S.8063A (Gounardes, Bailey, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Jackson, Liu, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Stavisky, Sutton) / A.8676 (Lee)**

This bill modifies a 2025-26 Executive Budget proposal originally requested by New York City to extend and create business tax credit programs aimed at encouraging office occupancy in New York City. It extends two key existing tax credit programs for three years, until July 1, 2028: the Relocation and Employment Assistance Program (REAP), which incentivizes businesses to move jobs to the outer boroughs or Upper Manhattan, and the Lower Manhattan REAP (LM REAP).

Additionally, the bill establishes the new Relocation Assistance Credit per Employee (RACE) program for three years. RACE provides a tax credit of \$5,000 per employee for companies moving into New York City and signing leases in buildings issued a certificate of occupancy before the year 2000. This legislation modifies the Executive Budget proposal by lowering the minimum eligible office space from 20,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet, expanding the pool of potential applicants.

Proponents: Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 143-4

Extends NYC's Joint Bidding Authorization for Lower Manhattan**S.8404 (Sepúlveda) / A.8679 (Burke)**

This bill extends New York City's authority to use joint bidding for utility relocation work in Lower Manhattan on public construction projects for one year until December 31, 2026. This authority, established by the Coordinated Construction Act for Lower Manhattan in the wake of the September 11th attacks streamlines redevelopment, allows City and state agencies to include necessary work on privately-owned utility infrastructure (such as energy and telecommunications lines) within the same construction bid as a public works project, promoting efficiency and coordination. While the bill was initially extended for 10 years in 2014, it received a one-year extension last year, as New York City, the contractors, and the utilities continue discussions on how the program should operate.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Extends NYC's Citywide Joint Bidding Authorization**S.8405 (Sepúlveda) / A.8678 (Burke)**

This bill extends for one year, until December 31, 2026, New York City's authority for citywide joint bidding on publicly owned capital projects. This bill is similar to S.8404 but applies to the entire City.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Lanza, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Prohibition of the Sale of ATVs and Off-Highway Motorcycles in New York City****S.2436 (Krueger, Fernandez, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson) / No Same As**

This bill 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: 38-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

10-year Extender to Allow Joint Bidding to Continue

S.8414 (Sepúlveda) / No Same As

This bill extends New York City's ability to use joint bidding for utility relocation work on publicly owned capital projects and on Lower Manhattan public work projects pursuant to the Coordinated Construction Act for 10 years, extending the authorization until December 31, 2035. The current sunset is December 31, 2025 for citywide joint bidding and Lower Manhattan joint bidding. The Senate and the Assembly passed one-year extenders.

Proponents: New York City

Opponents: Verizon; NYC Roadway Contractors

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CITIES 2

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Lincoln Park Parkland Alienation in Albany****S.7744A (Fahy) / A.8342A (Romero)**

This legislation amends an existing parkland alienation in Lincoln Park in order to enable the City to transfer the property for other educational purposes, after the Sunshine School's departure in 2011.

Proponents: City of Albany; NYSUT

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 123-10

Color Gardens Parkland Alienation in Yonkers**S.8271 (Stewart-Cousins) / A.8677 (Shimsky)**

This legislation authorizes the City of Yonkers to alienate and sell parklands to St. John's Riverside Hospital for the purpose of restoring the Color Gardens once present on the Untermeyer estate for residents and visitors of the City of Yonkers to enjoy.

Proponents: City of Yonkers

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 125-11

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

Provides that Collective Bargaining Agreements Shall Govern Layoff Rights if they Exceed the Rights Afforded by Section 80 of the Civil Service Law

S.12 (Jackson) / A.779 (Pheffer Amato)

Civil Service Law (CVS) Section 80 governs how public employers can suspend, demote, or abolish positions. This bill provides that no provision of Section 80 of the Civil Service Law may modify, replace, or supersede a collective bargaining agreement that provides for greater rights than required by such section. This would ensure that Section 80 serves as the floor for layoff rights, not the ceiling, and would allow employers and unions to negotiate layoff rights that exceed what is codified in the current law.

Proponents: AFL-CIO, CSEA

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Authorizes the Removal of Police Officer Candidates from an Eligible List When Certain Requirements Are Not Met

S.946 (Jackson, Cooney, Cleare) / A.3295 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill authorizes the removal of a police officer candidate from an eligible civil service list if the candidate fails to meet psychological fitness requirements or lacks good moral character standards.

Candidates must meet specific physical and mental fitness requirements to become eligible for a police officer position. However, there is currently no statute or regulation that disqualifies a candidate who fails their psychological screening from eligibility for an officer position. This bill authorizes the appointing authority to compel the local civil service director to remove such candidates from the eligible list.

Proponents: The New York State Sheriffs' Association (NYSSA), New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 120-27

Court Officer Tier VI Benefit Enhancement**S.8207 (Jackson) / A.8801 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill allows Tier VI uniformed court officers or peace officers employed by the Unified Court System to participate in 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 or more. This bill also reduces the normal retirement age for these members from 63 to 62, and lessens the reductions in benefits for those who retire before the normal retirement age.

Proponents: The Public Employees Conference (PEC)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Death Gamble Benefit for New York City Transit Authority Members**S.6640 (Gounardes Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, Liu, Martinez, Parker, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.6784 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill modifies the in-service death benefit for retirement-eligible positions to New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) members. Typically, if a member of a retirement system dies prior to retirement, their beneficiaries are eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit. If a member dies post-retirement and opts for an allowance option, their designated beneficiaries are eligible for a monthly benefit, payable for the remainder of the beneficiary's lifetime. This bill automatically deems NYCTA members as retired if the member dies while in service, and allows their beneficiary to select either a lump-sum death benefit or the monthly retirement benefit, whichever is greater. This enhanced benefit option is referred to as the "Death Gamble" benefit. The in-service death benefit will be the value of the pension reserve as if the member had retired on their date of death.

Proponents: Transport Workers Union (TWU), NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Prohibits Changes to Hearing Officer Recommendations for Managerial and Confidential Employees****S.1540 (Jackson, Webb) / A.3332 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill prohibits a hearing officer's recommendation regarding the disciplinary action of designated managerial and confidential (M/C) employees from being subject to change or modification. Designated M/C employees may be removed from their positions or face other disciplinary actions after the hearing is held. An employer may reject the hearing officer's recommendation and impose its own sanctions, including termination, upon the employee. This bill requires that the recommendation of a hearing officer regarding designated M/C employees be considered final and not subject to change or modification by an employer.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO, The Organization of NYS Management/Confidential Employees Inc. (OMCE)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Permits New York State Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS) Retirees To Change Beneficiaries Post-Retirement**S.6258 (Skoufis) / A.3416 (Conrad)**

This bill permits NYSTRS retirees to change their retirement plan beneficiary to a spouse at any time, before or after retirement. Members may currently only change their beneficiaries before retirement.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Increases The Earnings Limitation For Retired Members Who Return To Work In Public Employment

S.6956B (C. Ryan, Addabbo, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Martinez, Mayer, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Webb) / A.8720A (Stirpe)

This bill increases the retiree earnings limitation from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year for retired members who return to work in positions of public employment for 2025 and thereafter.

Proponents: NYS Association of Counties; NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

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.

CODES

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Requiring Institutions Housing Defendants To Provide Resources Prior to Defendants' Discharge****S.1744A (Hoylman-Sigal, Addabbo, Krueger) / A.2440A (Simone)**

This bill requires facilities housing individuals in criminal cases that are dismissed due to a finding of mental disease or defect to assign a critical time intervention care management team to the individual prior to their discharge. The assigned team will be responsible for connecting the individual with supportive services and resources located in the county of their most recent residence.

Proponents: Alvin Bragg, NY County District Attorney; Center for Urban Community Services; Midtown Community Improvement Coalition; Times Square Alliance

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Temporary Custody of Firearms by Law Enforcement**S.1985A (Harckham, Fahy, Jackson) / A.544B (Paulin)**

This bill authorizes law enforcement officers to temporarily take custody of firearms for up to 120 hours when responding to a domestic violence incident, but only if the firearms are either in plain view or discovered during a consensual or otherwise lawful search. Officers are not permitted to conduct independent searches specifically for firearms and may only seize weapons that are visible or lawfully discovered, such as through a valid search warrant. After firearms or weapons are held for 120 hours (five days), law enforcement can either return the weapon or firearm to the owner or hold onto it if the owner is unable to accept them. If the owner is subject to an order of protection, the owner would not be legally permitted to take the firearms back while the order of protection is pending.

Proponents: The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 93-46

Requires Training for Police Officers and Child Protective Services Workers Related to Sexual Assault**S.2295 (Bailey, Webb) / A.5206 (Reyes)**

This bill requires police officers and child protective services workers to be trained on properly assisting victims of sexual assault. Under this bill, training requirements for police officers would be in collaboration with rape crisis centers in New York State. Police officers would receive training instruction for crimes involving sexual assaults, including but not limited to; rape and sexual abuse trauma and psychological issues; common attributes of offenders; fair treatment standards for crime victims; evidence gathering and preservation; and intervention techniques and information of available local services for victims of crime.

The bill also requires that all new officers receive the training while in the police academy as well as staff at Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

Grants Immunity to Persons Engaged in Prostitution When Witnesses or Victims of Crime
S.3967B (Sepúlveda, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Harkham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Mattera, May, Murray, Myrie, O'Mara, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Serrano) / A.1029B (Kelles)

This bill allows for immunity from criminal charges for persons engaged in prostitution when they are witnesses to or victims of a crime and report and assist in the investigation of that crime.

This bill would prohibit the prosecution of certain prostitution offenses (Prostitution, Prostitution in a School Zone, and Permitting Prostitution) when the sexually exploited person is a victim of or witness to a crime, and either reports the crime, seeks out health care as a result of the crime, or aids or attempts to aid in the investigation of the crime. The offenses covered by this bill are Class B (punishable by up to three months in jail) and Class A misdemeanors (punishable by up to 364 days in jail). The prostitution offense must have occurred close in time to the reported crime, or in circumstances reasonably related to the reported crime.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 138-0

Expands Candidate Pool for Judges Presiding Over Youth Part Courts**S.8196 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.8890 (Burroughs)**

This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Courts to select judges to preside over youth part courts who have experience with juvenile delinquency proceedings or adolescent or juvenile offender proceedings in superior courts. Adding these qualifications expands the pool from which the Chief Administrator of the Courts can choose Youth Part judges, allowing the Chief Administrator to select from practitioners who have worked with youths in juvenile delinquency or youth criminal proceedings and not just choosing from other judges who may have limited to zero experience with youth-involved proceedings.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Extends the Statute of Limitations of Criminal and Civil Actions Related to Sex Trafficking and Sex Trafficking of a Child****S.116 (Cleare, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Fernandez, Helming, Jackson, Krueger, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Myrie, Palumbo, Rolison, Salazar, Weber) / A.2575 (Dinowitz)**

This bill eliminates the criminal statute of limitations for the crimes of sex trafficking and sex trafficking of a child and extends the statute of limitations for civil actions for sex trafficking, and allows for the revival of civil actions previously time barred.

Currently, survivors of child sex trafficking have only five years to file a civil lawsuit. This bill extends that window, allowing civil actions alleging physical, psychological, or other injury stemming from sex trafficking, whether involving minors or adults, to be initiated up to 20 years after the conduct occurred. This bill also creates a retroactive "look-back window" to revive time-barred claims. After the bill takes effect, survivors will have a one-year period, beginning six months after enactment, during which they can revive previously time-barred claims, including those dismissed due to expired deadlines or lack of notice-of-claim, and bring new lawsuits.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: None

Ten Day Waiting Period for Firearms**S.362 (Gianaris, Bailey, Brouk, Fernandez, May, Mayer, Ramos, Sepúlveda) / A.3233 (Lavine)**

This bill requires firearms purchasers to wait ten days between the purchase and the actual possession of the firearm. This waiting period allows for a "cooling off period" which has shown to reduce impulsive violent acts with a firearm. Anyone who violates this ten day waiting period could face a Class A misdemeanor charge.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Twenty Four Hour Limit on Detention of Individuals**S.660 (Gianaris, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, Rivera, Salazar, Serrano, Stavisky) / No Same As**

This bill caps the detention of a defendant individual at 24 hours and creates the rebuttable presumption that any time beyond 24 hours was avoidable, unnecessary, and unlawful. It further requires cities with a population of one million or more to establish a searchable, online registry of persons taken into custody by a police department accessible to defender organizations.

Proponents: United Neighborhood Houses

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-25 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Restoration Services for Defendants When Deemed Incapacitated to Stand Trial**S.1004A (Brouk, Fahy, O'Mara, Rivera, Walczyk, Webb) / A.5567A (Simon)**

This bill provides restoration services, including medication support and rehabilitation services for individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial to determine whether, after providing those services, the individual would then be restored to competency. If the individual is restored, the court can proceed with the criminal case but has the option to dismiss the case in the interest of justice.

Proponents: NYS Association of Counties; NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-8 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows for Written Jury Instructions Upon Request**S.1285A (Persaud, Gallivan, Jackson, Rolison, Skoufis, Webb) / A.1471 (Simon)**

This bill allows juries to receive written instructions, which are typically delivered orally, on the elements of any offense, defense, or affirmative defense when requested by the jury. It also allows attorneys to review these written instructions and introduce them as exhibits. Currently, when serving on a jury, the court only provides oral instructions to jurors and jurors are not allowed to take notes. For complex cases with multiple charges and defendants, this can mean that jurors have to remember the elements for numerous complex charges and the defense for each charge without any notes or written guides. To address this issue, this bill allows for written jury instructions, upon request, regarding the elements of any offense, defense, or affirmative defense.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Study of Personalized Firearms Technological Viability by Division of Criminal Justice Services**S.1455A (Kavanagh, Fernandez) / A.1191A (Bores)**

This bill authorizes the Division of Criminal Justice Services to study and report on the technological viability of personalized handguns. "Personalized handgun" is defined as a pistol or revolver with permanent programmable features within the handgun which makes it usable only by the lawful, authorized owner.

DCJS must first study and investigate what makes these handguns "personalized," then establish standards and criteria required to certify a handgun as "personalized." Once DCJS finalizes these "personalization" standards and criteria, it must report the results of the study to the governor, the Temporary President and minority leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and minority leader of the Assembly.

Proponents: Everytown for Gun Safety

Opponents: None Available

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

Expands Definition of Crime of Falsely Reporting an Incident in First and Second Degrees S.4776 (C. Ryan, Cooney, Gallivan, Helming, Murray, Palumbo, Rhoads) / A.3621 (Jones)

This bill adds to the definition of Falsely Reporting an Incident the use of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument. A person can be prosecuted for calling police and falsely reporting that there is a weapon or bomb at the scene, commonly known as "swatting."

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**“Francesco’s Law”**

S.3385A (Hoylman-Sigal, Bailey, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Myrie, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky) / A.1962B (Anderson)

This bill establishes a violation for failing to safely store firearms and also creates a new offense, Failure to Safely Store Rifles, Shotguns, and Firearms When Accessible to Minors and Prohibited Persons, which is classified as an A misdemeanor. A person is guilty of failure to safely store rifles, shotguns, and firearms accessible to a minor or a prohibited person when that person improperly stores a firearm in a place where they know or should know that a minor or someone legally prohibited from possessing a firearm could access it, and that individual does gain access to the weapon. Lastly, the bill requires the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to collect data relating to injuries and deaths resulting from failures to safely store firearms.

Proponents: Brady United Against Gun Violence;Everytown for Gun Safety;New York School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None - Committed to Rules

Assembly Vote: 93-46

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Prohibition on Pistol Converters and Convertible Pistols**

S.399A (Myrie, Addabbo, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Mayer, Salazar, Stavisky) / A.199A (Solages)

This bill prohibits the sale of pistol converters, commonly known as “Glock switches,” which easily and quickly convert semi-automatic pistols into fully automatic machine guns. It further penalizes as a Class D felony the transport or shipment of any convertible pistol.

Proponents: Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., NY County District Attorney;Everytown for Gun Safety;Various Faith Leaders;Various Mayors of NY;Vet Voice Foundation

Opponents: National Shooting Sports Foundation

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Second Look Act

S.158 (Salazar, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Felder, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.1283 (Walker)

This bill allows individuals convicted of a felony offense to apply for a sentence reduction. Incarcerated individuals are eligible to apply, regardless of their crime of conviction, if they have served at least ten years of a sentence or at least half of their minimum sentence if the minimum is at least ten years. It further authorizes the original sentencing court to have a hearing on the resentencing, and the court may consider factors such as the nature of the crime, any treatment or training the individual has participated in, good behavior while incarcerated, and the age at which the crime was committed, when deciding on resentencing.

Proponents: Common Justice, et al;DC37 --No Memo;The Fortune Society; Vera Institute; S.321: 2024 National Alliance on Mental Illness Orange County NY; Court of Appeals Chief Judge Rowan Wilson

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**State Beer, Cider, Liquor, and Mead Retailer Awards****S.7423 (May, Oberacker) / A.03922 (Stirpe)**

This bill creates awards similar to the “New York State Wine Retailers Awards” for beers, ciders, liquors, and mead, titled the "New York State Beer Retailers Awards," "New York State Cider Retailer Awards," "New York State Liquor Retailers Awards," and "New York State Mead Retailers Awards." The bill authorizes the Governor to issue up to three awards annually for each type of beverage. This bill also directs the Department of Economic Development to work with the Department of Agriculture and Markets and State Liquor Authority to encourage the production and sale of New York-labelled beers, ciders, liquors, and mead.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Creates a Plan to Develop Harriman Campus****S.1613-A (Fahy) / A.5918-A (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 road rings and allow the campus to reintegrate with the surrounding neighborhoods, and analyze the parking needs for the Wadsworth Project.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-5 (Griffo, Oberacker, Rhoads, Weber, Weik)

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: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Small Business Compliance Guide**S.6023 (Baskin) / No Same As**

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: 57-0

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

Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Tax Credit**S.6756A (Hoylman-Sigal, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, May, C. Ryan) / A.7567 (Woerner)**

This bill includes public television corporation, radio corporation, or not-for-profit corporation in the term "business entity" that is used for determining eligibility for the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program, allowing these entities to claim this credit. These types of public broadcasters are currently ineligible for this program.

Proponents: The News Guild of NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Increasing the Amount of Liquor Licenses One Person May Be Granted****S.7909 (Skoufis) / A.8547 (Cunningham)**

This bill increases the amount of general licenses granted to a single person to sell liquor and wine at retail for consumption off premises from one license to two.

Proponents: Business Council, NY Cheers 4 Change

Opponents: Various wine and liquor store license holders

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Fostering Affordability and Integrity Through Reasonable (FAIR) Business Practices Act S.8416 (Comrie, Bailey, Brouk, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Persaud, Rivera, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Skoufis, Webb) / A.8427-A (Lasher)**

This legislation expands New York’s current Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices (UDAP) statute by formally including “unfair” and “abusive” acts or practices as unlawful acts for which the Attorney General can bring an action or a proceeding. Under the bill, an act is considered unfair if it causes or is likely to cause substantial injury that is not reasonably avoidable by consumers and not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition. An act is deemed abusive if it materially interferes with a person’s understanding of a product or service’s terms or takes unreasonable advantage of the person’s lack of understanding, inability to protect their own interests, or reasonable reliance on the other party.

The bill also broadens the Attorney General’s enforcement authority, permitting actions against individuals or businesses outside the state in certain circumstances, as well as allowing them to pursue cases involving solely business to business transactions.

Proponents: OAG (Departmental); Small Business Majority; 32BJ SEIU; Consumer Reports; National Consumer Law Center; Lifespan Rochester; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; Legal Aid Society; Mobilization for Justice; Hispanic Federation; Institute for College Access & Support; Center for Elder Law and Justice; Legal Services NYC; CFPB Union NTEU 335; The Western New York Law Center; Student Borrower Protection Center; AARP

Opponents: Fair Deal NY; Business Council

Senate Vote: 37-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cooney, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 91-50

Prohibits the Sale of Certain Infant Walkers**S.123 (Cleare, Fahy, Webb) / A.268 (Paulin)**

This bill prohibits the sale of certain kinds of infant walkers in New York state and prohibits a child care facility from using or having on the premises any infant walker unless a medical professional has determined that use of an infant walker is medically necessary for a particular child.

The kind of infant walker this bill proposes to ban is a fully enclosed mobile unit with a seated area and wheeled base that enables a child to move when propelled by such child while seated or standing within that enclosed unit

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Gallivan, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 91-49

Regulates Third Party Litigation Financing**S.1104A (Cooney, Borrello, Helming, Myrie, Palumbo, Rhoads, Sepúlveda) / A.804C (Magnarelli)**

This legislation regulates consumer litigation funding transactions by subjecting them to oversight by the Department of State and establishing a comprehensive framework for disclosure, licensing, responsibilities, limitations, violations, ethics, and reporting.

Proponents: Alliance for Responsible Consumer Legal Funding; Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 143-1

Establishes a Right of Action for Claims Arising out of Coerced Debts**S.1353B (Cleare, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Myrie, Salazar, Webb) / A.3038B (Rosenthal)**

This bill aims to protect individuals—especially survivors of domestic abuse—from being held responsible for “coerced debt,” which refers to debt incurred through abuse, fraud, or manipulation. It allows victims to notify creditors with documentation and a sworn statement identifying the debt as coerced. Creditors must pause collection while reviewing the claim and notify credit agencies that the debt is disputed. They must respond within 30 business days and cannot contact the alleged abuser or use unauthorized means of contact. Survivors can appeal decisions and have the right to sue creditors who violate the law, seeking damages and legal fees. The bill also permits courts to declare a debt coerced and block future collection attempts. It clarifies that the abuser does not need to be part of legal action against the creditor, though separate action against them is allowed.

Proponents: New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Opponents: Creditors’ Bar Association

Senate Vote: 51-11 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-50

Limits Locals Ability to Impose Fines for False Alarms by Alarm Systems**S.4328 (Cooney) / A.3343 (Bronson)**

This bill amends the General Business Law to allow a municipality to enact, adopt or enforce ordinances, resolutions or regulations requiring any alarm system company to pay for or be responsible for any fines, fees or other penalties relative to false alarms only when the false alarm is attributed to a deficiency in the alarm system or an error of the alarm system company or central station.

Proponents: Electronic Security Association; Vivint; The Monitoring Association; Security Industry Alarm Coalition; Security Industry Association; ADT Security Services

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Disclosure of Pricing Changes for Online Grocery Delivery/Pickup Services**S.4433A (Skoufis, Fahy, May, Webb) / A.1096B (Magnarelli)**

This bill requires that food retailers and third-party delivery platforms clearly and conspicuously provide a pricing policy that discloses whether or not the online price of products is the same as the store price. The disclosure must indicate if the online price is higher or lower than the in-store price. For delivery platforms, the disclosure must use the prices most recently provided to it by the food retailer.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: DoorDash; Food Industry Alliance of New York

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Borrello, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Bans Charging Subscription Fee For Certain Car Functions After A Vehicle Is Sold**S.5708 (Skoufis) / A.1095 (Magnarelli)**

This bill aims to protect consumers from post-purchase charges for built-in vehicle features by prohibiting 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. While it still allows for software updates, it bars manufacturers from charging for those that fix safety defects. This measure responds to the growing concern regarding automakers monetizing features like heated seats or advanced driving systems via subscriptions. Violations could result in civil penalties of up to \$250 per point-of-sale incident.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 144-0

Assembly Vote: 57-2 (Borrello, Gallivan)

Prohibition of Unfair Real Estate Service Agreements**S.6361B (Bailey, Comrie, Gonzalez, Jackson) / A.5886C (Cruz)**

This bill is designed to protect homeowners from misleading and long-term real estate service contracts, like "Right to List" agreements, that offer small upfront payments in exchange for the exclusive right to list a property for decades, sometimes up to 40 years. These deals often carry hidden terms that can trap homeowners (and their heirs) into paying hefty penalties later, even if they choose a different agent to sell the home. Under the bill, these "unfair real estate service agreements" would be unenforceable in New York. If such a contract is recorded with the property, it would no longer have legal standing against future buyers or creditors who did not know about it. The bill allows anyone with an interest in the affected property to go to court and get the contract voided. It also makes it a violation of New York's deceptive practices law for anyone who enters into or causes someone to enter into one of these agreements.

Proponents: AARP; New York State Land Title Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 54-4 (Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Requiring Advertisements To Disclose The Use Of A Synthetic Performer**S.8420A (Gianaris) / A.8887B (Rosenthal)**

This legislation requires businesses that create advertisements using synthetic performers created using artificial intelligence to disclose such use clearly and conspicuously within the advertisement. The requirement applies to all media formats where a person, with actual knowledge, uses a synthetic performer for commercial purposes to advertise goods or services, except audio-only advertisements and cases where AI is used solely for language translation and advertisements for expressive works—such as films, television shows, documentaries, and video games—where the synthetic performer appears in a manner consistent with their use in the work itself.

Proponents: SAG-AFTRA; New York Broadcasters

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 92-49

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

The Twenty-First Century Anti-Trust Act

S.335 (Gianaris, Salazar, Gonzalez, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, May, C. Ryan, Sepúlveda) / 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 established 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 class action right, and upgrading 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

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

Assembly Vote: None

New York Junk Fee Prevention Act**S.363A (Gianaris, Skoufis, Brisport, Brouk, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, May, Ramos, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.6663A (Lee)**

This bill requires all businesses operating in the state to clearly and conspicuously display the total price of any good or service in every advertisement or offer. The total price must include all mandatory fees a consumer must pay to complete the transaction. These are costs that are required, not reasonably avoidable, or added by default, and that a reasonable consumer would expect to be part of the purchase. Certain charges, such as taxes, optional delivery fees disclosed in advance, or nominal pre-authorization fees, are excluded.

The bill gives enforcement power to both the Attorney General and consumers. The AG may seek injunctions for violations without needing to prove anyone was misled or harmed. Consumers also have a private right of action, with potential recovery of actual damages, up to \$500 per unintentional violation, or up to \$1,000 if the violation was knowing or willful, along with attorney's fees. Pre-dispute arbitration clauses and waivers of this law are deemed invalid. Exemptions apply to specific sectors already governed by other laws, and the bill includes clarifications for auctions, short-term lodging, and advertisements listing multiple total prices.

Proponents: American Economic Liberties Project

Opponents: American Financial Services Association; Business Council

Senate Vote: 45-14 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Martins, Mattera, Ortt, Palumbo, 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 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 to 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 (AG) no later than 30 days after entering into the agreement. Within 60 days of receiving the disclosures, the AG must post such notice on its website in a format and manner developed by the AG 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: None Available

Opponents: Business Council

Senate Vote: 46-16 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, 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 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: 43-16 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Labeling Requirements For Gas Stoves

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

This legislation requires sellers of gas stoves to display outside of their packaging or carry a removable label on the packaging itself that clearly displays a warning message that gas stoves can release nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide at levels exceeding the EPA's standards for outdoor air quality, which can exacerbate respiratory illnesses or lead to the development of asthma, particularly in children. This label must be prominently located and a size no smaller than the largest type size of other information on the label. The Department of State is authorized to adopt regulations regarding the placement and format of labels, signs, and posters to ensure compliance with these requirements. Violations of the policy result in escalating penalties. For the first violation, the violator will receive a warning notice. The second violation incurs a civil penalty not exceeding \$250, and any subsequent violations within the same calendar year will result in a civil penalty not exceeding \$1,000. Before any civil penalty is assessed, the violator must be provided with a hearing or an opportunity to be heard.

Proponents: Climate Reality Project

Opponents: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

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

Assembly Vote: None

Consumer Wheelchair Repair Bill of Rights Act

S.4500A (Fahy, Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Jackson, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.6569A (Bores)

This legislation requires powered wheelchair manufacturers in New York State to provide independent repair providers and owners with fair access to documentation, parts, and tools needed for repairs. Manufacturers cannot impose extra contracts, restrict quantities, or require unnecessary account sign-ups, and must not use software locks to block legitimate repairs if the owner consents. Trade secrets and legally protected information remain exempt, and manufacturers are only liable for damages from independent repairs if caused by design or production defects.

The bill includes "Killian's Law," mandating wheelchair repairs be completed within ten days, with temporary wheelchairs provided if repairs take over thirty days. It also requires accessible communication for repair requests, prompt ordering of parts, and timely responses. The Office of the Chief Disability Officer will track complaints and report publicly. Medicaid billing procedures must support adequate wheelchair service access, the minimum warranty period is extended to two years, and repairs within five years of prescription are considered medically necessary without new prescriptions or prior authorization.

Proponents: Community Service Society of New York

Opponents: Clinician Task Force; National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Expands Right To Repair Act

S.4655 (Fahy) / A.8405 (Romero)

This legislation amends the Digital Fair Repair Act by revising definitions, expanding the scope of covered equipment, and striking several exemptions and limitations. It redefines "authorized repair provider" to include original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that offer diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services for their own products, thereby requiring OEMs to comply with the same standards they impose on their repair partners, including documentation, parts availability, and service obligations. The bill changes the effective date for covered equipment from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2021, thereby subjecting a broader array of digital electronic products to the law's requirements.

Previously agreed-to exemptions are eliminated under the new bill, including those for equipment sold under business-to-business and business-to-government contracts and for home appliances with embedded electronics, such as ovens, refrigerators, and HVAC units. The bill also removes the provision allowing OEMs to offer only pre-assembled parts when safety risks are present, ensuring access to individual components regardless of perceived complexity. Additionally, it narrows the exemption for commercial and industrial electrical equipment to specifically “outside the meter” items, tightening the statute’s exclusions and further broadening its applicability.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Entertainment Software Association; Consumer Technology Association

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Borrello, Hareckham, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Stop Deepfakes Act

S.6954A (Gounardes) / A.6540C Bores

This legislation establishes requirements for synthetic content creations system providers and hosting platforms to apply and preserve provenance data for synthetic content generated or modified by synthetic content creations systems. Under the legislation, provenance data must be applied by the provider, either directly or through third-party technology, and must identify the digital content as synthetic while communicating specific provenance information. This includes, at a minimum, that the content was created or edited using artificial intelligence, the name of the synthetic content creations system provider, the time and date the provenance data was applied, the specific portions of the content that were generated, and the type of device, system, or service used. Synthetic content creations system hosting platforms that make such systems available for use by New York residents are prohibited from making available any synthetic content creations system where the hosting platform knows that the provider does not apply provenance data in accordance with the requirements of the legislation. Hosting platforms are also prohibited from deliberately preventing a synthetic content creations system provider from applying required provenance data to synthetic content.

The legislation further prohibits social media platforms from deleting, disassociating, or degrading provenance data associated with uploaded content, except when such content is permanently deleted or where such deletion, disassociation, or degradation is required by law. The legislation directs state agencies to ensure, to the extent practicable, either directly or through third-party technology, that all audio, images, and videos published or distributed electronically by the agency carry provenance data. The Attorney General is authorized to enforce the provisions of this article, and a court may impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 dollars per violation.

Proponents: NYS PEF; SAG-AFTRA; Adobe

Opponents: Tech:NYC

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Government Response to Insider Fraud and Trading Act (GRIFT Act)

S.7494A (Gianaris, Krueger, May) / A.8016A (Lasher)

This legislation creates whistleblower incentives and protections for reporting securities fraud and financial services violations. It establishes two award programs—one run by the Attorney General and one by the Department of Financial Services—offering whistleblowers 10–30% of monetary sanctions over \$1 million when their original information leads to successful enforcement actions. The award percentage depends on factors like the value of the information and the assistance provided. The legislation also bans employer retaliation against whistleblowers, providing remedies such as reinstatement, double back pay, and compensation for legal costs. Retaliation claims must be filed within six years of the retaliatory act or three years from when the whistleblower learned of it, but no later than ten years after the violation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 52-7 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Expands The Lemon Law To Include Commercial Vehicles

S.5597 (May) / A.3541 (Rajkumar)

This bill amends New York's General Business Law §198-a, also known as the New Car Lemon Law, by expanding its protections beyond individual consumers to include purchasers who use vehicles primarily for commercial or business purposes. Currently, the law covers only vehicles bought, leased, or registered in New York for personal use and that experience substantial defects within two years or 18,000 miles. Under the amendment, the term "consumer" is replaced with "purchaser" throughout the statute, and the definition of purchaser is broadened to include commercial entities.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Kratom Package Labeling**S.8285 (Skoufis) / A.5852A (Steck)**

This bill requires that each package of any kratom product sold or delivered by a manufacturer within the state on or after January 1, 2026 must have a warning that such product lacks federal Food and Drug Administration approval as well as discussing Kratom's known side effects. The warning must be in no less than 12 point font type and in a color in contrast with the package. The warning must give the following statement: "WARNING This product has not been approved by the FDA. Side effects may include nausea, agitation, hallucinations, difficulty breathing, liver damage, and death."

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**Requiring Bicycles Advertised for Sale or Resale to Have an Identifying Partial Serial Number and Photograph****S.1541A (May) / A.852B (Paulin)**

This legislation amends bicycle identification requirements by mandating that any bicycle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1989, and advertised for resale in New York State must include at least one photograph and a minimum of four digits of its serial number, displayed clearly and conspicuously in the advertisement. This requirement applies to any entity that offers or advertises such bicycles for sale or resale, including third-party sellers using an online marketplace. However, the owner or operator of the online marketplace is not subject to this law unless they are also the seller. The Secretary of State is authorized to issue an initial written warning to any person or entity that fails to comply with the advertising provisions. The warning must specify the steps necessary for compliance. If a party continues to violate the requirements after receiving the warning, the Secretary of State may assess a civil penalty not exceeding \$250 for each noncompliant point of sale.

Proponents: PeopleForBikes

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 120-27

Prohibiting The Sale Of Xylazine**S.7668A (Fernandez) / A.124B (Tapia)**

This bill prohibits businesses or individuals doing business with the state from selling 50 grams or more xylazine without proof of the intended use for institutional or scientific purposes. It also bans these businesses and individuals from selling xylazine to those under 21. Further the bill 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 no more than \$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: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Fashion Environment Accountability Act****S.4558B (Hoylman-Sigal, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Rivera, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.4631B (Kelles)**

This legislation imposes comprehensive due diligence and environmental accountability requirements on fashion sellers operating in New York. A "fashion seller" is defined as a business entity with annual gross receipts exceeding \$100 million from clothing, footwear, or fashion bags, or a digital marketplace where at least half of sales volume is derived from these categories, including private-label brands. Fashion sellers must map and disclose their supply chains across all tiers on a phased timeline. Fashion sellers are further required to align with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and related due diligence guidance for the garment and footwear sector. This includes identifying and addressing environmental risks in the supply chain, adopting responsible pricing and contracting practices, and implementing mitigation and remediation strategies.

Proponents: American Academy of Pediatrics; Citizen Action of New York; Climate Rights International; Cotopaxi; EarthDay.org; Eileen Fisher; Environmental Advocates NY; Faherty; NY Communities for Change; NY League of Conservation Voters; Patagonia; Reformation; Rothys; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Stand Earth; The Climate Reality Project (NYS Coalition); Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative; UPROSE

Opponents: Retail Council of New York State; American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Certain Unlawfully Deceptive Acts Or Practices Involving Environmental Marketing Claims

S.841 (May) / A.4013 (Simone)

This bill makes specific conduct unlawfully deceptive acts or practices, including making untruthful, deceptive, or misleading environmental marketing claims, such as through paltering or reputational advertising that misrepresents the environmental impact of a business, product, or service. Additionally, the bill targets misleading net zero claims, including those that fail to specify which portions of an entity's emissions portfolio are covered, that obscure distinctions between emissions reductions and offsetting strategies, or that lack substantiating plans or actions.

Proponents: Center for Climate Integrity

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Exempting Taxes From Interchange Fees Calculations

S.5587 (Skoufis, Harckham, Martinez, Mayer, Murray, Oberacker, C. Ryan) / A.4017 (McDonald)

This bill requires that any state or local tax or fee calculated as a percentage of a transaction and listed separately on the invoice must be excluded from the amount used to calculate interchange fees. This includes sales tax, occupancy tax, fuel tax, and gratuities. Payment card networks must deduct or rebate the corresponding portion of interchange fees accordingly, at the time of settlement or upon proof provided by the merchant. An interchange fee is a charge set by a payment card network to compensate the cardholder's bank for processing a card transaction. A payment card network that violates this law shall be liable for a civil penalty of no more than \$1000 per violation and shall refund the surcharge.

Proponents: Farm Bureau New York; Food Industry Alliance of New York State; Northeastern Retail Lumber Association; NFIB; NY Association of Convenience Stores; NYS Hospitality & Tourism Association; NYS Liquor Store Association (NYSLSA); NYS Restaurant Association; Ski NY

Opponents: NY Bankers Association; NY Credit Union Association

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Battery Park City Authority Board Changes****S.3211 (Kavanagh) / A.4396 (Fall)**

This bill increases the Battery Park City Authority's (BPCA) board from seven to nine members. The bill also provides that the two new members would have staggered initial terms of 2 years and 4 years. Normally, all members of BPCA have 6-year terms. The bill also increases the minimum number of Battery Park City residents on the board at any given time from two to five members. All members of the BPCA board are appointed by the Governor upon the advice and consent of the Senate.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 140-1

Port Authority Reforms**S.4204 (Comrie, Webb) / A.589 (Paulin)**

This bill makes comprehensive changes to the Port Authority governing statute, including changes to board appointments, leadership structure, higher conflict-of-interest standards, whistleblower protections, procurement processes, public hearings and MWBE programs. Additionally, the bill requires that all needs assessments (required before raising tolls) be made publicly and conspicuously available on the Authority's website, increases the amount of time capital plans must be available for public review before a vote, requires Port Authority representatives to appear before the New York and New Jersey State legislatures upon legislative request, and requires the Port Authority to create an online dashboard which can be used to measure progress on individual capital projects.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 142-1

**Expanded Match for Advanced Septic Systems in EFC Septic System Replacement Fund
S.8241A (Harckham, Jackson) / A.8807 (Kassay)**

This bill expands the uses of the Environmental Facilities Corporation's septic system replacement fund, which currently provides for reimbursement for a portion of eligible costs on septic system projects, to provide a higher reimbursement amount (up to 75% with a \$25,000 cap) for "enhanced" septic systems. Enhanced systems have advanced treatment systems that can remove nitrogen, phosphorus, and PFAS.

Proponents: EFC (Departmental Bill)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

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: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

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: 62-0

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: 63-0

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

ESD 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 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. This bill also prohibits the President and the Chair from engaging in private employment, another profession, or holding a business.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York Insurance Association

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martins, Palumbo)

Assembly Vote: None

Requiring Senate Confirmation for Certain Executive Appointments**S.7858 (Salazar, Comrie, Brisport, Cleare, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Helming, 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 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: 57-1 (Palumbo)

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: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

**Food Retail Establishment Subsidization for Healthy Communities Act (FRESH
Communities Act)****S.6017 (Baskin) / 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.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Skoufis, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

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

This bill authorizes county comptrollers to conduct an audit of a project or action of an Industrial Development Agency (IDA) in the county, or a city, town or village government 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: 57-0

Assembly Vote: None

Expands the Information Provided to the PACB Prior to Project Approval**S.3736 (Comrie) / 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

Additional Oversight Powers for Authorities Budget Office**S.1410 (Ryan) / No Same As**

This bill empowers the Authorities Budget Office (ABO) to commence dissolution proceedings for authorities acting beyond their power and to remove board members who failed to obtain the State-mandated training. This bill also strengthens reporting requirements and classifies a knowing and willful false statement to the ABO on a financial report as perjury in the third degree.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 46-15 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Repealing PACB Voting Restrictions

S.2459 (Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal) / A.8569 (Braunstein)

This bill repeals the provisions added to Public Authorities Law late in the 2019-2020 Adopted Budget that restricted the legal authority of a member of the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) solely to determining 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.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-16 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Port Authority Reform

While both houses of the New York Legislature passed Port Authority reform (S.4204), in order for the bill to be adopted, identical legislation would need to pass the New Jersey Legislature and be signed by both governors.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**DOCCS Accountability Omnibus Package****S.8415 (Salazar) / A.8871 (Dilan)**

This bill aims to increase transparency and oversight in New York's correctional facilities and consists of several key provisions:

- **Video Evidence & Surveillance:** Requires the disclosure of any video footage related to an incarcerated individual's death to the Attorney General's office within 72 hours and mandates 24/7 camera surveillance in all state correctional facilities.
- **Next of Kin Notification & Autopsy Reports:** Ensures prompt notification of an incarcerated person's death to their next of kin, along with sharing details about the circumstances and cause. It also mandates that autopsy reports include all photos, slides, and X-rays.
- **Investigations & Accountability:** Directs a study into deaths in correctional facilities, requires quarterly reports on complaints and investigations, and implements measures to avoid conflicts of interest for the Attorney General's office when prosecuting cases involving law enforcement.
- **Oversight & Access:** Expands the State Commission on Correction and strengthens the oversight authority of the Correction Association of New York (CANY), reducing the notice required for facility inspections to 24 hours and allowing private meetings with incarcerated individuals and staff.
- **Statute of Limitations:** Pauses the statute of limitations for civil claims by formerly incarcerated individuals for three years after their release.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 93-49

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, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.7081 (Gibbs)**

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

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-4 (Borrello, Helming, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Lethality Assessment in Incidents of Domestic Violence**S.2280A (Webb, Jackson, Mayer, Rolison) / A.4899A (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. The questions cover topics such as the use of weapons, threats to kill, strangling or choking, possession of firearms, and other concerning behaviors.

After completing the lethality assessment, the officer must advise the victim of the results and refer them to local domestic violence programs for support. The officer must also provide the victim with the number of the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline. 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: 57-0

Assembly Vote: None

CARE Act

S.4583A (Salazar, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, Martinez, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.4879 (Kelles)

This bill requires that pregnant incarcerated individuals receive comprehensive prenatal care, including necessary tests and treatments, and appropriate medical care during labor and delivery. Incarcerated individuals are also entitled to treatment for opioid use disorder, psychological and psychiatric therapy, adequate hydration and nutrition, and safe housing conditions. The bill also 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: 37-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SNAP Screening for Incarcerated Individuals

S.5265 (Bailey, Webb) / A.3399 (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 the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program 30 days before release. Officials must assist eligible individuals in applying for the program and seek waivers from the USDA to extend eligibility to one-year post-release and suspend the three-month time limit for those in areas without work.

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

Misdemeanor Offense for Obstruction of Body-Worn Cameras**S.8172B (Cleare) / A.8249C (Dilan)**

This bill prohibits any employee of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), or a local correctional facility, from obstructing or blocking any body-worn or stationary camera from recording activities. To be guilty of this misdemeanor offense, the individual must be found to be intentionally obstructing the body-worn camera for the purposes of hindering an investigation, or concealing a crime, criminal activity, or otherwise unlawful behavior.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**DOCCS Reading Proficiency and Dyslexia Assessment****S.395 (Myrie, Ashby, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, 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 diagnosed with dyslexia receive individualized educational assistance for programming.

Proponents: Public Employees Federation

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 146-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Fair and Timely Parole

S.159 (Salazar, Rivera, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, 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 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. 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, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.1085 (Kelles)

This bill provides that time allowances earned by incarcerated individuals must be awarded on a pro rata basis throughout the calendar year. It also increases the amount of time that can be deducted from a person's sentence for Good Behavior. Under the proposed changes, individuals serving indeterminate sentences would be eligible to receive half of the maximum term of their sentence (an increase from the current one-third reduction). Individuals serving determinate sentences would be eligible to receive half off of their imposed sentence (an increase from the current one-seventh reduction).

Additionally, the bill expands Merit Time eligibility to include all incarcerated individuals, regardless of the offense for which they were convicted. Under this expansion, individuals convicted of violent felony offenses serving indeterminate sentences would be eligible for up to half off their minimum sentence (currently, only non-violent felony offenses are eligible for Merit Time). Those serving determinate sentences would be eligible for up to one-quarter off their 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.454 (Hoylman-Sigal, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, 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

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime & Correction and Assembly Standing Committee on Correction on *Safety of Persons in Custody, Transparency, and Accountability within State Correctional Facilities*. (May 14, 2025).

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Analyst: Mike Press
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Establishes the State Parks Passport Program

S.1071 (Serrano, Helming, Rolison, Walczyk, Webb) / A.7280 (Kim)

This bill directs the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to establish the State parks passport program, allowing visitors to log their visits in a passport book or electronic application.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Encouraging and Promoting Farmers' Markets in State Parks

S.1376 (Serrano, Borrello, Helming, Hinchey, May, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rolison, Webb) / A.4632 (Kim)

The bill directs the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to encourage and promote the presence of farmers' markets in state parks, so long as the markets do not harm the natural environment or integrity of the park.

Proponents: New York Farm Bureau

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 148-0

Notice and Posting of Empire State Trail Segment Closures**S.1467 (Serrano, Fahy) / A.7749 (Kim)**

This bill codifies current practice regarding Empire State Trail (EST) closures to enhance compliance. Specifically, EST segment owners must ensure that their EST segments remain open when practicable, and when a segment requires closure for construction or for public safety, that the segment owner must notify the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). OPRHP must then coordinate with the segment owner to plan a detour and post prominent detour signage, which OPRHP shall provide. OPRHP must also post notices on its website.

Proponents: Parks and Trails NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Moves the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the State Education Department and Expands its Duties**S.3161 (Jackson, Cleare, Hinchey, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Webb) / A.5468 (Taylor)**

This bill moves the Amistad Commission from the Department of State (DOS) to the State Education Department (SED) and designates the Commissioner of SED as the chair of the Amistad Commission. The bill also clarifies that Commission members must be selected with due regard for broad ethnic diversity, and that they have pertinent background experience. The bill also expands the Commission's duties to include increasing awareness and encouraging school districts to utilize curricula on African-American history through grants and recognition.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

Operational Safety Plans for Emergency Deployments of State Park Personnel**S.7680A (Serrano, Jackson) / A.6634A (Kim)**

This bill requires the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation to develop and approve operational safety plans prior to the deployment of any employee in non-routine hazardous conditions.

Proponents: CSEA

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

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, Webb) / A.2607 (Cunningham)**

This bill requires broader consideration of culture, access, diversity, equity, inclusion, and social and racial justice with respect to the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), and arts and culture policy generally. Changes include reforming the composition of NYSCA 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: 45-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, 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, Hoylman-Sigal) / 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 alienation of parkland where municipalities have repeatedly failed to adhere to alienation requirements.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: NYSAC; NYS School Boards Association

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Helming, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes a Program for Designating Arts & Cultural Districts**S.1062 (Serrano, Bailey, Cleare, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal, May, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rolison) / A.7737 (Kim)**

This bill directs the New York State Council on the Arts 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: 51-0

Assembly Vote: None

State Park Adopt-a-Trail Stewardship Program**S.1067A (Serrano) / A.7326A (Kim)**

This bill establishes a program within the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (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: 50-2 (Murray, 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 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 blood alcohol percentage 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

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 the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (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

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee Annual Report

S.7793 (Fahy) / A.7560A (Santabarbara)

The bill requires the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) to annually publish and submit a report on December 31 to the Governor and legislative leaders on its activities. It also requires DDAC to post this report publicly on its website.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Task Force to Promote the Employment of Individuals with Disabilities By State Agencies

S.4511 (Ramos, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.33 (Burdick)

This legislation directs the Department of Labor to create a task force to promote competitive integrated employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs) to examine the problem of unemployment and underemployment among I/DDs, and review relevant programs within the State and other states that assist in I/DD employment in the public and/or private sector.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Extends the Temporary Authorization for School Psychologists to Render Early Intervention Services

S.6619 (Mayer, Jackson) / A.7325 (Paulin)

This bill extends the temporary authorization for certified school psychologists to render early intervention (EI) services through June 30, 2026. Current law allows approved multidisciplinary evaluation programs to hire a certified school psychologist to conduct an evaluation of a preschool child, infant, or toddler having or suspected of having a disability. The bill also exempts from licensure school psychologists hired to work in approved preschool special education programs or EI programs for the purpose of conducting these evaluations.

Proponents: NYS Association of Counties

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Schools and Daycare Emergency Evacuation Plans for Children with Disabilities

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

This legislation requires every board of education or trustees of each school district and the city school district of New York City to establish and maintain an emergency evacuation plan for children with disabilities in schools.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Comprehensive Review of Early Intervention Services

S.1198A (Rivera, Brouk, Mannion, Myrie, Salazar, Webb) / A.10175 (Paulin)

This bill directs the Department of Health to contract with an independent entity to provide a comprehensive review of the Early Intervention Program. The study will review the service delivery models, reimbursement rates for efficacy, adequacy, and effectiveness of service delivery, and the full 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

Senate Vote: 53-0 Assembly Vote: None

Traveling with Dignity Act**S.4042 (Harckham, Hinchey, Liu, May, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.6219 (Burdick)**

This bill requires facilities to have adult changing accommodations in all single-occupancy bathrooms located in a covered facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs). A posting of the accommodation must be put on or near the entrance of the bathroom as well as including the location of the accommodation in the central directory of a covered facility.

Proponents: Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS, Inc.; NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Expands the Independent Developmental Disability Ombudsperson Program**S.4871 (Fahy) / A.7465 (Buttenschon)**

This legislation expands the Independent Developmental Disability Ombudsman Program to require adding the creation of the service delivery structure that includes a toll-free telephone hotline, an interactive website, and availability of in-person, telephone, and email access to the Ombudsman Program. It also includes the duty to provide assistance with navigating and completing complex processes, filing and preparing appeals, any issues or inquiries encountered, and education on rights and responsibilities of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and care coordination provided by health homes serving intellectual or developmental disabilities individuals.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

OPWDD Staff Shortage Plan for Workplace Emergencies**S.4907 (Fahy, Webb) / A.226 (Cruz)**

This bill directs the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to establish an emergency staffing plan for State-operated facilities in regions experiencing staffing shortages. This plan would automatically go into effect whenever a region's fill level is less than 90% or if any staff position vacancy rate reaches 10% or higher. OPWDD must make the staffing plan publicly available and publish it on its website.

Proponents: CSEA; PEF

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0 Assembly Vote: None

Automatic Eligibility for Early Intervention Services for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels**S.5538 (Baskin, Kavanagh, S. Ryan) / A.6537 (McMahon)**

This bill allows infants and toddlers with elevated blood lead levels to be eligible for early intervention (EI) services. It does so by adding "elevated venous blood levels (at or above five mcg/dl)" as one of the diagnosed physical or mental conditions that would qualify as a disability eligible for EI services.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Creates a Statewide Residential Families Committee**S.7484A (Mayer, Addabbo) / A.8608 (Santabarbara)**

The bill requires the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council to establish a statewide residential families committee that will inform and advise the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities of important and relevant issues for individuals with developmental disorders who live in community residences, intermediate care facilities, or other residential facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians. 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

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.

EDUCATION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Requires School District Safety Plans to Include a Cardiac Arrest Emergency Plan and Requires that AEDs in Schools are Clearly Marked, Accessible, and Maintained

S.5539A (Baskin, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Persaud, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.785A (Solages)

This bill requires that district-wide school safety plans must also include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP), which is a written plan that addresses the use of appropriate personnel to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site or at a location of a school sponsored event, including but not limited to all athletic programs. The CERP must include specific procedures that are venue specific for incidents that occur while attending or participating in athletic practices or events on school grounds and must integrate nationally-recognized, evidence-based core elements, like those recommended by the American Heart Association.

Proponents: American Heart Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Requires Nonpublic Schools to Provide and Maintain On-Site Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) on School Grounds

S.2590 (Mayer, Jackson, Webb) / A.6846 (Otis)

This bill aligns nonpublic schools with current public school requirements by requiring nonpublic schools to provide and maintain on-site AED equipment. Nonpublic school officials or administrators must ensure that AED equipment is available for off-site curricular events, extracurricular events or school-sponsored athletic events. This bill also requires nonpublic schools to immediately report the use of a defibrillator with the appropriate local emergency medical services system. Additionally, nonpublic schools must post a sign at the main entrance of the building indicating the location of the AED.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 63-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Establishes a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia within the State Education Department S.5569 (Fahy, Cleare) / A.2687 (R. Carroll)

This bill establishes a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia to be led by an Executive Director appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The Center will have various tasks and responsibilities, including data collection and guidance, setting standards, issuing a biannual report, creating a comprehensive guidebook, and other duties as necessary. The Center is based on the recommendations of the Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force, which was established to examine dyslexia and dysgraphia screening methods, reading interventions, and educational supports for students in kindergarten through grade five, and was made up of experts from different fields, including educators, evaluators, and parents.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Expands Bullying and Harassment Protections to Students in Private, Religious or Denominational Educational Institutions Pursuant to the Dignity for All Students Act S.4544B (Hoylman-Sigal, Addabbo, Bailey, Cleare, Comrie, Gianaris, Gounardes, Jackson, Martinez, Mayer, C. Ryan, Salazar, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.5403A (Solages)

This bill extends certain protections within the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) to students in nonpublic schools, specifically to prevent and require a response to harassment and bullying, including cyberbullying, between students. If a principal or head of school receives a report of bullying, harassment, or retaliation, they must promptly investigate. The principal or head of school must also take immediate steps and appropriate follow-up action reasonably calculated to ensure the behavior stops and the targeted student or students are safe. This bill also requires nonpublic schools to develop an age-appropriate, written anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy, which must be published on the school's website or parent/student portal and annually shared with employees. The bill includes language that specifies nothing in it is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or protected religiously based views.

Proponents: The New Pride Agenda, NYSUT

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Requires a Statewide Study on School Instruction of Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) History and Establishes an AANHPI History Advisory Committee

S.7855E (Liu, Kavanagh, May) / A.8563A (Lee)

This bill directs the State Education Department (SED) to conduct a survey regarding instruction on AANHPI history and the extent to which school districts currently provide this instruction. This bill also directs SED to establish an AANHPI history advisory committee. All members appointed to the committee shall be experts in AANHPI studies or must have a background in educational instruction or educational administration. The committee must do an analysis of the survey results and shall provide recommendations on high quality K-12 curricular and instructional resources on AANHPI history and strategies for strengthening and deepening public K-12 education programs in the areas of AANHPI history.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Lanza)

Assembly Vote: 126-13

Directs the State Education Department to Conduct a Survey of Recess in Elementary Schools

S.8377A (Mayer, Jackson) / A.8727A (Jackson)

This bill directs the State Education Department to conduct a survey of recess in charter and public elementary schools serving students from kindergarten through grade six. The survey will include information about the number of school currently offering recess, the length of recess, if there is dedicated space for recess and where recess takes place, whether recess is supervised or unsupervised, if there are barriers to offering recess, if recess is structured or unstructured, and whether the school has a nurse on the premises during recess.

Proponents: NYSUT

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**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: NYS Council of School Superintendents, New York State School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-6 (Chan, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ort)

Assembly Vote: None

Creates Statewide and Regional Conventions to Bring Together Underrepresented Teachers**S.2126 (Jackson, Brouk, Hoylman-Sigal, Liu, Mayer, May, Webb) / No same as**

This bill directs the State Education Department 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. This bill seeks to address reports that found that many educators of color feel unsupported in the workplace and educators of color, particularly male educators of color, leave the profession because of the lack of diversity.

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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Lanza)

Assembly Vote: None

Task Force on Educator Diversity in New York State**S.2505 (Brisport, Brouk, Cooney, Jackson, Liu, May, Salazar, Webb) / A.5247 (Solages)**

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, New York State School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-6 (Borrello, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ort, Stec)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the Bilingual Teachers of Tomorrow Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program

S.2657 (Parker, Cooney, Jackson, Liu, May, Webb) / A.334 (Cruz)

This bill establishes the bilingual teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to provide grants for school districts to attract and retain bilingual, certified teachers to instruct in schools with a bilingual teacher shortage.

Proponents: NYS Council of School Superintendents; NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: None

Protects Religious Attire from Discrimination, Bullying, and Harassment in Schools

S.1424 (Liu, Addabbo, Jackson, May, Myrie, Skoufis, Webb) / A.6792 (Fall)

This bill amends the Dignity for All Students Act, to specifically protect a student's attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of their religion, from harassment, bullying, or discrimination in schools.

Proponents: NYS Council of School Superintendents

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 51-0

Assembly Vote: None

Decreases Frequency of Lockdown Drills and Specifies Implementation of Such Drills

S.2498 (Gounardes, Brouk, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Myrie, Webb) / A.1544 (Simon)

This bill decreases the frequency of lock-down drills in schools and requires that lock-down drills be designed to consider the mental health needs of students, as well as training for teachers and administrators.

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: 35-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Directs SED and OCFS to Streamline the Process of Operating Both a Daycare and Prekindergarten Program

S.1111 (May, Brisport, Jackson) / A.5594 (Hunter)

This bill directs the State Education Department, in consultation with the Office of Children and Family Services, to create a single, streamlined process whereby a combination of pre-kindergarten and daycare programs may be certified to operate.

Proponents: NYS Council of School Superintendents; NYS School Boards Association; Alliance of NYS YMCAs

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Instruction in Arts and Music Education to be Incorporated into Curriculums for All Public School Students

S.6318A (May, Addabbo, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Myrie, Persaud, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.6490B (Dais)

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

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Solutions Not Suspensions Act**

S.134 (Jackson, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Kavanagh, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, 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

Analyst: Paul McCarthy
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

"Paid For By" Disclaimers for Political Websites

S.1030 (Gonzalez, Rivera) / A.3415 (McDonald)

This bill requires public-facing websites operated by political committees to display "paid for by" language and adds such public-facing websites to the list of political communications that qualify as independent expenditures.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Unenrolling Voters from the Defunct Independence Party

S.923 (Skoufis, May) / A.7804 (Walker)

This bill changes the party enrollment of any voter currently enrolled in a party that contains the word "Independence" or "Independent." This bill changes voters enrolled in the Independence Party to "unaffiliated". Unaffiliated voters are not enrolled in any party. This would allow these voters to either re-register with another one of the four remaining political parties (Democratic, Republican, Working Families, and Conservative) or to remain unaffiliated.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 135-10

Joining Multistate Voter List Maintenance Organizations / Electronic Registration Information System (ERIC)

S.1356A (Skoufis, Rivera) / A.3649B (Taylor)

This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to join ERIC, the multi-state voter list maintenance organization on or before July 31, 2026, to improve the accuracy of voter rolls and to provide ERIC with certain voter information. The information provided must include: voter names, addresses, voting activity dates, affirmative documentation of citizenship (however, no documentation affirming that a person is not a citizen may be sent to any multi-state voter list maintenance organization), and the type of documentation of citizenship presented. The SBOE would require an affirmative vote of its commissioners in order to leave ERIC subsequent to New York State joining the organization.

The bill also amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to share this same information as well as social security numbers, phone numbers, and email addresses of voters.

Proponents: Brennan Center for Justice & Protect Democracy; Citizens Union of the City of New York; Let NY Vote; Reinvent Albany; The League of Women Voters of New York; Vote Early NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Split Shifts for Poll Clerks

S.1842 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.6138 (Glick)

This bill clarifies that poll clerks (in addition to election inspectors) are allowed to work split shifts with adjusted compensation to reflect the reduced hours worked (a split shift is a work schedule in which an individual's work day is broken into two or more shorter shifts). However, the bill also provides that at least one election inspector and one poll clerk from each of the two major political parties must be present at the poll site for the entire time that polls are open.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

**Required Notification to Party Leaders and Legislators: Change of Polling Place in NYC
S.4274C (Kavanagh, Jackson) / A.7618C (Lee)**

This bill provides that when any board of elections is notified of the need to change the location of a polling place, such board must, within five days of receiving such notice, notify the following officials in addition to the voters: The chairpersons of all state party committees; the chairpersons of all county party committees in the county in which such polling place is located; the state senator representing the district in which such polling place is located; the assemblymember representing the district in which such polling place is located; the city councilmember representing the district in which such polling place is located; and the local Assembly district leaders.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Skoufis, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 142-2

Party Functions without County Committees**S.7111A (Harckham) / A.7862A (Levenberg)**

This bill addresses situations where a party lacks a county committee in a particular county and is seeking to disenroll a party member. It allows a person designated by the state committee (rather than the county committee chairperson) to receive complaints, appoint a subcommittee, hold hearings, and make determinations regarding challenges to a voter's enrollment based on lack of sympathy with party principles, specifically in counties where no county committee exists. It also updates "chairman" to "chairperson."

The bill would explicitly empower a political party's state committee, by majority vote at a meeting with a quorum, to elect a person or persons to perform these enrollment challenge functions in any county or counties lacking a county committee of that party. Effectively, this would allow a mechanism for minor parties to challenge the enrollment of individuals who may be hostile to the party's ideals. Effectively, it allows minor parties to disenroll party members who seek to engage in entryism on the minor party's ballot line when that party member does not sympathize with the party's views.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 82-49

Repeal of Prohibition on Line-Warming Activities - Chapter 156**S.7281 (Myrie, Jackson, May, Salazar) / A.1241A (Simon)**

New York State Election Law currently bans providing snacks or drinks to voters at polling places and those waiting in line to vote if the value is over \$1, this activity is classified as an A misdemeanor. On May 30, 2024, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), in the case of *The Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People v. Kosinski, et al.*, ruled that Section 17-140 of the New York Election Law is unconstitutional. The Court declared that the statute violates the First Amendment right to free speech and expression, and further violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution because it is impermissibly overbroad and impermissibly vague. As a result, the Court granted the plaintiff's request for a permanent injunction, prohibiting the defendants and their agents from enforcing Section 17-140.

This bill repeals Section 17-140 of the Election Law, which currently makes it a Class A misdemeanor to provide voters with most food, drink, or refreshments valued over one dollar during polling hours. The bill removes the now unenforceable and unconstitutional language from state law, thereby officially permitting the practice of offering refreshments to voters.

Proponents: Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 94-47

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Reduces the Candidate Declination Time Period for Party Nominations from Ten Days to Seven Days S.7962 (Gonzalez) / A.7829 (Walker)

This bill amends the Election Law to change the timeframe in which a candidate designated for two or more party nominations may decline one or more of those nominations after a primary election. Currently the timeframe is ten is day from the primary election date. This bill shortens the current deadline from ten days to seven days from the certification of the primary election results. This change is expected to enable candidates to make such decisions at a point in time when they have certainty about the primary election result, and may make the electoral process more efficient by allowing local boards of elections (BOEs) to finalize their administrative work and prepare general election ballots without delay.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Secure Automatic Voter Registration (SAVR)**S.88 (Gianaris, Addabbo, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Liu, Persaud, Rivera, Salazar) / No Same As**

This bill updates New York’s automatic voter registration system to a “secure” automatic system that better automates the process while safeguarding against ineligible registrations by using citizenship-based criteria. It creates clear procedures for both DMV and Medicaid enrollment, in an effort to ensure that non-drivers have access to automatic voter registration.

At the DMV, only individuals who provide citizenship-verifying documents will be automatically registered. Those with less conclusive documents may still register by affirming their citizenship under penalty of perjury, consistent with existing law. The bill also sets deadlines to ensure timely registration before elections and requires DMV staff to be trained by the State Board of Elections (SBOE), which is also empowered to issue rules and track anonymized registration data. For Medicaid enrollees, the bill mandates that local health and social services agencies electronically transmit voter registration information to SBOE for registration or pre-registration.

Proponents: NAACP New York State Conference

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-21 (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

The Democracy Preservation Act**S.324 (Gianaris) / A.1258 (Walker)**

This bill prohibits contributions by foreign-influenced business entities in New York state or local elections. Contributions to constituted committees, independent expenditure committees, political party committees, or disbursements for political communications are also prohibited.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: None

**The Count Every Vote Act of New York / Clarifying "Margin of Victory" for Recounts
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 bill also clarifies that the recount threshold of "a margin victory percentage of 0.5% or less" is calculated by dividing the margin of victory by total number of ballots cast on which the contest appeared and then multiplying by 100. Finally, the bill clarifies that recounts must be done by hand and that the State Board of Elections (SBOE) will determine the margin of victory percentage when an election appears on the ballot in multiple counties.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-2 (Gallivan, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Language Access Expansion for Voters**S.441A (Myrie) / A.8891 (Vanel)**

This bill includes speakers of Haitian Creole and persons of Middle Eastern or North African heritage in the definition of "language minorities" under the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York (NYVRA), expanding language assistance requirements and making these groups protected classes.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 47-12 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Increased Compensation for NYC Poll Workers**S.559 (Krueger, Gounardes, Liu, May) / A.1993 (Colton)**

This bill sets the pay of election inspectors, poll clerks, election coordinators, and qualified voters appointed to act in place of an absent inspector, clerk, or coordinator at \$300 per day statewide. In New York City, it raises the pay of election inspectors and poll clerks from \$130 per day to \$300 per day, and raises the pay of election coordinators from \$200 per day to \$350 per day. The bill also raises the daily pay for election inspectors and poll clerk training to \$50 per meeting.

Proponents: Let NY Vote

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 46-14 (Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Portable Polling Locations for Early Voting**S.568 (May, Cooney, Jackson, Webb) / No Same As**

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 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. SBOE will select placements based on population density, travel time to the polling place, proximity to other early voting poll 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: 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

County-Wide Polling Places ("Vote Centers")**S.569 (May, Skoufis, Webb) / A.6449 (Griffin)**

This bill authorizes county boards of elections 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. These sites would be subject to the same requirements as any other poll site. The bill also authorizes the SBOE to issue rules and regulations to implement this bill.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibiting Early Voting Sites at Public Schools**S.654 (Krueger, Hoylman-Sigal) / A.3338 (Bores)**

This bill prohibits public school buildings from being designated as early voting polling locations to avoid disruption to school activities. This legislation also eliminates the prohibition on polling locations at facilities that serve alcohol, and prioritizes tax-exempt facilities and facilities owned by entities receiving more than one million dollars in annual state grant funding if more polling locations are required.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-6 (Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, Skoufis, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

NYC Board of Elections (NYCBOE) Reform**S.699 (Krueger, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, May, Rivera) / A.1852 (Rozic)**

This bill reforms the structure of the NYCBOE by reducing the number of commissioners from 10 to two, establishing a professionally appointed executive director, clarifying powers and duties to improve accountability, and establishing training requirements.

Proponents: Let NY Vote

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-22 (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

Mandatory Training for Election Commissioners**S.1035 (Myrie, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, May, Rivera, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.1228 (Seawright)**

This bill would require the 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 on an annual basis. The SBOE will develop the curriculum for the training and cannot exceed three hours. The bill allows the SBOE to provide the training in the format it desires, including in a web-based format. 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: 57-4 (Borrello, O'Mara, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

**Establishes New Crimes Pertaining To Voter Suppression & Deceptive Election Practices
S.1085 (Stewart-Cousins, Fahy, Harckham, Rivera) / A.3212 (Lavine)**

This bill amends the Election Law to create two new criminal offenses: deceptive election practices and voter suppression. Any person, political committee, labor organization, corporation, or other entity that knowingly communicates or causes to be communicated deceptive information and prevents or deters another person from exercising their right to vote in any election will be guilty of a deceptive election practice. These individuals or entities are guilty of a Class B misdemeanor under this bill.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Prohibiting Judicial Primary "Raiding"

S.1102 (May) / A.5234 (Jacobson)

This bill eliminates the automatic ability of judicial candidates to run in another party's primary election without authorization from that party's committee (abolishes the judicial Wilson-Pakula exception).

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 97-42

Online Sample Ballot Database**S.6253A (Skoufis) / A.6741A (Simone)**

This bill requires the State Boards 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. It requires that these ballot samples be posted in an online "database", in which a voter can search for their ballot by entering their name, address, and birth date. These samples will be required to be embedded in a way that prevents them from being tampered with or printed and submitted as actual ballots. Voters in New York City can already do this, but there is no requirement in law or a required deadline to have this information available. The bill also allows local boards of elections to post these ballots themselves with the same searchable database and security requirements. Finally, the bill also allows local boards of elections to send sample ballots to voters three days before the first day of early voting, rather than three days before election day

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 97-46

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Harmonizing Early Mail and Absentee Voting Procedures****S.6995 (Gonzalez, Comrie) / A.8310 (Walker)**

This bill streamlines and modernizes New York's voting-by-mail system by harmonizing envelope formats across ballot types, allowing absentee ballot applications lacking a stated reason to be processed as early mail requests, and enabling voters to request early mail ballots for a full two-year election cycle. It enhances access for military and special federal voters by permitting electronic ballot applications, removing the requirement to mail original forms, extending the validity of applications, and aligning registration deadlines with general voters. The bill also includes technical updates, gender-neutral language, revised procedures for permanently disabled absentee voters, and clarifies when early mail applications may be rejected.

Proponents: Common Cause NY; Institute for Responsive Government Action; Vote Early New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

The Election Content Accountability Act**S.7963 (Gonzalez) / A.8523 (Bores)**

The "Election Content Accountability Act" mandates that, commencing with the 2030 election cycle, campaigns for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, 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 defines "provenance data" as information that records the origin or history of digital content, communicated as a content credential according to specifications from the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity. This data must disclose the content's origin, any subsequent edits, and any use of generative artificial intelligence. At a minimum, the applied provenance data must communicate the type of device or system used to generate the media; identify specific portions of the communication that are synthetic content, if any; state whether artificial intelligence was used in creating or editing the content; name the generative AI provider used for synthetic content, if applicable; and provide the time and date any such provenance data was applied. The bill also establishes penalties for violations, to be assessed by the Attorney General, 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.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Consumer Notice of Utility Rate Increases**

S.1194B (Addabbo, Comrie, Mayer, Oberacker, Rolison, Webb, Weber) / A.6326A (Valdez)

This bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to require electric and gas utilities to notify its customers within 45 days after the PSC's approval of any increase in electric or gas service rates. This notice must be in writing, and go to every customer impacted by the new rate increase.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 144-1

Notification of Service Interruptions

S.1848 (Harckham, May, Webb) / A.2447 (Levenberg)

This bill sets forth regulations requiring utility corporations (including electric, gas, water, steam, and telecom) and municipalities rendering equivalent utility services to notify property owners before use or access of any scheduled work that could directly and materially impact a property owner's ability to enjoy, use, or access their property. The notice must be in writing or electronic and include information about the service work to be performed, its expected duration, location, any road closures or detours that will occur due to the service, how the work can directly and materially interfere with use of the property or directly and materially interfere with the property owner's use of it, and the contact information for the entity performing the service. The notice should be given as far in advance as possible, albeit not more than 30 days beforehand.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: Verizon

Senate Vote: 60-1(Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Increased Restrictions and Updated Procedures for Estimated Utility Bills**S.2182A (Hinchey, Murray, Oberacker, Rolison) / A.5969A (Jacobson)**

This legislation makes clarifying changes to provisions restricting when utilities can use estimated meter readings for billing, instead of actual meter readings, adds restrictions on consecutive use of estimated meter readings, requires utilities to forgo revenue on estimated bills issued in violation of this law, and directs the PSC to establish updated model procedure for estimated billing calculations. Utilities will then be required to file new models and procedures for calculating estimated bills with the PSC.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 110-35

NYSERDA Mechanical Insulation Program for Various Buildings**S.2457B (Ramos) / A.3999B (Bronson)**

This bill directs NYSERDA to expand coverage of mechanical insulation grants, upgrades and loans to any buildings within a school district, public hospital, public housing building, or municipality with a building or buildings that have a potential need for mechanical insulation upgrades. In order to qualify for any of the mechanical insulation energy upgrades for this program, applicants have to complete an energy audit. These audits have to be conducted by qualified contractors that will identify any missing, damages, or improperly installed mechanical insulation within the building. This audit shall include an estimate of the costs for energy upgrades, along with potential future energy savings if the upgrades are completed.

Proponents: New York League of Conservation Voters, NYS Building & Construction Trades Council

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Oberacker, Martins, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 132-9

Adds Consumer Protection Appointment to State Energy Planning Board**S.2460 (Comrie, Jackson) / A.4712 (Barrett)**

This bill directs the Secretary of State to appoint an additional person to serve on the New York State Energy Planning Board from the utility intervention unit within the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of State. The New York State Energy Planning Board is an entity housed in NYSERDA that is responsible for creating and updating the State Energy Plan. The Board is responsible for developing a comprehensive, statewide energy plan that considers all aspects of energy generation, distribution, and consumption.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 110-35

Public Renewables Transparency Act**S.2462B (Gianaris, Jackson, May) / A.7686A (Shrestha)**

This bill requires a new public report three times a year updating NYPA's progress on the renewable energy generation strategic plan (required under the Build Public Renewables Program). This report must detail the development and implementation of NYPA's renewable energy generation strategic plan, and requires a public dashboard. This bill also adds NYPA's chief executive officer to the State Energy Planning Board and requires NYPA staff to support the Board's work.

Proponents: Public Power NY

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-4 (O'Mara, Ortt, Weik, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Creates the State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA)**S.6277 (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Jackson, May, Oberacker) / A.2468 (Dinowitz)**

This bill creates the state office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA) to represent interests of residential utility customers before the Public Service Commission (PSC), Department of Public Service (DPS), and any other relevant state and federal agencies, authorities, and courts. This bill would direct the UCA to be appointed to a six-year term.

Proponents: Public Power NY

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-5 (Gianaris, Stec, Weber, Weik, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 117-26

Enhanced Pole Attachment Identification and Safety

S.6997A (C. Ryan, Bailey, Baskin, Gallivan, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Martinez, Mattera, Mayer, Murray, Palumbo, Rhoads, S. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stavisky) / A.7544A Magnarelli

This bill directs the PSC to require all utility pole owners and attachers to submit information that allows inspectors to ensure physical identification of their equipment. The required identification shall include the telecommunications or cable company that owns the equipment, the contractor or subcontractor responsible for completing the pole attachment work, and estimated completion date of work.

This bill directs the PSC to create an electronic complaint form, posted to the PSC's website. This complaint form shall allow members of the public and telecommunications workers to report violations of laws and regulations or hazardous conditions. The PSC is required to inspect a reported complaint within two weeks of the complaint's submission. Upon confirming the violation, the PSC will inform the attacher, ISP and contractor of the violation within two weeks and give them a week to cure the violation. In addition to being liable for existing penalties under Public Service Law, parties found liable for violating the provisions of this bill shall incur a fine up to \$20,000 for the first violation, for a second violation the penalty can be up to \$50,000, and for a third violation the PSC has discretion to issue a stop work order in the county where the violations occurred.

The PSC shall compile a list semi-annually of attachers, ISPs and contractors that have received three or more confirmed violations. The PSC shall distribute such a list to relevant agencies including but not limited to the division of broadband access. Any company, ISP or contractor appearing on this list shall be deemed ineligible for any direct or indirect state assistance, tax credits, benefits or loans for three years after the date such a list is published.

Proponents: Communication Workers of America

Opponents: Charter

Senate Vote: 50-3 (Ashby, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 111-31

Allows the NYSERDA Chair to Retain Private Employment**S.8318 (Parker) / A.8154 (Braunstein)**

This departmental bill changes the Chair of NYSERDA to an unpaid position and allows the Chair of NYSERDA to seek private employment while in office. Currently, the position of the Chair is a salaried position in statute. Currently, other members of NYSERDA's board are unpaid and allowed to retain private employment, however the Chair is not.

Proponents: None available

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Ashby, Lanza, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Utility Capital Project Transparency Act**S.8213 (Hinchey) / A.2736A (Jacobson)**

This bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to require utilities to publicly provide information related to proposed capital projects, including the overall price, location, and benefit to ratepayers, and shifts the burden of proof to the utilities to prove that the proposed rate increase associated with the capital project is just and reasonable.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: NYSEG

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Repeals the 100 Foot Rule**S.8417 (Krueger, Fahy, Kavanagh, May) / A.8888 (Simon)**

This bill removes the 100-foot rule related to new gas connections. The 100-foot rule allows a gas utility to subsidize the cost of connecting new gas customers that are located within 100 feet of a gas main line and spread it across its entire customer base.

Proponents: PULP, Earth Justice, Con Edison, Rewiring America

Opponents: National Fuel

Senate Vote: 34-25 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, Chan, Helming, Martinez, O'Mara, Rolison, Weber, Martins, Ortt, C. Ryan, Tedisco, Weik, Baskin, Bynoe, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 83-62

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Utility EV Make-ready Infrastructure Build-out****S.98A (Comrie) / A.491A (Woerner)**

This bill directs electric corporations to build make-ready infrastructure for public serving fleets to facilitate the charging of electric vehicles, with priority and greater financial incentives given to electric corporations building make-ready infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.

Proponents: Advanced Energy United, Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Association of School Business Officials of NY, ChargePoint, Conference of Big 5 Schools, Council of School Superintendents, Environmental Defense Fund, Highland Electric Fleets, New York Association for Pupil Transportation, New York School Bus Contractors Association, New York State Parent Teacher Association, NYS Educational Conference Board, NYSBA, Powering Americas Commercial Transportation, School Administrators Association of New York State, Sierra Club, Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 37-22 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Rolison, Weber, Martins, Ortt, C. Ryan, Tedisco, Weik, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: N/A

Prohibition of Utility Disconnections During Extreme Weather Events**S.120A (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 90°F or above.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Small Water Utility Transparency Act**S.597 (Hinchey) / A.7366 (Burdick)**

This bill directs the PSC to conduct audits of small private water companies, defined as having gross annual revenues below \$250,000, every three to five years as determined by the PSC. The PSC's audits must focus on the private water company's capital investment plan, financial capacity, management ability, water adequacy, and its compliance with state and federal regulations and laws.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Home Utility Weatherization Jobs Act**S.641A (S. Ryan, Jackson, Kavanagh) / A.3655A (Conrad)**

This bill directs the PSC to initiate a proceeding three months after passage. This proceeding will focus on the development of weatherization programs for the purpose of meeting the greenhouse gas emissions and equity goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Energy audits must be conducted by employees of gas and electric corporations that are represented by a bona fide labor organization.

Proponents: WNY Law Center, NYS Pipe Trades Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 49-9 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Martins, Murray, Weik, Walczyk)

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.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Ride Clean Rebate Program

S.1047 (Salazar, Addabbo, Ashby, Brisport, Cooney, Fahy, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Martinez, May, Palumbo, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Rolison, Sepúlveda, Tedisco, Webb) / A.281 (Carroll R)

This bill directs NYSERDA to establish the Ride Clean Rebate Program for electric bicycles and scooters. This program makes Class One, Class Two, and Class Three bicycles with an electric assist (e-bikes) eligible for a fifty percent rebate up to a maximum of \$1,100. Generally, e-bikes cost between \$600 to \$4,000, and e-scooters range from \$350 to \$2,500.

Proponents: NY League of Conservation Voters; NYC Office of the Mayor; Bird; Environmental Advocates of New York

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 45-14 (Borrello, Oberacker, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Skoufis, Weber, Ortt, Weik, Griffo, Lanza, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Minimum Standards for Utility Payment Plans

S.1327 (Parker, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Webb) / No Same As

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, ability of the customer 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 the termination of service 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

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Limits Fixed Charges by Utilities**S.1329 (Parker, 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: Energy Coalition New York

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Automatic Deferred Payment Plans for Low-income Utility Customers**S.1330 (Parker, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Webb) / No Same as**

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

Senate Vote: 59-1 (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 utility companies during power outages and the restoration process that follows. It allows PSC to set penalties for any combination 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 major outage or emergency.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-9 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Mattera, Rhoads, Stec, Oberacker, Helming, O'Mara, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Extends Rollover Credits Period for Customer-Generated Electricity**S.1553 (Parker, May, Webb) / A.7391 (Romero)**

This bill requires electric corporations (utilities) to allow the customers that generate their own electricity to aggregate 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-3 (Borrello, Griffo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate Program**S.1574A (Krueger, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal, Fernandez, May, Mayer, Parker, Ramos, 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 shall be no more than \$15,000 per year. NYSERDA must additionally conduct a public outreach campaign to inform buyers of the rebate program.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates of New York; Natural Resource Defense Council; New York Climate Reality Chapters Coalition; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapters 1, 2 & 3; NYSSBA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-9 (Gallivan, Griffo, Murray, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Fuel-Switching Program for Residential Homes**S.1668 (Harckham, Krueger, Jackson, May, Webb) / A.7060 (Levenberg)**

This bill directs the NYSEDA 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. This program shall provide resources for switching to electric heat pumps and other energy efficiency measures.

Proponents: EANY; NY Geothermal Energy Organization, Rewiring America

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 48-5 (Borrello, Ortt, Lanza, Mattera, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Economic Consideration in Utility Rate Setting**S.1847 (Comrie, Fernandez, Gallivan, May, Palumbo, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.2400 (Eichenstein)**

This bill requires the 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.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-6 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Palumbo, Weber, Weik, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Rebate Program for Used Zero-Emission Vehicles**S.2032 (Harckham, Comrie, Jackson) / A.349 (Barrett)**

This bill directs NYSERDA to create a program that provides up to a \$2,000 rebate for previously owned zero-emission vehicles to provide an incentive for state and local government entities, businesses and individuals who purchase used or previously owned zero-emission Vehicles.

Proponents: Climate Reality Project New York State Coalition; Environmental Advocates of New York, National Grid

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

Residential Water Index Reporting**S.2253 (Comrie) / A.2430 (Braunstein)**

A residential water cost index is a numerical measure that tracks and compares the average cost of residential water service across different regions or time periods. This bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a formula for the calculation of a residential water cost index and publish a report on every qualifying waterworks corporation's respective residential water cost index.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-5 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Tedisco, Martins, Palumbo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Go Green Schools Act**S.2482 (Parker, Rolison, Webb) / A.3561 (Santabarbara)**

This bill directs NYSERDA to create a mapping tool by December 31, 2026 that will assist schools in converting to renewable energy resources. The mapping tool must provide the following information: the types of renewable systems that would be effective options for each school, how much those would cost, geographical data specific to each school's location such as land types and if any of the soils are suited for agriculture. The mapping tool must contain siting information that reveals proximity to sensitive cultural sites and disadvantaged communities.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 44-15 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Oberacker, O'Mara, Weik, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Limits on Executive Compensation and Legal Fee Recovery from Ratepayers

S.3734A (Mayer, Fernandez, May, Oberacker) / No Same As

This bill directs the PSC to reject any rate increase for utility corporations to recover any direct or indirect costs in excess of \$100,000 that are associated with participation, attendance, preparation, or appeal of a rate proceeding before the PSC. In addition, this bill directs the PSC to limit ratepayer recovery of utility management compensation salaries to the current salary of the Governor at the time of the initial filing of the rate case, unless utilities can prove that utility management compensation is necessary for safe and reliable operation of the utility's system.

Proponents: Yonkers City Council and PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 45-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Ashby, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Weber, Ortt, Walczyk, Tedisco, Weik, Gallivan, Griffo, Stec)

Assembly Vote: None

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

This bill directs NYSEERDA 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

Opponents: American Petroleum Institute Northeast Region

Senate Vote: 38-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Tedisco, Stec, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Rate Hike Notice Act**S.5553B (Comrie) / A.5442B (Mamdani)**

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

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: National Grid

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Small Business Energy Assistance and Advocacy Program**S.6484A (C. Ryan) / No Same As**

This bill directs the Division for Small Business (DSB) within the Department of Economic Development to create a small business energy assistance and advocacy program, in consultation with other divisions of the Department and other agencies of the state, as well as federal agencies or local governments, as well as soliciting input from small businesses and organizations representing small businesses, including trade organizations and other entities. The small business energy assistance and advocacy services program shall provide recommendations and consult with NYSERDA, NYPA, PSC, utilities, other entities regarding the development and implementation of energy assistance programs and on the impact of energy policy on small businesses.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Pain and Suffering Damages for Utility Violations and Settlement**S.7165A (Hinchey, 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: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

Public Service Commission Expansion**S.7328A (Hinchey, Jackson) / No Same As**

This bill increases the number of commissioners presiding over the PSC from five to eight. This bill increases the number of PSC commissioners required to have a background in consumer advocacy from one to two. This bill modifies the existing structure of the PSC partisan requirement to allow for five commissioners to be from the same party.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

Electric and Gas Utility ROE Adjustment**S.7693 (Mayer, Hinchey, Jackson) / 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.

Proponents: AGREE NY and PULP

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Borrello, O'Mara, Weik, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Enhanced Agricultural Land Protections for the Make Ready Program**S.7899A (Hinchey) / No same as**

This bill directs NYSERDA to include a preference within the Build Ready Program for sites such as parking lots, warehouse distribution centers, correctional facilities, large retail establishments, roadside rest areas, and brownfields and to avoid development on agricultural lands unless the renewable energy project is reclaimed farmland and utilizing agrivoltaics. The Build Ready Program allows communities to nominate the following sites for renewable development; previously developed sites, existing or abandoned commercial sites, including brownfields, landfills, former commercial or industrial sites, dormant electric generating sites.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Chan, Oberacker, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Green Jobs-Green New York Act**S.8237 (Parker) / No Same As**

The bill raises the maximum loan an applicant can receive from the Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) program to \$50,000 (from \$25,000) and changes the payback period for loans over \$13,000 from 15 years to the useful life of energy efficiency measures installed. The bill modifies the transferability of loans to allow loans to be voluntarily assumed by a later purchaser of property by written agreement rather than requiring a written recording in a municipal office. The bill allows on-bill loan charges to survive ownership changes if NYSERDA records the security interest. The bill also removes disclosure requirements if a loan agreement does not require the purchaser or transferee to be responsible for the loan charges, providing borrowers greater flexibility.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 54-5 (Borrello, O'Mara, Ortt, Lanza, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Customer Savings and Reliability Act (CSRA)**S.8421 (Krueger) / A.8889 (Simon)**

This bill directs the Public Service Commission (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 New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA); repeals the "100 foot rule"; and removes the obligation to serve new natural gas customers.

Proponents: WE Act, Earthjustice, Citizen Action of New York

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**Utility Intervenor Reimbursement****S.2477 (Parker) / A.836 (Solages)**

This bill establishes an intervenor account to provide funding for citizens and non-profits, who represent the interests of a significant number of residential or small business customers and participate in rate-regulation proceedings before the Public Service Commission. The intervenor account will be funded by the utility or utilities subject to the proceeding. Currently, utilities are allowed to pass on their cost of rate cases on to ratepayers, but parties arguing for the public interest are not allowed to get reimbursed for their expenses.

Proponents: PULP, EANY

Opponents: Charter

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 99-46

New York State Grid Modernization Commission**S.4590 (Parker) / A.982 (Barrett)**

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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Comprehensive EV Fast Charging Station Implementation Plan**S.5189 (Comrie, Cooney, Kavanagh, May) / A.1012A (Barrett)**

This bill directs NYSERDA 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

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 104-39

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 within 60 days. This grid planning proceeding will require electric utilities to engage in coordinated grid planning that aligns with the goals of the CLCPA. 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 energy and environmental goals of the CLCPA.

Proponents: NYS School Boards Association; Advanced Energy United; EDF

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit**S.4065C (Parker, Comrie, Sanders, Stavisky) / A.7308A (Barrett)**

This bill establishes a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax credit in New York 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 to increase 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: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

New York State Sustainable Data Centers Act**S.6394A (Gonzalez) / No Same As**

This bill imposes requirements on renewable energy consumption by data centers to mitigate environmental and electrical grid impacts. This bill in addition directs the PSC to create a surcharge to provide utility bill credits to existing energy affordability program (EAP) customers, in the utility service territory in which the data center resides. These credits are intended to offset increased energy costs that may result from data center operations.

Proponents: PULP

Opponents: Digital Power Network

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**E-Bike & E-Scooter Battery Extended Producer Responsibility**

S.73A (Kavanagh, Addabbo, Fahy, Harckham, Helming, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Martinez, Martins, Palumbo, Parker, Rhoads, Rolison, Salazar, Tedisco, Webb, Weber) / A.4641A (Glick)

This bill expands the existing Rechargeable Battery Law to include e-bike and e-scooter batteries. This expansion requires e-bike and e-scooter manufacturers to implement appropriate collection programs, which retailers must participate in, and prohibits selling e-bikes and e-scooters absent such a collection program. In addition, the bill allows for New York City to assume enforcement responsibility and collect any penalties, clarifies the responsibility of manufacturers to provide for the safe collection and disposal of damaged, defective, or recalled batteries, and requires the promulgation of safe handling and storage regulations for e-bike and e-scooter retailers, in consultation with FDNY and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Proponents: NY League of Conservation Voters; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; New York City Office of the Mayor; New York State Association of Counties; NYS Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials; Product Stewardship Council; Sims Municipal Recycling of NY

Opponents: People for Bikes

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Martinez, Scarcella-Spanton)

Assembly Vote: 91-50

Prohibition on Leasing Protected State Lands for Oil and Gas Production

S.1069 (Serrano, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, May, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.1179 (Glick)

This bill prohibits the lease of State forests, reforestation areas, wildlife management areas, and unique areas for oil and gas production. Unique areas refers to state-owned lands designated for their special natural beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological, or historical significance.

Proponents: New York Climate Reality Chapters Coalition

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 50-3 (Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 91-48

Open Water Data Act**S.1211A (May, Comrie, Harckham, Jackson, Webb) / A.5254A (Kelles)**

This bill brings together a number of academic institutions and State agencies to develop a statewide approach to collecting, managing, and disseminating data on water resources.

Proponents: Adirondack Council

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: 56-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Increasing the Availability of Brownfield Community Technical Assistance Grants**S.4263 (Kavanagh, May) / A.5714 (Lee)**

This bill ensures certain host communities can obtain technical assistance grants (TAGs) when a brownfield project is undergoing planning by eliminating the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) discretion and requiring a TAG when there is a significant threat from toxic contamination, requiring a TAG if the site is located on or adjacent to a school or daycare, and giving DEC discretion to require that a TAG be provided for every affected community.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 134-0

Ban on Fishing for Horseshoe Crabs**S.4289 (Hoylman-Sigal, Harckham, Salazar) / A.4997 (Glick)**

This bill prohibits harvesting of horseshoe crabs other than for bona fide scientific or educational purposes, and reauthorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation's management authority for other crab fisheries, which lapsed when a similar version of this bill was vetoed in 2024.

Proponents: Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Concerned Citizens of Montauk; Friends of the Bay; Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District; National Audubon Society; NY League of Conservation Voters; North Fork Environmental Council; NYC Bird Alliance; Save the Sound; Sierra Club; South Shore Audubon Society; The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk; Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island; Saw Mill River Audubon; Seatuck, Conserving Long Island Wildlife; Suffolk County Legislator Englebright

Opponents: Town of Hempstead Baymen's Association; Ocean C Star, LLC

Senate Vote: 43-16 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 100-45

Prevailing Wage for Construction Work on Brownfield Projects

S.5379 (Harckham, Bailey, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, Martinez, Mattera, May, Mayer, Murray, Palumbo, Ramos, Rhoads, Rivera, S. Ryan, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Skoufis, Stavisky, Webb, Weber) / A.4914 (Bronson)

This bill creates new prevailing wage obligations with respect to an enumerated list of brownfield remediation work activities, generally categorized as construction, interim remedial measures, and restoration of the environment. The bill excludes: pre-construction work; post-construction operation, maintenance, and monitoring; work performed under a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with a labor union, a labor peace agreement, or project labor agreement; and affordable housing projects. To qualify, at least 30% of the project must be paid for with public funds, and the total project cost must exceed \$5 million.

Proponents: LIUNA Local 78; AFL-CIO; New York Foundation for Fair Contracting; Operating Engineers; Pipe Trades Association; Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC 825)

Opponents: Various developers; National Federation of Independent Business; New York State Bar Association

Senate Vote: 51-8 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 140-5

Local Authority to Ban the Application of Pesticides to Freshwater Wetlands

S.5983A (Harckham, May) / A.6930 (Burdick)

This bill permits municipalities to enact local laws prohibiting the use of pesticides in freshwater wetlands connected to drinking water supplies. Such laws cannot prohibit pesticide applications for the control of invasive species, pests of significant public health importance, noxious weeds designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation as injurious to ecosystem health, for the protection of critical native plant species, or for farm operations.

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: 48-9 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Stec, Tedisco)

Assembly Vote: 97-46

Crossbow Hunting Law Reforms

S.6360A (Harckham, Ashby, Borrello, Comrie, Gallivan, Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, May, O'Mara, C. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis) / A.8330A (Woerner)

This bill allows for the use of a crossbow in any hunting season or area where a longbow is permitted to be used, and relaxes the specifications for crossbows that may be used for hunting.

Proponents: Adirondack Council

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Brisport, Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 139-2

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**Enhanced Standards for Lead Exposure in Soil, Dust, and Air**

S.122A (Brouk, Jackson, May, Rhoads, Rolison, Webb, Weber) / A.3682A (Peoples-Stokes)

This bill sets new, more protective standards for lead exposure in dust, air, and soil. Specifically, the Department of Environmental Conservation, 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 Biden Administration in 2024.

Proponents: Working Group at Park West Village

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Ban on PFAS in Consumer Products

S.187A (Hoylman-Sigal, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, May, Mayer, Palumbo, Persaud, Ramos, Rivera, Rolison, C. Ryan, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.7738 (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 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: NAACP New York State Conference; Consumer Reports; New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC); NYS American Academy of Pediatrics; NY Healthcare Professionals; American Water Works Association NY; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Clean Air Action Network; Clean+Healthy; Earthjustice; Environmental Advocates NY; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Newburgh Clean Water Project; NY Sustainable Business Council; NYPIRG; PFOAProject NY; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; The JustGreen Partnership; Women's Voices for the Earth; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Catskill Mountainkeeper; Green Inside and Out; Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York; NY League of Conservation Voters; NY Water Environment Association; Seneca Lake Guardian

Opponents: American Chemistry Council; Cookware Sustainability Alliance; NYS Chemistry Council; American Coatings Association; Business Council

Senate Vote: 47-12 (Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Ban on the Sale or Ownership of Exotic Wild Animals**S.252 (Martinez, Addabbo, Comrie, Gounardes, May, Sepúlveda, Webb) /****A.6836B (Rosenthal L)**

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

Senate Vote: 56-6 (Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Clean Deliveries Act (Warehouse Emissions Regulation)

S.1180B (Gianaris, Brisport, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, May, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.3575B (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 the Department of Environmental Conservation (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 in the past two years violated similar clean air laws related to its logistics operations. 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: Teamsters Local 804; Legal Aid Society; American Lung Association; Earthjustice; Environmental Advocates NY; Consumer Reports; Environmental Defense Fund; NYPIRG; Union of Concerned Scientists; Electrify NY; NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; Sierra Club; New Yorkers for Clean Power; Jobs to Move America; Tri-State Transportation Campaign; Long Island Progressive Coalition

Opponents: NY Business Council; Amazon

Senate Vote: 46-12 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Clean Fuel Standard

S.1343A (Parker, Addabbo, Bailey, Comrie, Fahy, Harckham, Jackson, Rolison, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Tedisco) / A.472A (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; Mapleview 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: 42-17 (Borrello, Brisport, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Krueger, Lanza, Mattera, May, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Salazar, Stec, Walczyk, Webb, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses

S.1463 (Kavanagh, Harckham, May) / A.1209 (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. Producers are responsible for covering all costs of implementing the program (including the State's administration costs).

Proponents: Environmental Advocates NY; Product Stewardship Institute; Renewable Recycling

Opponents: American Chemistry Council; Business Agent Local 1714T Workers United; NYS Chemistry Council

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

Assembly Vote: None

Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA - Packaging EPR)

S.1464 (Harckham, Kavanagh, Addabbo, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.1749 (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.

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: 33-25 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cooney, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention Act (HABMAP)

S.1833A (May, 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.2057A (Webb, Rivera, Addabbo, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Bynoe, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Oberacker, Parker, Persaud, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.2054A (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: 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: 49-10 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Weik)
Assembly Vote: None

Whale Awareness Act

S.2292A (Harckham, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick) / A.8515 (Kassay)

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Conservation 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; NRDC; Wildlife Conservation Society

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Sustainable Affordable Housing and Sprawl Prevention Act**S.3492A (May, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Salazar) / A.6283A (Kelles)**

This bill is intended to reduce housing construction costs and facilitate more rapid production of environmentally-friendly affordable housing in urban environments to address the State's housing challenges and to reduce sprawl. To do so, the bill limits the application of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for multiple dwelling housing projects in urban areas by providing a complete SEQRA exemption to certain types of housing, and a limited SEQRA exemption to other types of housing. All housing projects must still meet a limited number of core environmental standards set forth in the bill, such as protections relating to air, water, and toxic pollution. The bill also provides some limited protections for disadvantaged communities.

Proponents: NYU Furman Center; New York State Association for Affordable Housing; Citizens Climate Lobby NYS; City of Kingston; Enterprise Community Partners; Erase Racism; Fiscal Policy Institute; New York Neighbors; Open New York; Regional Plan Association; Welcome Home Westchester

Opponents: NYCLU; various environmental justice advocates

Senate Vote: 41-18 (Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Bans Animal Acts in Circuses**S.3629A (Fernandez, Gianaris, Kavanagh, Martinez, 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: ASPCA; New York State Bar Association; NYC Bar Association; Animal Legal Defense Fund; Animal Welfare Institute; 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; Town of Wallkill

Opponents: NY Association of Agricultural Fairs

Senate Vote: 52-10 (Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Bans Toxic Substances in Playground Surfacing**S.3852A (Hinchey, Cleare, Jackson, Kavanagh, Mayer, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Webb) / A.7594 (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: None Available

Opponents: NYS Chemistry Council

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Fenceline Monitoring for Toxic Air Contaminants**S.4030 (Fernandez, Jackson, Webb) / A.6416 (Septimo)**

This bill requires DEC to promulgate ambient air quality standards by December 31, 2027, 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, 2028.

Proponents: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Clean+Healthy NY; Environmental Advocates NY

Opponents: New York State Chemistry Council; Business Council

Senate Vote: 44-9 (Borrello, Chan, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Increases Environmental Penalties and Environmental Enforcement Funding**S.4033 (Harcsham) / A.3026A (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: 59-0

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.

Proponents: Sierra Club; Environmental Advocates NY; NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, C. Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Explicitly Authorizes the Attorney General to Use Title Insurance for Land Conservation Transactions

S.4403 (May, Fahy) / A.6076 (Levenberg)

This bill provides explicit authorization for the Attorney General (OAG), when processing land conservation acquisitions, to approve any transaction where the State can obtain marketable title, and provides for OAG to procure title insurance to cover any title defects.

Proponents: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; Adirondack Council; Finger Lakes Land Trust; The Nature Conservancy; Peconic Land Trust; Rensselaer Plateau Alliance; Saratoga Plan; Scenic Hudson; The Conservation Fund

Opponents: Public Employees Federation

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Leasing Reforestation Areas for Renewable Energy Development

S.4408 (May) / No Same As

This bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation (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: Environmental Advocates NY

Opponents: Empire State Forest Products Association

Senate Vote: 40-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, 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: 52-1 (Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act (PFAS Monitoring of Industrial Wastewater Discharges) S.4574B (May, Cleare, Fahy, Hinchey, Jackson, Kavanagh, Mayer, S. Ryan, 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 results of PFAS monitoring on its website.

Proponents: NAACP; NY Sustainable Business Council; Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper; Earthjustice; Environmental Advocates NY; NYPIRG; Riverkeeper; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Sierra Club

Opponents: NY Business Council; American Waterworks Association; New York Water Environment Association Inc.; NY Rural Water Association; Empire State Forest Products

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Moratorium on Biosolid Spreading and Sale**S.5759C (Harckham, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Mayer, Serrano, Skoufis) / A6192D (Kelles)**

The bill places a five-year moratorium on land application of sewage sludge (biosolids), as well as the issuance, renewal, or approval of permits to do so. The bill covers biosolids obtained directly from a wastewater treatment plant, compost material with biosolid inputs, and any other product derived from biosolids, intended for use as a fertilizer or other land application purpose. The bill also places a moratorium on selling, distributing, and otherwise providing biosolids as fertilizer, soil amendment, topsoil replacement, mulch, or for other similar purposes. The moratorium does not apply to disposal of biosolids at a landfill; or compost materials and other agricultural products and materials derived from cultivation or processing of food, food waste, crops/vegetative material, manure, litter, animal feeding operation waste.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates NY; Northeast Dairy Producers Association; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Opponents: NY Water Environment Association

Senate Vote: 48-11 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Mattera, Oberacker, Rhoads, C. Ryan, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

**Augmenting Financial Assurance Requirements for Petroleum Storage and Transportation
S.6831 (Hinchey, Fahy) / A.8666 (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 the Department of Environmental Conservation (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. In addition, the bill requires that railroads carrying crude oil submit information to DEC regarding a railroad's ability to pay for discharges resulting from a reasonable worst-case discharge.

Proponents: Riverkeeper

Opponents: Empire State Energy Association

Senate Vote: 49-9 (Griffo, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

State Agency Building Composting**S.7809 (Salazar, Brisport, Comrie, Hoylman-Sigal) / No Same As**

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: 43-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Environmental Restoration Program Reforms****S.672A (Hinchey) / A3091A (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 in which a municipality is excluded from the program based on its contribution to contamination.
- Making available up to \$20 million in 1996 Environmental Bond Act money.

This bill was included in the Senate's SFY 2025-26 One House Budget proposal.

Proponents: None available

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP)

S.1850A (Hinchey, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Comrie, Fernandez, Helming, Kavanagh, Mattera, May, Murray, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, Stec, Tedisco, Webb, Weber) / A.6012A (Kelles)

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.

This bill was included in the Senate's SFY 2025-26 One House Budget proposal.

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

Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act

S.3456 (Hoylman-Sigal, Gounardes, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, May, Ramos) / A.4282 (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: Ceres; Environmental Advocates NY; NY League of Conservation Voters; XBRL; Earthjustice

Opponents: American Chemistry Council; Business Council; REBNY

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill

S.5684 (May, Baskin, Brisport, Cleare, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, 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

Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act

S.6570 (Harckham, Comrie, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Salazar) / A.8758 (Barrett)

This bill sets a new solar energy target of 20 gigawatts produced in the state by 2035. Separately, the bill directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to advance reforms to the utility interconnection process with the intent of accelerating a cost-effective integration of new distributed energy resources (DER - generally conceived of as energy sources that are not a power plant, such as small solar arrays). The bill also directs NYSERDA to re-start the NY-Sun program to help meet the new solar energy goal, and directs PSC to fund this effort.

Proponents: NY League of Conservation Voters; Alliance for Clean Energy NY; the solar industry

Opponents: None available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

**Reforms to Limit 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 Procedures Act (SAPA) when permit determinations are on-going. 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 communities impacted by the facility. If DEC then does not act on the permit application within 36 months of the application date, the SAPA extension is suspended. There is 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

UNRESOLVED ISSUES**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 Enacted Budget did not include this proposal and no legislation addressing these issues passed either House.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Public hearing of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. *Efficacy of the state's monitoring and management of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and potential legislative solutions.* (May 21, 2025)

Public hearing of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee. *Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination.* (November 21, 2024)

ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**Expands Definition of Lobbying Activities**

S.374 (Gianaris, Hoylman-Sigal, Brisport, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson) / A.7456 (McDonald)

The 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: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Annual Lobbyist Anti-Sexual Harassment Training Course

S.426 (Liu, Brouk, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Ramos) / No Same As

This bill requires registered lobbyists and lobbyists filing for renewal registration to complete an annual online anti-sexual harassment training created and managed by the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG), starting in 2027.

Proponents: The National Women's Defense League Action Fund

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Lanza)

Assembly Vote: None

Nonprofit Lobbyist Reporting Requirements**S.2224A (Krueger) / No Same As**

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 statement of registration 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 statement of registration fee. A similar proposal was included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Senate one-house budget proposal but did not make it into the adopted budget.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Certain Public Servants from Receiving Compensation from an IDA**S.4039A (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, 10% or more of a business that contracts with the authority, including Industrial Development Agencies (IDA).

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-19 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

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 file electronically on COELIG's website by using its online filing system.

Proponents: Citizens Union of the City of New York, Common Cause New York, New York City Bar, NYPIRG, Reinvent Albany, The League of Women Voters of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 50-3 (Chan, Ortt, Rhoads)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

FINANCE

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Enacted State Operations Budget Bill

S.3000D (Budget) / A.3000D (Budget)

The State Operations Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 included an All Funds appropriation of \$63.6 billion, an annual increase of \$3.9 billion or 6.5 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: 50-22 (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: 100-49

Chapter 50

Enacted Legislature and Judiciary Budget Bill

S.3001A (Budget) / A.3001A (Budget)

The Legislature and Judiciary Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 included total appropriation of \$ 4.4 billion for the Legislative Branch and Judicial Branch. The Legislature received an All Funds appropriation of \$304.7 million, an increase of \$9.7 million or 3.3 percent compared to SFY 2024-25. The Office of Court Administration (OCA), the administrative agency for Judiciary, received a total appropriation of \$4.09 billion, an increase of \$336 million or 8.9 percent compared to SFY 2024-25.

Senate Vote: 46-16 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 117-32

Chapter 51

Enacted Debt Budget Bill**S.3002 (Budget) / A.3002 (Budget)**

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 2025-26, State appropriations for debt service totaled \$10.7 billion and cash disbursements are projected to net at \$2.4 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: 51-10 (Borrello, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 112-35

Chapter 52

Enacted Aid to Localities Budget Bill**S.3003D (Budget) / A.3003D (Budget)**

The Aid to Localities Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 included All Funds spending of \$200.7 billion, an annual increase of \$10.6 billion or 5.6 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, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 104-45

Chapter 53

Enacted Capital Projects Budget Bill**S.3004D (Budget) / A.3004D (Budget)**

The Capital Projects Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 included All Funds appropriations of \$30.6 billion, an increase of \$8.8 billion or 40.4 percent. The spending amount includes both State and federal funds associated with capital projects funding.

Senate Vote: 45-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 109-40

Chapter 54

Enacted Article VII Public Protection and General Government Budget Bill

S.3005C (Budget) / A.3005C (Budget)

The Public Protection Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state public protection and general government budget.

Senate Vote: 41-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 104-46

Chapter 55

Enacted Article VII Education, Labor and Family Assistance Budget Bill

S.3006C (Budget) / A.3006C (Budget)

The Education, Labor, and Family Assistance Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state education, labor, housing and family assistance budget.

Senate Vote: 44-18 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 112-37

Chapter 56

Enacted Article VII Health and Mental Hygiene Budget Bill

S.3007C (Budget) / A.3007C (Budget)

The Health and Mental Hygiene Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 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, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 101-49

Chapter 57

Enacted Article VII Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation Budget Bill

S.3008C (Budget) / A.3008C (Budget)

The Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state transportation, economic development and environmental conservation budget.

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: 103-47

Chapter 58

Enacted Article VII Revenue Budget Bill

S.3009C (Budget) / A.3009C (Budget)

The Revenue Budget Bill for SFY 2025-26 enacted into law major components of legislation necessary to implement tax and revenue changes in the State budget.

Senate Vote: 35-27 (Ashby, Borrello, Brisport, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 103-46

Chapter 59

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.7070 (Krueger) / A.7515 (Pretlow)

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 3, 2025.

Senate Vote: 63-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Chapter 113

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.7156 (Krueger) / A.7635 (Pretlow)

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 7, 2025.

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 148-0

Chapter 117

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.7239 (Krueger) / A.7695 (Pretlow)

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 9, 2025.

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Chapter 118

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.7317 (Krueger) / A.7765 (Pretlow)

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 15, 2025.

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Chapter 119

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill

S.7399 (Krueger) / A.7923 (Pretlow)

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 17, 2025.

Senate Vote: 53-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Chapter 120

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7459 (Krueger) / A.8000 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 23, 2025.

Senate Vote: 50-1 (Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Chapter 121

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7530 (Krueger) / A.8015 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 24, 2025.

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: 134-0

Chapter 122

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7631 (Krueger) / A.8068 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through April 29, 2025.

Senate Vote: 49-2 (Lanza, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Chapter 123

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7673 (Krueger) / A.8095 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through May 1, 2025.

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Borrello, Lanza, Ortt, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 149-0

Chapter 124

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7707 (Krueger) / A.8115 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through May 7, 2025.

Senate Vote: 50-4 (Borrello, Lanza, Ortt, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Chapter 125

Enacted Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill**S.7766 (Krueger) / A.8270 (Pretlow)**

The Emergency Appropriation Budget Bill enacted into law sufficient appropriation authority to make State payments for the period April 1, 2025 through May 7, 2025.

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Borrello, Lanza, Ortt, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 148-0

Chapter 126

Keep Police Radio Public Act**S.416 (Gianaris, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Hoylman-Sigal, Parker, Salazar, Sepúlveda / A.3516 (Reyes)**

This bill establishes the "Keep Police Radio Public Act," which requires law enforcement agencies to provide real-time public access to certain radio communications. This excludes sensitive information. The bill empowers the Department of State to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for implementing this provision. The bill requires the Department of State to establish a process for granting access to these communications within five business days for qualified emergency services organizations and journalists. The bill empowers the Department of State to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for implementing this provision.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York State Sheriff's Association

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

Assembly Vote: 84-61

Critical Incident Leave for State Police Officers**S.2681B (Cooney, Bailey, Gallivan, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Martinez, May, Mayer, Rolison, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis) / A.6452B (Burke)**

This bill requires the Division of State Police to develop and implement a critical incident leave policy. This policy would provide paid leave for officers involved in use-of-force incidents resulting in serious injury or death, with the leave duration dependent on the officer's level of involvement. Division of State Police officers indirectly involved would receive 15 days and at least 20 calendar days of paid leave for officers directly involved in an incident.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Brisport)

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Implements The Terms of a Collectively Bargained Agreement Between the State and the Members of the Graduate Students Employee Unit**S.8383 (Stavisky, Jackson) / A.8799 (Torres, Griffin, Otis)**

This bill implements the terms of a collectively bargained agreement between the Executive Branch and the CWA Local 1104/Graduate Students Employees Union (GSEU), the employee organization representing members of the State University Graduate Student Negotiating Unit. This agreement relates to the compensation and benefits, among other conditions of employment, for covered graduate student employees, and it is standard practice to effectuate these agreements through a pay bill. The bill provides appropriation authority totaling \$39.9 million to cover costs associated with personal service, fringe benefits, and other funds established within the act.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 136-0

**Extends the Financial and Bonding Authority of the Housing Finance Agency Until 2027
S.8177 (Kavanagh) / A.8571 (Rosenthal)**

This departmental bill extends the program and bond-issuing authority of the NYS Housing Finance Agency (HFA), State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA), NYC Housing Development Agency, and SONYMA Mortgage Insurance Fund (MIF) until July 2027, a period of two years. These agencies finance public and private housing developments across New York State, including affordable and mixed-income housing. This two- year extender is consistent with previous extensions, with the last being in 2023. The bill raises the bond limit for SONYMA by \$200 million from \$10.72 billion to \$10.92 billion, and increases the amount allowable for use for mortgage purposes by \$1.4 billion, from \$1 billion to \$2.4 billion. Lastly, this bill increases the allowable aggregate principal amount by \$450 million, from \$1.5 billion to \$1.95 billion

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 142-2

Implements The Terms of a Collectively Bargained Agreement Between the State and the Members of the Collective Negotiating Unit Consisting of Investigators, Senior Investigators, and Investigative Specialists**S.8384 (Jackson) / A.8800 (Pheffer Amato)**

This bill implements the terms of a collectively bargained agreement between the Executive Branch and BCI unit of the state troopers, the employee organization representing investigators, senior investigators, and investigative specialists in the division of state police. This agreement relates to the compensation and benefits for covered state trooper police. It is standard practice to implement these agreements through a pay bill. This bill provides \$44.3 million to cover costs associated with personal service, fringe benefits, and other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of the agreement.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

**City of Dunkirk Revenue Anticipation Note Refinancing Act
S.8413 (Gounardes), /A.3780E (Pretlow)**

This legislation authorizes the State of New York to issue a state-financed loan to the City of Dunkirk in an amount not to exceed \$13.7 million, with an interest rate of seven and one-half percent (7.5%) and a period of probable usefulness of 15 years, commencing on the date of issuance. The funds must be used exclusively to repay a revenue anticipation note (RAN) with a principal due on July 24, 2025, in order to prevent default on the city's general obligation debt.

The bill requires the mayor of the City of Dunkirk to submit an annual, signed attestation for the duration of the loan period, affirming that the city has made good-faith efforts to pursue financing authorized under the Dunkirk Fiscal Recovery Act of 2024 through competitive municipal bond issuance. Additionally, the city must remain in compliance with the Act's provisions, including the submission of quarterly budget reports, trial balances, and multi-year financial plans to the State Budget Director, the State Comptroller, the Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, and Chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-22

Assembly Vote: 88-47

**Establishing a Specialized Electric Vehicle Emergency Response Training Program
S.5848 (Skoufis) / A.247 (Eachus)**

This bill establishes a specialized electric vehicle emergency response training program. The program would be overseen by the State Fire Administrator, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and is designed to provide emergency responders, including firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services agencies, and tow operators, with the necessary training to handle incidents involving electric vehicles. The training program would be available statewide, with sufficient frequency to ensure effective emergency response and responder safety. The curriculum would include hands-on training, and follow the standards set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Society of Automotive Engineers, as well as recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board. In addition, the State Fire Administrator would be required to submit an annual report on the program's operations to key state officials, including the Governor and legislative leaders. The bill also grants the State Fire Administrator the authority to create rules and regulations necessary to implement the training program.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 146-0

**Enacted Aid to Localities Appropriation Budget Amendment Bill
S.8438 (Budget) / A.8896 (Budget)**

This legislation made technical changes to the aid to localities budget regarding the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Department of Health, the Department of Labor, and the Department of State.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Allowing the State Comptroller to Refund Bonds If It Advantages the State**S.5442 (Krueger) / A.5833 (Pretlow)**

This is a Departmental bill from the Office of the State Comptroller that would allow the Comptroller to redeem or refund any general obligation bonds in part or whole if doing so will deliver advantages to the State.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 149-0

Chapter 102

Donation of State Property to a Registered 501(c)(3)**S.3106 (Cooney, Fahy, Jackson, Hinchey, Kavanagh, May, Salazar, Webb, Stavisky) / A.4723 (McDonald, Otis)**

This bill would give the Office of General Services the option to donate State owned personal property to a registered 501(c)(3) in lieu of selling the property. This bill does not change existing law which excludes vehicles and technology.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 47-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Directs 20 percent of Opioid Stewardship Fund revenue be made available for harm reduction grant programs administered by the Department of Health****S.55 (Fernandez, Harckham) / A.69 (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill would direct that at least 20 percent of funds deposited into the Opioid Stewardship Fund shall be invested in recovery services and 20 percent to the Department of Health for harm reduction services. Additionally, an annual report to the Legislature regarding funds distributed from the Opioid Stewardship Fund would be required.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate vote: 61-0

Assembly vote: none

Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Safety Study**S.257 (Martinez) / A.5100 (O'Pharrow)**

This bill authorizes the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) to conduct a study on lithium-ion battery fires and prevention, in collaboration with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). The study will also gather data on deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by lithium-ion battery fires, as well as input from stakeholders in the lithium-ion battery industry. The OFPC would be required to submit a report of its findings including recommendations for improving safety related to lithium-ion battery fires, including training requirements for proper handling, updates to building codes for charging devices, and a public awareness and education program to the Governor and Legislature within one year of the bill's enactment.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Establishes August 31st of each year as a day of commemoration known as "Overdose Awareness Day"**S.487 (Fernandez, Murray, Addabbo, Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Gounardes, Griffo, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Martinez, Mayer, Oberacker, Rivera, Webb, Weber, Weik) / A.6018 (Zaccaro)**

This bill establishes August 31st of each year as "Overdose Awareness Day" as a day of commemoration, as a special day in recognition and special honor of a person, persons, group of ideals, or a goal. A day of commemoration is established by law or by proclamation of the governor or resolution of the Senate and Assembly jointly adopted but does not constitute a holiday or half-holiday.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate vote: 61-0

Assembly vote: none

Requires diversity and Inclusion training in basic training and pre employment for police, firefighters, correction officers and first responders

S.518A (Persaud, Brouk, Cleare, Fernandez, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.5501 (Buttenschon)

This bill would establish a mandatory minimum training required for State and local first responders, correction officers and law enforcement. The bill would require that all basic training and pre-employment curriculum include no less than five percent diversity and inclusion training.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 43-13 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ort, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes May as "Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month"

S.557 (Krueger, Brouk, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Helming, Webb) / A.4117 (Reyes)

This bill designates the month of May as "Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month" and establishes a process to designate a month of commemoration by law, proclamation of the governor, or by resolution of the Senate and Assembly jointly adopted.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate vote: 61 - 0

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: 50-9 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Mattera, Murray, Palumbo, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Voluntary Gun Purchase Waiver Program**S.1026A (Kavanagh, Fahy, Fernandez) / A.198A (Paulin)**

This bill would allow a person to voluntarily waive their right to purchase a gun. To do so, a person would file a waiver form with the Division of State Police (DSP). This bill requires, DSP to maintain records of these waivers.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 47-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes Emergency Pilot Repair Program**S.1838 (Skoufis, Hinchey) / A.5641 (Hunter, Otis)**

This bill directs the Secretary of State, with assistance from DHCR, to establish an emergency repair pilot program where participating cities will adopt a local law to permit them to immediately repair hazardous code violations in buildings where the owner has not undertaken repairs and permit them to bill the owner for repair costs. It would also direct the Secretary of State to prepare a model local law that municipalities can choose to adopt to effectuate the program. Owners of affected property would be responsible for the costs of emergency repairs, and bill's reporting requirements for the Secretary of State and DHCR are expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-13 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Walczyk, Weik)

Climate Resilient New York Act**S.3590 (Harckham, Cleare, Fahy, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Mayer, Palumbo, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.8088A (Burdick)**

This bill creates an Office of Resilience (Office), and a Chief Resilience Officer (appointed by the Governor) to run the Office. The Chief Resilience Officer is akin to a resilience czar, and is responsible for—in addition to assisting in resilience project development—recommending agency-specific actions, policy problem-solving, resilience indicator establishment and tracking, an inventory of critical infrastructure, acting as a clearinghouse for municipalities needing assistance, developing a strategic plan, participating in regional resilience efforts, and other related duties. The bill also provides for a task force to provide the Office with strategic direction, a resilience coordinator within each state agency, and an inter-agency coordination team.

Proponents: Environmental Defense Fund; Riverkeeper; Waterfront Alliance; Sierra Club; Save the Sound; Climate Reality Project; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Regional Plan Association; New York Disaster Interfaith Services; American Lung Association; Rise for Resilience Coalition; Sustainable Hudson Valley

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-3 (Griffo, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Increases Human Services Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) to 7.8 Percent and expands to include additional programs****S.1580 (Persaud) / A.2590 (Hevesi)**

This bill establishes a 7.8 percent Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for designated programs, in relation to providing further targeted inflationary increases for designated programs that contract with various state agencies. Certain programs within the of the Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the State Office for the Aging (SOFA), and the Office of Victim Services (OVS), shall receive a 7.8 percent cost of living adjustment; at least 2.6 percent of that must go directly to workers.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate vote: None

Assembly vote: None

Relates to the Office of New Americans Giving Guidance Regarding Fielding Requests from Federal Immigration Authorities**S.2466 (Sepúlveda, Myrie) / A.5111 (Solanges)**

This bill requires that the Office of New Americans give state agencies guidance on how to respond to requests from Federal immigration authorities for access to information or individuals participating in those agencies' programs.

Proponents: None Available.

Opponents: None Available.

Senate Vote: None.

Assembly Vote: None.

Establishes the Hire a Vet Program**S.6005 (Baskin) / A.401 (Stirpe, Burdick, Lunsford)**

This bill establishes a “Hire a Vet Grant Program” for municipalities that hire a veteran, full-time or part-time and retain them continuously for at least 12 months. Grants mirror existing private-sector tax credits: full-time positions earn up to 15% of wages (max \$15,000) or 20% for disabled veterans (max \$20,000); part-time hires receive \$7,500 (or \$10,000 if disabled).

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: Died in the Senate

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

HEALTH

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Medical Aid in Dying

S.138 (Hoylman-Sigal, Scarcella-Spanton, Brisport, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Krueger, May, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.136 (Paulin)

This bill allows adults to request and self-administer life-ending medication upon receiving medical approval. Individuals must make this decision voluntarily, be capable of making an informed decision, and have less than six months to live due to incurable and irreversible illness.

Proponents: Compassion and Choices New York, Medical Society of the State of New York, New York State Association of Counties, New York State and Women's Bar Associations, New York Unitarian Universalist Justice, New York State Psychiatric Association

Opponents: New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide, New York State Catholic Conference, ArchCare, Catholic Health

Senate Vote: 35-27 (Ashby, Baskin, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cleare, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Persaud, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco, Weber, Weik, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 81-67

State Frontotemporal Degeneration Registry

S.598B (Hinchey, Cooney, Fahy, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Jackson) / A.1985C (Paulin)

This bill directs the Department of Health (DOH), in conjunction with the Office for Aging, to establish a state frontotemporal degeneration registry which will collect data on the incidence of frontotemporal degeneration and dementias in New York. It also directs DOH, in collaboration with the advisory committee, to issue annual reports to the Governor and Legislature on the incidents and prevalence of dementia-related conditions in the State and requires DOH to create and maintain a public webpage with relevant resources.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

School-Based Health Center Managed Care Carve Out

S.1224 (Rivera, Bailey, Baskin, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, May, Persaud, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.957 (Paulin)

This bill would permanently carve school-based health centers (SBHCs) out of Medicaid managed care. This would keep SBHCs subject to the fee-for-service reimbursement method.

Proponents: Community Healthcare Association of NYS, Greater NY Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New York State, NYS School Based Health Alliance, NYS School Boards Association, NYSUT, 1199 SEIU

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Requires Community Engagement Prior to a Hospital Closure

S.1226 (Rivera, Kavanagh, Gonzalez, Myrie, Hinchey, Webb, Krueger, Bailey, Brisport, Fernandez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.6004 (Simon)

This bill would require 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: None Available

Opponents: Greater New York Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New York State

Senate Vote: 56–5 (Gallivan, Griffo, Oberacker, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 105-41

Prohibits Fees for Stillbirth and Pregnancy Loss Certificates

S.1807A (Fernandez, Cooney) / A2311A (Zaccaro)

This legislation prohibits charges for stillbirth and pregnancy loss certificates to alleviate financial burdens on New Yorkers experiencing significant pain.

Proponents: Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York

Opposition: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Allows Close Friends to Make Decisions Regarding Organ and Tissue Donation**S.3360 (Rivera, Fahy, Fernandez, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Parker, C. Ryan) / A.1395 (Paulin)**

This bill adds “close friend” to the list of individuals who can make decisions about organ and tissue donation on behalf of a deceased person. The law defines a “close friend” as an adult friend or relative of the patient who has maintained regular contact with the patient and is familiar with their activities, health, and religious or moral beliefs.

Proponents: Donate Life NYS

Opponents: NYS Right to Life

Senate Vote: 52-7 (Borrello, Chan, Lanza, Martinez, Oberacker, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 138-10

Includes Hospitals in the Statewide Sexual Offense Electronic Tracking System**S.5225A (Gounardes, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.1970A (Paulin)**

This bill includes hospitals within the rape kit tracking process and prescribes a timeframe for law enforcement officials to collect a rape kit from a hospital for delivery to a laboratory.

Proponents: Joyful Heart Foundation, New York City Police Department

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Hospital and Nursing Home Violence Prevention Programs**S.5294B (Sepúlveda, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Jackson, C. Ryan, Webb) / A.203B (Cruz)**

This bill requires hospitals to develop and implement violence prevention programs, conduct an annual security assessment, and develop safety and security plans. It deems nursing homes compliant if they adhere to federal emergency preparedness regulations, as long as they “address workplace violence threats and hazards.”

Proponents: American Nurses Association New York; New York American College of Emergency Physicians; New York State Emergency Nurses Association; 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Repeals Requirement for Practitioners to Report a Patient's Drug Use
S.3362 (Rivera) / A.1894 (Paulin)

This bill repeals provisions of the Public Health Law that require practitioners to report a patient's drug use to the Department of Health (DOH). DOH may request this information if a practitioner finds that the patient has a substance use disorder of any narcotic drug. The report is confidential and may only be used for statistical, epidemiological, or research purposes.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 39-20 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 134-14

Authorizes Dispensing of a Three-Day Supply of Controlled Substances
S.3416D (Fernandez) / A.5892B (McDonald)

This bill allows practitioners to dispense controlled substances for emergency treatment while initiating maintenance and/or detoxification treatment. It also allows practitioners to prescribe, administer, and dispense a controlled substance for use in maintenance or detoxification treatment or during the referral process for treatment.

Proponents: Friends of Recovery New York, Greater New York Hospital Association, Legal Action Center

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-3 (Chan, Lanza, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 135-2

Bans the Sale of Kratom to Individuals Under the Age of 21
S.4552A (Fahy, Skoufis) / A.2340A (McDonald)

This bill prohibits the sale of Kratom to persons under the age of 21. Violators of this provision will be fined a civil penalty of up to \$500.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Increases Equity Withdrawals for Safe Staffing Compliant Nursing Homes**S.5369 (Rivera, Skoufis) / A.2051 (Paulin)**

This bill authorizes non-public nursing homes who meet the safe staffing level requirements established in Chapter 156 of the Laws of 2021 for two successive quarters to withdraw equity or transfer assets equal to five percent of the facility's total reported annual revenue without prior written notification to the Department of Health.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Food Allergen Warnings**S.5381B (Harckham, Cleare, Gounardes, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.6558A (Lunsford)**

This bill requires allergen labeling for prepackaged foods sold at food establishments. It applies to "prepackaged food" that is prepared, prepacked, and offered or sold to customers on the same premises from places where the food is intended for off-premises consumption such as grocery stores, delis, bakeries, sandwich shops, ice cream parlors, cafeterias, and food trucks.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 47-12 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 138-7

Digital Health Service Platform Reporting**S.3355A (Rivera) / A.4179A (Stripe)**

This bill adds digital health care service platforms to the definition of "temporary health care services agency" to ensure that app-based platforms who connect individuals to healthcare facilities are required to register and report to the Department of Health (DOH).

Proponents: KARE, NURSA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Decisions Against Alleged Violations by Tobacco Retail Dealers**S.5624 (Kavanagh) / A.8468 (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

The bill amends the definition of enforcement officer to include the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) in the regulation of the sale of tobacco products, herbal cigarettes and smoking paraphernalia to minors in New York City. This would allow OATH to issue the final decision for businesses to resolve their penalties and streamline processes for adjudicating alleged violations committed by tobacco retail dealers.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Motor Neuron Disease Registry**S.6413 (Scarcella-Spanton, Fahy) / A.7845 (Stern)**

This bill directs the Department of Health (DOH) to establish a state amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and motor neuron disease (MND) registry which will collect data on the incidence and prevalence of ALS and MND. DOH will run the registry and the system of information collection and dissemination. DOH will consult with ALS and MND experts and researchers to develop and implement the registry and determine the type of data to be collected.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Allows Patients to Participate in Multiple New York Transplant Programs**S.7151A (Baskin, Harckham, Rivera, C. Ryan) / A.7617 (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill repeals provisions of the Public Health Law that prohibit organ transplantation patients from listing in multiple organ transplant programs in New York. This would align with federal guidance by the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network.

Proponents: Donate Life NYS

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Digitalization of Genealogical Research**S7782A (Skoufis) / A8314A (Paulin)**

This bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to enter into a contract, no longer than seven years, with a qualified entity to create, maintain, and update an online genealogical research database of images of New York State birth, marriage, dissolution of marriage, and death certificates.

Proponents: American Research Bureau (ARB); Association of Professional Genealogists; Capital District Genealogical Society; German Genealogy Group; Italian Genealogical Group; Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.; Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island; New York Genealogical and Biographical Society; New York Genealogical Society - Jefferson County; Reclaim the Records; Western NY Genealogical Society (WNYGS)

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 50-9 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Martins, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 133-0

Epinephrine Nasal Sprays**S.7807A (Gounardes, Brouk, Cleare, Rivera) / A.5392B (Rosenthal)**

This bill defines epinephrine device as a single-use device or nasal spray device used for the automatic injection or administration of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body for the purpose of emergency treatment of a person appearing to experience anaphylactic symptoms. In 2024, the Food and Drug Administration approved an epinephrine nasal spray for the emergency treatment of anaphylactic reactions. This bill would include epinephrine nasal sprays as a recognized epinephrine device in law so people have increased access to them and training for professionals can be regulated.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 58-0

Assembly Votes: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Prohibits the Sale of Vape Products that Resemble School Supplies

S.195 (Martinez, Addabbo, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson) / A.2102 (Fall)

This bill prohibits any person operating a business from selling, distributing, allowing the sale, offering for sale, or displaying for sale certain tobacco products, herbal cigarettes, liquid nicotine, shisha, electronic cigarettes, rolling papers, or smoking paraphernalia if they resemble or are designed to resemble school supplies, toys, or any other product packaging meant to appeal to or target minors or youth.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

DOH Review of Correctional Facility Health Services

S.360 (Rivera, Baskin, Brouk, Cleare) / 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 of health care services, and substance use disorders. DOH's oversight of health care services provided at these facilities will aid in prevention and success in treatment of various infections and diseases.

Proponents: Legal Action Center and Correctional Association of New York

Opponents: None

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

Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Individuals Leaving Incarceration**S.614 (Rivera, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Myrie, Salazar, Sanders) / A.1008 (Paulin)**

This bill makes individuals leaving incarceration appearing to meet Medicaid program eligibility criteria presumptively eligible for such 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 sooner.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 42-17 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

New York State Abortion Clinical Training Program**S.1438A (Krueger, Brisport, Brouk, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, May, Mayer, Salazar, Sepúlveda, 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: 39-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

State Production of Prescription Drugs**S.1618 (Rivera, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Jackson, May) / A.3236 (Rajkumar)**

This bill directs the State to partner with drug manufacturers to produce and distribute high-cost prescription drugs in order to lower costs, reduce drug shortages, and increase market competition.

Proponents: AARP New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 48-13 (Borrello, Oberacker, Ashby, Helming, O'Mara, Weik, Ortt, Walczyk, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Palumbo, Stec)

Prohibits "Excited Delirium" on Death Certificates**S.1714 (Brouk, Brisport, Cooney, Gianaris, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Ramos, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.697 (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

Prohibits the use of the term "excited delirium" as a diagnosis, label, or cause of death since it is not a recognized medical or mental health condition.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 45-17 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Notification of Elevated Blood Lead Levels**S.1816 (Fernandez, Kavanagh, Webb) / A.944 (Rivera)**

This bill requires physicians or authorized practitioners to notify a health officer of elevated lead levels when they reach 3.5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood. Current law provides for 5.0 micrograms.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Oberacker, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Patient Protections Against Sexual Misconduct by Healthcare Providers

S.1855 (Rivera, Brouk, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, Myrie, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.8081 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

This bill requires the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) to adopt a zero-tolerance sexual misconduct policy against medical providers. The bill also institutes semi-annual trainings regarding sexual harassment and misconduct and ensures medical experts consulting for an Office of Professional Medical Conduct investigation are free of conflicts of interest.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 63-0

Pay for Delay Drug Agreements

S.3203 (Fernandez, Brouk, Cleare, Jackson, May, Webb) / A.8576 (Kelles)

This bill establishes a presumption against pay-for-delay agreements compensating generic drugs manufacturers for delaying market entry, which would be considered anticompetitive and subject to state antitrust enforcement.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: PhRMA

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

Maximum Drinking Water Contaminant Levels

S.3207A (Kavanagh, May) / A.8634 (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: 56-3 (Borrello, Lanza, Weik)

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: 34-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Community Engagement Before Nursing Home Closures

S.4275 (Kavanagh, Sepúlveda, Webb) / No Same As

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: 32-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Medical Indemnity Fund Ombudsperson and Advisory Panel

S.3364 (Rivera, Krueger, Mayer) / 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 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: 57-2 (Gallivan, Walczyk)

Lead Service Line Identification for Certain Water Systems

S.3581 (Rivera, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson, Kavanagh, C. Ryan, Salazar, Skoufis) / A.2181 (Paulin)

The bill authorizes water providers to access customers' properties to identify lead services lines so they may 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: 53-6 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Oberacker, Stec, Walczyk)

Allows Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics to Administer Controlled Substances S.3883A (Hinchey, Fahy) / A.1647A (Rosenthal)

This bill authorizes emergency medical technician-paramedics to administer controlled substances to relieve acute withdrawal symptoms from an individual suffering with opioid use disorder (OUD). Although emergency departments (ED) may initiate buprenorphine treatment, many individuals who experience an overdose refuse transport to the ED, are transported to an ED that does not offer buprenorphine, or need immediate treatment. Emergency medical technician-paramedics can help address this treatment gap.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Chan, Lanza, Martins, Walczyk)

Medicaid Inspector General Audits and Investigations**S.4955A (Harckham, Addabbo, Fernandez, Jackson, May, Mayer, Rivera, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.1069A (Paulin)**

This bill would reform 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 time frames 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: 58-0

Minimum Pharmacy Reimbursement**S.5939B (Skoufis, Addabbo, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer, Rivera, C. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Stavisky) / A.5882B (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: 57-2 (Ashby, Walczyk)

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Boards**S.6717A (Bailey, Brouk, Comrie, Fernandez, Liu) / A.5534A (Jackson)**

This bill establishes a statewide Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board within the Department of Health (DOH) and the New York City Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board (the New York City Board) within the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). The Boards will review fetal and infant mortality and morbidities, disseminate findings, and make recommendations on best practices to prevent fetal infant mortality.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Exempts Opioid Treatment Program Services from the Recipient Restriction Program**S.7984 (Fernandez) / No Same As**

This bill exempts medically necessary opioid use disorder services through an opioid treatment plan from the Recipient Restriction Program coverage and payment restrictions. Individuals using these services must visit their providers and pharmacists multiple times a week as part of their treatment plan. Therefore, they may be inappropriately flagged for fraud for overbilling Medicaid and unable to receive treatment.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Martins, Walczyk)

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Requires an Independent Accountant's Report to Verify Wage Parity Compliance****S.674 (Martinez) / A.5115 (Stern, Griffin)**

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 applying agreed upon procedures 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

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Allows Midwives and Physician's Assistants to Certify Fetal Death Certificate**S.5222 (Rivera, Cleare, Myrie, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.1351 (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill would allow midwives and physician assistants to certify a cause of death on a fetal death certificate. The purpose of the bill is to ease delays in fetal death certification to help families process grief and make appropriate arrangements.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Assembly Vote: 147-1

Cesarean Births Review Board**S.7544A (Brouk) / A.1541A (Paulin)**

This legislation creates a new board to consider cesarean births at hospitals and issue a final report with recommendations to reduce the rate of cesarean births in the State.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Assembly Vote: 145-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Disclosure of Sensitive Health Information****S.1633 (Fernandez, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Gounardes, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, Liu, Salazar) / A.2613 (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. This would prevent actors in States with bans on certain types of care from accessing this data.

Proponents: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; New York City Council; NYCLU; Surveillance Technology Oversight Project; NYCLU

Opponents: Epic; Greater New York Hospital Association

Health Provider Consent to Payment**S.6375B (Rivera) / A.6773B Paulin**

Health providers commonly ask patients to sign forms acknowledging they are financially responsible for their care. This bill requires providers employing these forms to use a standard form that does not require patients to assume unlimited financial liability.

Current statute, established in the fiscal year 2025 Enacted Budget, prohibits patients from consenting to pay before receiving services and discussing treatment costs. Last fall, the Department of Health told providers it would not enforce this law after health providers said they could not put it into practice. The most recent Executive Budget proposed replacing it with a requirement that providers secure consent to pay for non-emergency care after “discussing treatment costs.” However, the Legislature and Executive could not reach agreement.

Proponents: Community Service Society

Opponents: Greater New York Hospital Association

Prohibits Industry Discrimination Against 340B Providers**S.1913 (Rivera, Addabbo, Baskin, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, Krueger, Ramos, Salazar, Sanders) / 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; CHCANY; Greater New York Hospital Association

Opponents: Community Oncology Alliance; Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Women’s Issues, Health, Social Services, and Mental Health. *An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State*. (February 24, 2025).

HIGHER EDUCATION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Medication Abortion Prescription Drug Labels**

S.36A (Mayer, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, Myrie, Rivera) / A.2145 (Reyes, Kelles, Jacobson, Rozic, Rosenthal, Lee, Lavine)

This bill permits prescription labels for mifepristone, misoprostol, and their generic alternatives to include the name of the prescribing health care practice, as opposed to the name of the prescriber, at the request of the prescriber. This bill would help shield these prescribers from criminal sanctions or professional disciplinary actions brought against them in other states where abortion is banned.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 39-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Gallivan, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Votes: 95-42

Chapter 7

Allows Dental Hygienists to Practice Independently With A Collaborative Practice Agreement

S.3157 (May, Fahy, Jackson, Salazar) / A.234 (Paulin)

This bill allows for the establishment of Registered Dental Hygienist Collaborative Practice (RDH-CP) agreements, so that dental hygienists may provide services without supervision of a licensed dentist. Under the written collaborative practice agreement, dental hygienists may perform all services that would be designated under general supervision without prior evaluation of a dentist or medical professional and that are capable of being performed without direct supervision.

Proponents: New York Dental Hygienists' Association, Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 58-2 (Lanza, Martinez)

Assembly Votes: 135-0

Phases Out Certain Mandatory University Fees for Graduate Students**S.3458 (Stavisky, Fahy, Fernandez, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, May, Parker, Rivera, C. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.5457 (Solages)**

This bill phases out mandatory graduate education fees for graduate teaching and research assistants. Starting in 2026-2027, mandatory university fees will be reduced to 25% for student teaching and research assistants. Following the year 2026-2027, mandatory university fees for graduate student teaching and research assistants will be prohibited with the exclusion of graduate student association student activity fees.

Proponents: Communication Workers of America

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Votes: 145-0

Requires Title VI Coordinators at Every College and University in the State**S.4559B (Stavisky, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Mayer, S. Ryan, Salazar, Skoufis, Webb) / A.5448B (Rozic)**

This bill requires the appointment of a Title VI coordinator at every college and university in New York to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin for any entities or programs receiving federal funding.

Proponents: City University of New York, Hadassah, NY Jewish Agenda, The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 60-0

Assembly Votes: 143-1

Adds A Faculty Member to The Board of Trustees of Community Colleges**S.4685B (Stavisky, Brouk, Fernandez, Harekham, Jackson) / A.5979B (Bronson)**

This bill provides that a faculty member be included on the board of trustees of SUNY community colleges and be elected by and from the faculty and staff of the college. Such individual shall serve for a period of two years, commencing July 1, 2026. The election of the faculty or staff member shall be conducted in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the respective faculty senate or equivalent faculty shared governance body of each campus.

Proponents: Hudson Valley Community College Faculty Association, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

Opponents: New York Community College Trustees

Senate Votes: 46-12 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Fahy, Griffo, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Weik)

Assembly Votes: 105-28

Modernizes the Practice of Podiatry**S.6693B (Jackson, Fahy) / A.4613B (Pretlow)**

This bill modernizes the practice of podiatry to be consistent with modern scope of practice standards by adding ankle surgery and treatments related to the ankle. The bill redefines the practice of podiatry to include diagnosing, treating, operating and prescribing for any disease, injury, deformity or other condition of and affecting the foot and ankle and the skin of the leg below the tibial tuberosity (the shin bone), and may include performing physical evaluations in conjunction with the provision of podiatric treatment.

Proponents: Podiatric Medical Association

Opponents: Medical Society of the State of New York, New York Chapter American College of Surgeons, New York State Academy of Family Physicians, New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons, New York State Ophthalmology Society, New York State Society of Otolaryngology, New York State Radiological Society

Senate Votes: 46-13 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Cooney, Helming, Krueger, Lanza, Martins, O'Mara, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Votes: 131-4

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Allows Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines

S.5340A (Stavisky) / A.5460B (Paulin)

This bill authorizes physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to delegate the administration of vaccinations to medical assistants provided that such vaccinations are recommended and receive proper training and adequate supervision.

Proponents: Community Health Care Association of New York State, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, New York State American Academy of Pediatrics District II, Westchester Community Health Center

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 47-6 (Lanza, Martinez, Ortt, Palumbo, Walczyk, Weik)

Allows Dental Hygienists to Administer Local Block Anesthesia

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: NYS Dental Association

Opponents: None

Senate Votes: 59-0

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
(518) 455-2484 and (518) 455-5506

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Increases the Amount of Funds that May Be Used to Modernize Affordable Dwellings

S.8178 (Kavanagh) / A.8589 (Hooks)

This bill increases the maximum limit on Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) payments, grants, and loans from \$125,000, set in 2008, to \$250,000 per dwelling unit. HTFC may exceed this limit if the corporation determines it is needed based on current statutory criteria including the average cost of construction in the area, location of the project, impact of additional funding on affordability.

Proponents: Division of Housing and Community Renewal

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Increases the Bonding Authority of the NYC Housing Development Corporation

S.8235 (Kavanagh) / A.8233 (Mitaynes)

This bill increases the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC)'s bonding authority by \$1 billion from \$19 billion to \$20 billion. HDC engages in financing a wide range of affordable new construction and preservation projects in New York City. HDC is the largest municipal housing finance agency in the United States and is responsible for issuing bonds for New York City's affordable housing priorities. Its bonding authority limit was most recently increased in 2023 by \$1 billion.

Proponents: Division of Housing and Community Renewal

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-5 (Chan, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 101-45

Extends Protections for Recovery of Rental Arrears Offered under ERAP**S.8390 (Kavanagh) / A.8702 (Rosenthal)**

This bill removes the sunset date of the parts of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) that describe the program and how payments work in order to extend the tenant protections associated with being offered or accepting a payment. The bill will prevent a landlord from bringing an action or proceeding for which they were offered a provisional ERAP payment.

Proponents: Legal Aid Society

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-16 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 88-56

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Requires Manufactured Home Park Owners to Justify Rental Increases****S.228A (Skoufis, Brouk, Hinchey, Jackson, May, Webb) / 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 available any documentation that shows the costs and completion of work that justify 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: 45-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Localities to Share Zoning and Construction Data with the State**S.919A (May, Jackson, Kavanagh, Webb) / A.5291A (Lasher)**

This bill requires that localities 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: 38-20 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Regulations for the Use of Smart Access Systems in Dwellings**S.955 (Kavanagh, Krueger) / A.156 (Rosenthal)**

This bill establishes a set of regulations related to the use of smart access systems and the data which is potentially collected by such a system. This proposal requires that where an owner installs, or plans to install, a smart access system on any entrance from the street or other common area, the smart system cannot solely rely on a web-based app to facilitate the entrance. No new smart access system that relies on biometric information may be installed for up to 3 years following the effective date of this legislation. An entity may not capture biometric information to gain access to a dwelling unless the person is a tenant/occupant or person authorized by a tenant/occupant who is informed of such information being captured and gives their express consent. Owners must have clearly established procedures and guidelines provided to tenant/occupants regarding data collection and understanding the smart access system.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-20 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the New York First Home Savings Program**S.1157 (Cooney, Addabbo, Comrie, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Myrie, Webb) / 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 account-holders 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. Account holders 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: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Codifies the Block By Block Infill Housing Program**S.1398A (S. Ryan, Fahy) / A.6290A (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill codifies the Block by Block program, an existing infill housing program outside of New York City which provides capital subsidies to build one and two family homes. It directs the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to make capital subsidies available for the purpose of building one-to two-family housing units for low and moderate income families. The bill requires the DHCR Commissioner to promulgate rules and regulations for the creation of the infill program that prioritizes development for Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, and Binghamton.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Preventing the Naming of Dependent Children in Petitions to Recover Real Property and Eviction Warrants**S.1615 (Brisport, Brouk, Jackson, Webb) / A.1656 (Rosenthal)**

The bill amends the article dealing with summary proceedings to recover possession of real property and the section covering the contents of petition to explicitly prevent the naming of 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: 40-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, 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) / No Same As**

This bill would empower the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and the local municipality to seek civil penalties for violation of the duty to maintain a foreclosed property of 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-2 (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: New York City

Opponents: REBNY, Extell Development

Senate Vote: 35-23 (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

Provides Retroactivity to the Original Date of Eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)

S.2534 (Sanders, Jackson) / A.7851 (Rosenthal)

This bill provides the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) to seniors and seniors with a disability retroactively for a period of no more than 2 years, but no further back than from the time they became eligible, which is at age 62. The rent reduction provided by retroactive eligibility would roll back the rent cap to what it would have been at the time the senior became eligible or two years prior, whichever is shorter.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

HOPP Codification

S.2627A (Kavanagh, Brisport, Cleare, Cooney, Fahy, Gounardes, Hinchey, Jackson, Myrie, S. Ryan) / A.1625A (Solages)

This bill would codify the Homeownership Protection Program (HOPP) 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: 58-1 (Walczyk)

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: 42-20 (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

Extends the Completion Deadline for J-51 Reform Projects**S.8170 (Kavanagh, Stavisky) / No Same As**

This bill allows New York City to extend the construction completion deadline for its J-51 Reform tax incentive program to subsidize multifamily repairs and promote energy efficiency improvement from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2030. It also allows the City Council to extend this deadline any time before June 30, 2026. The J-51 Reform program offers a tax abatement to finance repairs for affordable multifamily rental and ownership buildings, as well as lower-cost privately owned condominiums and cooperatives. The abatement is capped at 8.3% of the cost of work each year for up to 20 years.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, 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.401 (Myrie, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, May, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / No Same As**

TOPA gives each tenant a 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 Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). This legislation applies statewide to rental housing properties that contain three or more rental units.

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, Cleare, Cooney, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, May, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Stavisky, Webb) / A.3647B (Cunningham)

This bill would create 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 Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Housing, Construction & Community Development; Aging; and Social Services. *To assess rental assistance programs and examine the need for expanded residential rental assistance to prevent evictions* (February 18, 2025).

INSURANCE

Analysts: Dan Ranellone, Vincent Rodriguez, Andrew Title
(518) 455-2821

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Expands on the Types of Insurance Policies That Cannot Consider a Dog's Breed When Underwriting a Policy to Include Renters' Insurance****S.364 (Gianaris, Cooney, Skoufis) / A.893 (Rosenthal)**

This bill prohibits insurers from considering a dog's breed when underwriting renters' insurance policies, expanding protections already in place for homeowners' insurance. Insurers may still take action if a dog is officially designated as dangerous, including denying or adjusting coverage.

Proponents: Humane Society

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 95-52

Insurance for Unsuccessful Infertility Treatment**S.698 (Krueger) / A.3795 (Weprin)**

This bill allows intended parents to buy credit insurance for in-vitro fertilization (IVF) or intrauterine insemination (IUI) treatments. These policies would protect against financial losses if the procedures do not result in the birth of a child.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Repeals Anti-Arson Provisions of the Insurance Law**S.4157 (Sanders) / A.112 (Berger)**

This bill repeals the requirement for paper anti-arson applications on fire or explosion insurance policies in New York City and directs the Director of Financial Services to repeal related rules. Currently, these applications collect property ownership, valuation, and disclosure of recent arson or fraud related convictions to help insurers investigate arson for profit. The repeal removes this paper application requirement from the insurance process.

Proponents: NY Insurance Association; numerous Property & Casualty Insurers

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: 148-0

Allows Service Contract Providers to Use Reinsurance to Demonstrate Financial Responsibility**S.5048A (Bailey) / A.979A (Lunsford)**

This bill allows service contract providers to use default contract liability insurance policies (CLIPs) and up to five reinsurance policies, regulated by the Department of Financial Services (DFS). Service contract providers sell and manage agreements to repair or maintain products, separate from manufacturer warranties, and must be approved by DFS, demonstrating financial responsibility, often through a CLIP.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Establishes A New Travel Insurance Product (New York Travel Insurance Act)**S.5304 (Bailey) / A.1457 (Hunter)**

This bill adds travel insurance as an authorized product that can be sold in New York State, and clarifies that the current law regulating group property/casualty and group property travel insurance policies do not limit the newly proposed travel insurance policies. The bill sets a variety of regulations and definitions for travel insurance products that cover New York residents.

Proponents: Expedia, hotels.com, VRBO, US Travel Insurance Association, US Tour Operators Association

Opponents: DFS

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Authorizes Pet Insurance**S.5324A (Bailey, Cooney) / A.1433A (Hunter)**

This bill authorizes pet insurance in the state. Insurers must inform buyers upfront of any exclusions. The bill also mandates licensing and specialized training for insurance producers and aligns with national standards to create consistent regulation and stronger consumer protections in the pet insurance market.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Reduces P2P Insurance Levels**S.5941B (Skoufis, Addabbo, Bailey, Baskin, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.6576B (Weprin)**

This legislation removes the \$1.25 million combined single limit insurance requirement for peer-to-peer (P2P) car-sharing services and replaces it with coverage that is three times mandatory minimum levels. It also eliminates the mandate for P2Ps to provide supplemental uninsured/underinsured motorist (SUM) coverage.

Proponents: Turo, TechNYC, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Business Council of Westchester, Long Island Association, Partnership for New York City, The Business Council, Upstate United
Opponents: NYS Academy of Trial Lawyers, NYS Trial Lawyers Association

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Palumbo)

Assembly Vote: 102-42

Creates Additional Incentives and Compensation for Life Insurance Brokers**S.7222A (Bailey, Fernandez, Murray) / A.6975A (Weprin)**

This bill updates life insurance agent compensation policies by removing certain support costs from expense limits and expanding allowable reimbursements. It increases and broadens eligibility for training subsidies and raises price limits for agents. The bill also streamlines reporting and allows retroactive changes to compensation plans.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 137-0

Commercial and NYSHIP Insurance Coverage for Creative Arts Therapist Services**S.1001 (Brouk, Fernandez, Hinchey, Jackson, Parker, Rivera, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb) / A.3319 (Bronson)**

This bill requires commercial insurance and the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) to cover outpatient treatment by licensed creative arts therapists. Current law requires coverage for outpatient care provided by a psychiatrist or psychologist licensed to practice in the State.

Proponents: American Group Psychotherapy Association; DC 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO; League Education and Treatment Center; Long Island University; Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.; Molloy University; New Alternatives for Children; NYU Steinhardt; One Brooklyn Health; Pratt Creative Arts Therapy; 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-2 (Gallivan, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 146-2

Commercial Coverage of Asthma Inhalers**S.1804A (Rivera, Addabbo, Gonzalez, Jackson) / A.128A (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill requires commercial health insurers to cover one rescue and one maintenance asthma inhaler without cost-sharing, if prescribed by a physician or other qualified provider.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-2 (Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Insurance and Medicaid Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening**S.2000A (Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Harckham, Parker, Salazar, Skoufis) / A.1195A (Peoples-Stokes)**

This bill requires commercial insurance and Medicaid coverage for additional lung cancer screening or diagnostic services when recommended by a healthcare provider. Health plans cannot impose any cost-sharing for this follow-up screening.

Proponents: AdvaMed, New York State Radiological Society, RadNet

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Restrictions on Payment Fees**S.2105A (Cooney, Comrie) / A.3986A (Bores)**

This bill prohibits certain commercial and health maintenance organizations from paying providers via credit cards, virtual credit cards, or electronic funds transfers that result in a payment processing fee unless, in advance, the insurer notifies the provider of the potential fees and offers an alternative payment method without fees and the provider decides to accept the payment method.

Proponents: New York State Dental Association, New York State Occupational Therapy Association, New York State Chiropractic Association, New York State Podiatric Medical Association, New York State Optometric Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Requires Commercial Insurers to Cover Speech Therapy for Stuttering**S.3654A (Bailey, Gounardes) / A.7321A (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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Gallivan)

Assembly Vote: 140-1

Behavioral Health Fee Schedule**S.6897A (Bailey) / A.7038A (Weprin)**

This bill requires the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to publish a fee schedule for certain outpatient behavioral health services. Current law, enacted through the SFY 2025 Enacted Budget, requires that commercial insurance plans reimburse providers licensed by OMH and OASAS at or above the Medicaid rate for outpatient behavioral health services starting on January 1, 2025. The goal is reducing administrative burden for health plans so they can better comply with this law.

Proponents: New York Health Plan Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Insurance Coverage for Backup Cochlear Implants**S.8265-A (Sutton, Gounardes, Myrie) / A.6314A (Wieder)**

This bill requires large group commercial, not-for-profit, and health maintenance organization plans to cover backup cochlear implant devices when prescribed by a qualified health provider. The goal is minimizing difficulties for individuals, especially children, that may go without assistive hearing devices during upgrades or replacements.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Allows RRGs for Various For-Hire Vehicles****S.51 (Comrie, Bailey, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson, Liu, Myrie, Parker, Persaud, Sanders, Webb) / A.6282 (Cook)**

Allows risk retention groups (RRGs) to offer auto insurance coverage for commuter vans, pre-arranged for-hire vehicles, and accessible vehicles. Similar authorization was provided for not-profits in 2023.

Proponents: Commuter Van Association, Uber

Opponents: New York Insurance Association

Senate Vote: 55-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Allows for Electronic Delivery of Various Auto Insurance Notices**S.3352 (Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.114 (Berger)**

Allows electronic delivery of the cancellation, non-renewal, or conditional renewal notices of automobile insurance policies.

Proponents: New York Insurance Association

Opponents: DFS

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prescription Drug Supply Chain Transparency Act**S.438 (Myrie, Webb) / No Same As**

This bill would require 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

Opponents: Optum, Healthcare Distribution Alliance

Senate Vote: 57-4 (Borrello, Oberacker, Stec, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

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: None

Reduces Cost-Sharing for Outpatient Substance Use Treatment Programs**S.1763A (Fernandez, Addabbo, S. Ryan) / A.3148A (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This bill would cap cost-sharing for any outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program covered under commercial health insurance at \$500 for up to 60 visits.

Proponents: InUnity Alliance; Community Service Society; Friends of Recovery New York

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-3 (Gallivan, Griffo, Ort)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Retrospective Denial for Substance Use Disorder Treatment**S.2644 (Addabbo, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson) / A.3767 (Weprin)**

This bill prohibits health plans from retrospectively denying payment for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services for which the provider verified the individual had coverage at the time treatment was initiated. It also requires plans to immediately notify the treatment provider when an individual has lost coverage or has been terminated from employment.

Proponents: None

Opponents: New York Health Plan Association

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Commercial Coverage for In-Vitro Fertilization**S.3155 (Cooney) / A.8349 (Septimo)**

Current law requires that commercial insurers cover three cycles of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) to treat infertility. This bill would prohibit them from requiring women 35 or older to transfer all embryos from a previous IVF cycle as a condition of covering a subsequent cycle.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-5 (Borrello, Tedisco, Gallivan, Stec, Walczyk)

Commercial Insurance Coverage for Anesthesia Services**S.3820B (Rivera, Gianaris, Brisport, Fernandez, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, 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) / 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 51-11 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, O’Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Medicaid and Commercial Insurance Vaccine Coverage**S.8334 (Gounardes) / A.8824 Reyes**

This bill requires both Medicaid and commercial insurers to cover vaccinations for COVID-19. It also requires Medicaid to cover vaccines for diphtheria, pertussis, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, haemophilus influenzae type B (which can cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, meningitis, ear infections in children, and bronchitis in adults) and hepatitis B. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. said in May that the Centers for Disease Control would no longer recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for “healthy children and healthy pregnant women.”

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-9 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Mattera, Oberacker, O’Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Insurance Coverage for Lactation Support****S.1670A (Salazar) / A.4677A (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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 138-6

Restricts Insurers from Demanding Intrusive Personal Information for Theft Claims**S.5349 (Comrie) / A.1450 (Dinowitz)**

This bill restricts insurers from demanding intrusive personal, financial and tax information from insureds as a standard practice in processing ordinary theft claims where no special circumstances warranting a demand for such information exists.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 100-46

Requires DFS to Issue an RFP for Homeowner Preparedness Courses**S.5461 (Comrie) / A.182 (Cruz)**

This bill requires the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to issue a request for proposal “RFP” for homeowner disaster preparedness courses and seek state funding for it next year. DFS must develop a program and fiscal plan with evaluation criteria and cost standards before any funds are spent. It also mandates DFS to review and approve each submitted course.

Proponents: None

Opponents: DFS

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 115-31

Dental Medical Loss Ratio**S.6254A (Skoufis, Comrie) / A.3919A (Weprin)**

This bill would require individual and small group health insurers offering dental coverage to spend 82% of every premium dollar on patient care, also known as a medical loss ratio. It would also require insurers to pay penalties if they do not meet this goal, at the discretion of the Department of Financial Services.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Removes Barriers to Treatment for Serious Mental Health Conditions****S.4867A (Fahy, Jackson, 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: None

Assembly Vote: None

Parity for Physical and Occupational Therapy Copays**S.5045A (Bailey, Ashby, Comrie, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, May, Parker, Sepúlveda, Stec) / A.6484A (Weprin)**

This bill prohibits health plans from imposing copayments or coinsurance for physical or occupational therapy (PT/OT) services that are greater than those imposed for similar services provided by a primary care physician. Currently, many health plans treat PT/OT therapists as specialists, meaning patients pay higher copays than a traditional doctor's office visit.

Proponents: American Physical Therapy Association New York Chapter, APTA New York

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The Adopted Budget included several changes in the for-hire vehicle (FHV) space, including requiring FHV insurers to submit new rates to DFS for approval at least every two years, and allowing FHV insurers to increase rates in between those rate cases by up to 5% per year (flex rating), in an effort to stabilize the FHV insurance market and increase participation from additional insurers. Additionally, the City of New York just took steps at the local level to reduce Personal Injury Protection insurance rates from \$200,000 to \$100,000 for similar reasons. The Conference will continue monitoring how these policy actions affect the market, and whether they induce additional entrants into the market or improve affordability.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

New York Health Information Privacy Act

S.929 (Krueger, Brouk, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, May, Webb) / A.2141 (Rosenthal)

This bill creates a new article of the General Business Law to establish data privacy standards for entities that collect personal data related to an individual's health. It applies to any business that handles health-related data of New York residents or individuals physically 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 to understand and revoke. Communications must be accessible, free of legal jargon, 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. The New York Attorney General has the power to investigate violations and enforce via lawsuits, fines, and other penalties.

Proponents: Healthcare Trust Institute

Opponents: HANYS; State Privacy and Security Coalition; TechNet

Senate Vote: 49-10 (Borrello, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 96-41

Responsible AI Safety And Education (RAISE) Act

S.6953B (Gounardes, Bailey, Borrello, Brisport, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Palumbo, Salazar, Webb) / A.6453B (Bores)

This bill establishes a regulatory scheme for the transparency, use, training and safety of artificial intelligence (AI) models (ChatGPT, Bard, Claude, Grok, etc.) developed by large developers pertaining to safety protocols to minimize risk of critical harm. A large developer under this bill is any entity that has spent a total of \$100 million or more on the computing cost when developing or retraining AI models.

Critical harm is defined as the death or serious injury of 100 or more people or at least \$1 billion of damages to property caused or enabled by a large developer's use, storage, or release of their models, provided such harm was the result of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapon, or an AI model autonomously committing a crime. This excludes situations where the harm was not a probable consequence of the developer's activities but was substantially caused by an intervening human's actions. Before developing a frontier model, the large developer must establish and implement a written safety and security protocol to prevent unreasonable risk of critical harm, and report any safety incidents and breaches to the Attorney General and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Proponents: Artificial Intelligence Policy Tracker; BAST AI; Churches United for Fair Housing; Economic Security Project Action (ESPA); Equality New York; Manhattan Young Democrats; Momentum; New York State Youth Leadership Council; NYS PEF; NYU; Public Citizen; Redwood Research; Talking Points; Secure AI Project

Opponents: Software and Information Industry Association; Business Software Alliance;

Tech:NYC

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Cooney)

Assembly Vote: 119-22

Regulating Automated Decision-Making in Government Agencies and Local Governmental Entities

S.7599C (Gonzalez, Cleare, Harckham, Jackson, Liu, Persaud, Salazar, Sanders, Webb) / A.8295D (Otis)

This bill expands the regulatory framework for government agency use of automated decision-making tools enacted last year (LOADing Act) by requiring impact assessments and disclosures, and expanding the applicability to public authorities, public benefit corporations, school districts, SUNY and CUNY. Agencies are required to publish a list of these tools on their websites annually, detailing what each tool does, when it was implemented, and how it is used. If the tools are used in a way that materially impacts individuals, agencies must conduct and submit impact assessments that evaluate risks such as bias, privacy, accuracy, and public safety. If any assessment reveals discriminatory or biased outcomes, the agency must cease use of the system.

The bill also expands worker protections, ensuring the use of such tools does not result in discharge, job loss, reduced hours or wages, or impairment of collective bargaining agreements to educational institutions. The Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) is directed to maintain a statewide inventory of automated decision-making tools, which must be updated and published annually on the State's open data website.

Proponents: New York State Public Employees Federation; AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 143-2

Warning Labels On Addictive Social Media Platforms

S.4505 (Gounardes, Comrie, Fernandez, Jackson, Ramos, C. Ryan, Salazar) / A.5346 (Rozic)

This bill requires covered operators that provide addictive feeds, autoplay, infinite scroll, like counts, and/or push notifications to a covered user to display a warning label each time that such user accesses such operator's addictive social media platform. The warning label must contain no text other than that prescribed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and must appear on the platform in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner. The warning label may not be exclusively included in the terms of service of the addictive social media platform, may not be obscured, must be displayed at a point in a user's use of the platform and/or for the duration prescribed by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, and may not be intentionally designed in a way that intentionally inhibits or subverts the purpose of the label.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Tech:NYC

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 141-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

New York Artificial Intelligence Act (New York AI Act)

S.1169A (Gonzalez, Bailey, Brisport, Bynoe, Cleare, Fahy, Fernandez, Hinchey, Jackson, Liu, May, Persaud, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Webb) / A.8884 (Solages)

This legislation establishes comprehensive responsibilities for developers and deployers of high-risk AI systems in New York to prevent algorithmic discrimination and ensure transparency, accountability, and user rights. It requires both developers and deployers to take reasonable steps to prevent algorithmic discrimination, such as unfair treatment based on race, gender, age, or other protected traits. High-risk systems are those used in decisions that significantly impact people's rights or access to things like housing, jobs, or public benefits. Developers and deployers must conduct independent audits, provide notice to affected individuals, offer human alternatives to automated decisions, and establish appeal processes. They must also adopt risk management policies aligned with national standards, submit detailed reports to the Attorney General, and protect whistleblowers.

The law gives the Attorney General the power to enforce these rules, including issuing fines and injunctions, and it allows individuals harmed by violations to sue for damages. There are also special provisions for developers to avoid liability if they clearly restrict high-risk uses and take preventive measures. The law takes effect in phases, with full audit and reporting requirements taking effect within two years of passage, allowing time for systems already in use to comply.

Proponents: AFL-CIO; DC37; Electronic Privacy Information Center; Talking Points; Consumer Federation of America;

Opponents: Y Combinator; Tech:NYC; TechNet; Partnership for New York City; Business Software Alliance

Senate Vote: 51-8 (Borrello, Griffo, O'Mara, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

State Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

S.933 (Gonzalez, Gounardes, Jackson) / A.1205 (Solages)

This bill codifies the position of Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO) and such person's functions, powers and duties. The CAIO will head the Office of Artificial Intelligence and shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In May 2024, the Office of Information Technology Services published a job posting for a Chief AI Officer to "lead the way in the next phase of AI for New York State and set the overall AI strategy for ITS and the agencies it supports." In March 2025, the New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) announced the appointment of Shreya Amin to the position of CAIO.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Disclosure On Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems

S.934A (Gonzalez) / 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. Non-compliant owners, licensees, or operators will be penalized up to \$1,000 per violation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Business Software Alliance

Senate Vote: 58 -1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Secure Our Data Act

S.1961 (Gonzalez) / A.5739 (Solages)

This bill establishes a comprehensive plan for cybersecurity resiliency and recovery for New York State entities, defined as state-level agencies and authorities but excluding the judiciary and local governments. The Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) must, within one year, develop data protection standards covering critical systems, personal data, backup protocols, and staff training. State entities are required to inventory their data and systems, including details about personal information held. Starting in 2026, agencies must perform monthly vulnerability assessments, transitioning to independent third-party audits by year's end. Within 18 months of the bill's effective date, every state entity must have an incident response plan for ransomware, malware, and unauthorized access, including procedures for restoring systems from backup. From January 1, 2028, entities must annually test their incident response plans, including data restoration and recovery, and document the results. These measures are designed to enhance the state's ability to respond to cyber threats, safeguard critical infrastructure, and reduce cybersecurity risks by ensuring preparedness, regular testing, and continuous improvement of incident response capabilities.

Proponents: New York State Public Employees Federation

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Use Of Biometric Identifying Technology In Schools

S.3827A (Hoylman-Sigal, Fernandez, Jackson, Salazar) / A.6720A (Simone)

This bill bans public, charter, and nonpublic K–12 schools in New York from using or purchasing any biometric identifying technology, such as facial recognition or iris scans, regardless of future authorization from the Commissioner of Education. It repeals provisions of prior law that allowed the Commissioner to approve such technologies following a state report. That report raised serious equity and privacy concerns, especially around facial recognition. However, schools may still use fingerprint scans for background checks on prospective employees, for employee identification if there is written consent, and for use of teaching technology.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: None

Restricting Use of Automatic License Plate Reader Information**S.7713 (Krueger) / A.8779 (Rozic)**

This legislation prohibits the sale, sharing, authorization, or transfer of automatic license plate reader (ALPR) information to any state or local jurisdiction for the purpose of investigating or enforcing laws that interfere with an individual's right to choose or obtain reproductive or other lawful health care services. This restriction applies to all ALPR users in New York, including law enforcement, unless out-of-state agencies provide a written declaration affirming the information will not be used in violation of this law. ALPR information must be kept confidential to the fullest extent allowed by law, with an exception for data collected by electronic toll systems. The bill aims to prevent the use of ALPR data to support enforcement actions from jurisdictions with restrictive health care laws, thereby protecting the privacy of individuals seeking protected health care services, including those traveling across state lines for such care

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: None

Recovery Of Online Accounts For Mobile Phones**S.7974 (Gonzalez) / A.8598 (Shrestha)**

This legislation requires persons or businesses that provide consumers with online accounts to access services to allow consumers to provide physical proof of their identity to recover their identity online where the consumer cannot access their online account due to identity theft or where someone unlawfully possesses their personal information.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Multi Factor Authentication Requirement For Public Sector Entities**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 (MFA) for any local or remote network access to servers or email accounts by employees or consultants. The Office of Information and Technology Services (ITS) is directed to develop minimum technical standards for compliance and may grant two-year waivers upon application. Entities maintaining public websites must ensure those sites are encrypted using HTTPS. Entities have one year from enactment to implement MFA.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Borrello, Hinchey, C. Ryan, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**Regulating Artificial Intelligence Companion Models****No Same As / A.6767 (Vanel)**

This bill prohibits the provision of an artificial intelligence companion to a user unless such artificial intelligence companion contains a protocol for addressing possible suicidal ideation or self-harm expressed by a user, possible physical harm to others expressed by a user, and possible financial harm to others expressed by a user. It also requires certain notifications to certain users regarding crisis service providers and the non-human nature of such companion models.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 149-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**New York Artificial Intelligence Consumer Protection Act****S.1962 (Gonzalez) / A.768 (Bores)**

This bill establishes regulatory obligations for developers and deployers of high-risk artificial intelligence decision systems to mitigate algorithmic discrimination against protected classes. A high-risk AI decision system is defined as any system that substantially assists or replaces human decision-making in consequential decisions impacting areas such as education, employment, finance, government services, health care, housing, insurance, and legal services.

Beginning January 1, 2027, developers and deployers must exercise reasonable care to prevent foreseeable algorithmic discrimination and are required to perform regular bias and governance audits through independent third parties identified by the Attorney General. Developers must provide documentation on the AI system's training data, known risks, evaluation metrics, and deployment instructions, while deployers must implement a risk management program and conduct periodic impact assessments. Consumers must be notified before and after adverse decisions made using AI, be given explanations and appeal rights, and be allowed to correct erroneous data. Disclosure requirements also apply to general-purpose AI models, unless exempt. The Attorney General holds exclusive enforcement authority and may issue notices of violation, with escalating enforcement provisions starting in 2028. There is no private right of action under this act.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Tech: NYC

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

New York Privacy Act**S.3044 (Gonzalez, Sanders) / A.8158 (Rozic)**

This legislation enacts the New York Privacy Act (NYPA), establishing a comprehensive framework to regulate the collection, use, sharing, and sale of personal data by entities doing business in New York or targeting products or services to New York residents. The bill applies to entities meeting specific thresholds, such as annual revenue over \$25 million, processing data of at least 50,000 New York consumers, or deriving over 50% of gross revenue from the sale of personal data. NYPA adopts an opt-in consent model, requiring affirmative, informed, and unambiguous consumer consent before personal data may be collected or processed. Consumers are presented with clear consent choices and are entitled to withdraw consent at any time. Businesses must also provide a detailed privacy policy, and consumers are granted rights to access, correct, delete, and obtain portable copies of their personal data.

The bill places obligations on controllers, processors, and third parties. Controllers, defined as entities that determine the purpose and means of processing data, must conduct risk assessments, implement data protection safeguards, and ensure data minimization and non-discrimination. Processors, which operate under the direction of controllers, must enter into written contracts outlining data handling requirements. Third parties may only receive data if consumers have consented, and must limit use in accordance with that consent. The bill creates a registry for data brokers with the Attorney General, mandates annual disclosures, and imposes penalties for noncompliance. Enforcement authority lies with the Attorney General, who may seek restitution, disgorgement, civil penalties, and injunctive relief. The AG is also empowered to conduct investigations and issue subpoenas, with noncompliance subject to daily civil fines. The AG must publish a report on the law's effectiveness within two years of enactment. The bill includes exemptions for specific categories of data and processing activities, such as government functions, HIPAA-regulated health data, and employment records used for non-sale purposes.

Proponents: The App Association; The Business Information Coalition; Microsoft; Alliance of NYS YMCAs; SIFMA

Opponents: Airlines for America; Alliance Data Card Services; American Heart Association; American Property Casualty Insurance Association; Association of National Advertisers; Buffalo Niagara Partnership; Business Council of New York State; Business Information Coalition; Chamber of Progress; Coalition for Sensible Public Records Access (CSPRA); Computer & Communications Industry Association; Consumer Reports; Electronic Transactions Association; Energy Coalition New York; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority; Food Industry Alliance of New York; Food Industry Alliance of New York State, Inc.; Internet Association; Joule Assets; Life Insurance Council of New York; New York Bankers Association; New York Civil Liberties Union; New York News Publishers Association; NYS Hospitality and Tourism Association; Partnership for New York City; State Privacy & Security Coalition; TechNet; Verizon Media; Tech:NYC

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

**Liability For Damages Caused By AI Chatbots Impersonating Licensed Professionals
S.7263 (Gonzalez, Hinchey, Liu, Salazar) / A.6545A (Zaccaro)**

This legislation requires proprietors of AI chatbots to ensure that their systems do not provide substantive responses, information, advice, or take actions that, if performed by a human, would constitute the unauthorized practice of a licensed profession in licensed fields of medicine, dentistry, veterinary care, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, podiatry, optometry, engineering (land surveying and geology) architecture, psychology, social work and mental health practitioners, or the unauthorized practice of law. Covered professions include, but are not limited to, medicine, dentistry, veterinary care, nursing, pharmacy, engineering, architecture, psychology, and legal services.

Proprietors must provide users with clear, conspicuous, and explicit notice that they are interacting with an AI chatbot. The notice must appear in the language used by the chatbot and be in a font size no smaller than the largest text on the hosting website. Liability for violation of this legislation may not be waived or disclaimed by merely informing users of the chatbot's non-human nature. The legislation also establishes a private right of action, allowing individuals to seek actual damages, and, in cases of willful violation, to recover actual damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees and disbursements.

Proponents: American Innovators Network

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Allows for Electronic Signing of Tax Documents by Those with Power of Attorney

S.52 (Liu, Fernandez, Skoufis) / A.249 (Magnarelli)

This bill allows a person who has been granted power of attorney by a taxpayer following the procedures established by the Department of Tax and Finance and the New York City Department of Finance to use an electronic signature. Such a signature will have the same validity as a physical signature, and if required by law may also be acknowledged by a notary.

Proponents: NY Society of CPAs

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Clarifies Access to Records with Redacted Portions for FOIL Purposes

S.67 (Skoufis, Comrie, Jackson) / A.6613 (McDonald)

This bill amends the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) to clarify that if portions of a record are legally exempted from disclosure and are to be redacted, the remaining non-exempt portions must still be made accessible.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Martins, Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Allows for Limited Retailer to Retailer Sales of Alcoholic Beverages**S.409A (Skoufis, Harckham) / A.7464B (Stirpe)**

This bill allows on-premises retailers like restaurants and bars to purchase up to an aggregate of six bottles of wine or liquor a week from an off-premises retailer. Off-premises retailers are allowed to sell up to six bottles on aggregate a week to on-premises retailers. Both retailers are required to keep records of these purchases for inspection by the State Liquor Authority. Similar language was included in the Senate's Fiscal Year 2025-26 One House proposal, but it was not included in the adopted budget.

Proponents: Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association

Opponents: Liquor and Wine Distributors

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Creates a New Brand Owner's License**S.567A (Skoufis) / A.6277A (Lupardo)**

This bill creates a new brand owner's license, allowing the licensee to contract out with licensed manufacturers to produce the brand in New York, or with a licensed wholesaler to act as the exclusive agent for a brand in the State.

Proponents: Farm Bureau of NY, NYS Distillers Guild

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Liquor Licenses for Private Membership Establishments**S.652A (Gianaris) / A.7040B (Stirpe)**

This bill creates a new type of liquor license for for-profit clubs to be issued by the State Liquor Authority (SLA) which would be available to any for-profit entity operated for certain purposes, which allows them to serve alcohol only to members in good standing and guests. A for-profit club must have 100 or more members to apply. These licenses are subject to the 200-foot and 500-foot rules. In granting such licenses the SLA has the authority to consider whether the entity has any purpose or intention of discrimination and can deny licenses if such intent exists. The fee for this type of license would be \$20,000 annually.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Exempts Certain Individuals from the License Suspension Program for Tax Debt**S.700 (Krueger, Bailey, Liu, May) / A.4664 (Epstein)**

This bill amends the license suspension program for delinquent tax debt to index the debt level to inflation, exempt taxpayers on public assistance, supplemental security income, or those within 250% of the poverty level, and create an exemption for taxpayers that can demonstrate that a suspension would pose a hardship.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 37-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 95- 49

Time Limits for FOIL Responses**S.2520B (Skoufis, Brisport, Cleare, Jackson, Krueger, C. Ryan) / A.3425A (Raga)**

This bill requires state entities to make a decision on a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request within a certain amount of time after receiving the original request. In addition to setting deadlines for responses, this bill also requires the agency to provide notifications in writing to the requestor about the efforts taken to make the records available as soon as possible, provide monthly updates on progress, send a written notification to the Committee on Open Government (COOG) and requires the notifications to be signed by the commissioner of the agency.

Proponents: Common Cause New York; Earth Justice; Freedom of the Press Foundation; Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense; New York Coalition for Open Government; New York News Publishers Association; NYPIRG; Reinvent Albany; League of Women Voters of New York; Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; New York State Bar Association; Surveillance Technology Oversight Project ("STOP")

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Reasonable Accommodation Anti-Retaliation Act**S.3398 (Gounardes) / A.4898 (Clark)**

This bill establishes that discrimination based upon a person's request for a reasonable accommodation is considered unlawful retaliation or further discrimination under the protections of the State's Human Rights Law.

Proponents: National Employment Lawyers Association, New York Chapter

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

Disparate Impact Standard for Housing Discrimination Claims

S.4067A (Kavanagh, Myrie, Cleare, Bailey, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Webb) / A.4040A (Lasher)

This bill codifies a disparate impact standard for housing discrimination cases and establishes that a practice can be an unlawful discriminatory practice if there is a discriminatory impact from the practice, even if there is no evidence of discriminatory intent. The bill establishes that a sufficient justification for a challenged practice could be shown if the respondent shows that a practice is both necessary to achieve one or more substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interests of the respondent; and those interests could not be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 39-20 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 95-46

Makes Real Estate Appraisal Discrimination Unlawful**S.7320 (Kavanagh) / A.6869 (Alvarez)**

This bill makes discrimination based on protected classes unlawful when conducting real estate appraisals or extending appraisal services to clients. It also provides the Department of State the authority to impose fines for violations of the law. This bill was included in the FY26 Executive Budget ELFA Part G. The Senate included a similar proposal in its One House. Eventually agreement was reached to address this bill outside the budget process.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 146-2

Changes the Timeframe for Filing Cannabis Taxes**S.8091 (Cooney) / A.5496A (Lupardo)**

This bill amends the timeframe between the end of the tax quarters and the time that taxes on adult-use cannabis have to be filed, with returns being due 50 days after the end of the quarter, as opposed to the current 20 days. This would make the new filing dates August 20, October 21, January 20, and April 20.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 132-3

Replaces "Emotionally Disturbed Person" with "Person Experiencing an Emotional Crisis" in Documents**S.8210A (Brouk) / A.4762B (Chandler-Waterman)**

This bill requires documents utilized by state agencies, public authorities and municipalities, including training materials, to replace the term "emotionally disturbed person" with the term "person experiencing an emotional crisis."

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 50-9 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 132-12

Disparate Impact Standard for Employment Discrimination Cases**S.8338 (Mayer, Jackson) / A.8699A (Bichotte-Hermelyn)**

This bill codifies a disparate impact standard to be applied by courts in employment discrimination cases through adopting the federal standard under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. This standard requires employers to demonstrate that the discriminatory practice is both job specific and a business necessity in order for it to be permissible. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a person can establish an unlawful discriminatory practice based on its discriminatory effect even if the practice was not motivated by a discriminatory intent.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-3 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Lanza, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 98-46

Enhances the Attorney General's Ability to Conduct Certain Civil Litigation (CLEO)**S.8411 (Skoufis) / A.8869 (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 procedures in civil litigation from the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), similarly to the exemption granted in criminal cases and requires the State Police to grant the AG access to the gun clearinghouse. 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: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 88-44

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY

Lowers In-Person Participation Requirements for Advisory Bodies That Use Videoconferencing for Public Meeting

S.455A (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.3342A (Bores)

This bill lowers in-person participation requirements for public meetings of advisory bodies, including New York City community boards, held by videoconferencing to one quarter of the members along with the relevant presiding officer.

Proponents: Office of the Manhattan Borough President

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-2 (Martins, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Facial Hair and Religious Attire Anti-Discrimination Protections in Public Accommodations

S.491 (Fernandez, Brouk, Webb) / A.3248 (Lavine)

The bill clarifies and extends the prohibition on workplace discrimination against religious attire and accessories, including facial hair, in the Human Rights Law (HRL) to apply the protection to any place of public accommodation and would also include patrons of places of public accommodation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-0

Assembly Vote: None

Allows Election Officers to Keep Their Residential Addresses Confidential

S.566 (Skoufis) / A.3472 (Lavine)

This bill would allow elections officers to be eligible for the "Address Confidentiality Program" run by the Department of State (DOS). This program currently protects the addresses of victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, kidnapping, sexual offense, stalking, and reproductive health care service providers. The program provides a substitute address for those eligible to keep their actual residential address confidential.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Ortt, Rhoads, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Awards Attorneys' Fees in Open Government Cases When the Plaintiff Prevails**S.1418A (Liu, Brisport, Cleare, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Krueger, Skoufis, Webb)****A.950A (Steck)**

This bill requires the 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 assessment of attorney's fees and litigation costs in successful wrongful denial proceedings.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany, Common Cause NY, The Legal Aid Society, New York Civil Liberties Union, The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.), New York Coalition for Open Government.

Opponents: NYS School Boards Association

Senate Vote: 56-5 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Martinez, Rhoads, Walczyk)

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: 51-10 (Ashby, Borrello, Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Expands the Definition of "Military Status" For Purposes of the Human Rights Law**S.2640 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Jackson, Persaud, Ramos, C. Ryan, Webb) / A.55A (Epstein)**

This bill adds to the definition of "military status" in the Human Rights Law 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: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Allows Liquor Stores to Sell Non-Alcoholic Versions of Alcoholic Beverages**S.3836 (Hinchey, 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 alcohol by volume 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: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

NY-PROTECT Act**S.7880A (Krueger) / A.8583A (Glick)**

The bill creates a process for nonprofit entities that have their status as a nonprofit improperly removed by the federal government to apply to the Department of Tax and Finance in order to retain their nonprofit status for state and local tax purposes and for state and local contracting purposes.

Proponents: Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

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.452 (Hoylman-Sigal, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson, Krueger, C. Ryan, Skoufis) / A.2321 (McDonald)**

This bill requires state and municipal agencies that perform governmental or proprietary functions to share with the Committee on Open Government (COOG) their Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request logs which would include information about each request. COOG is required to publish this information online once a year and to publish a report by 2028 that provides FOIL request recommendations to the agencies.

Proponents: Citizens Union of the City of New York; Common Cause New York; NY Coalition for Open Government; NYPIRG et al; Reinvent Albany, et al; Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; The League of Women Voters of New York

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly: 145-1

Requires Certain Entities to Re-Apply Periodically For FOIL Exceptions**S.5000 (Hoylman-Sigal, Brisport, Cleare, Fernandez, Jackson) / A.1410 (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. The entities are able to set an expiration date for the exclusion, but it may not exceed three years. If no expiration date is set, then the FOIL exclusion would automatically expire upon three years.

Proponents: Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, et al; NYPIRG; Reinvent Albany

Opponents: MTA

Senate Vote: None

Assembly: 95-53

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Ticket Law Reforms and Extender

S.8221 (Skoufis, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Fahy, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Rivera, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Sanders, Sepúlveda) / A.8659 (Kim)

This bill makes amendments to Title G of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law governing the sale of tickets to places of entertainment, including: making changes to the licensing of resellers; requires automatic refunds in certain circumstances; prohibiting speculative ticketing; limiting the amount of fees for tickets to large venues and giving music artists the ability to limit the resale price of tickets to musical events; requiring the disclosure of how many seats are held back; and strengthening protections for fans who sell their season pass tickets. This bill also includes a three-year extension of this Title. A one-year extension was passed (Chapter 155 of 2025) to give the Legislature more time to consider amendments to Title G.

Proponents: Consumer Reports, Music Artists Coalition, National Independent Talent Organization, The Broadway League

Opponents: AXS

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Public Hearing of the Senate Investigations & Government Operations Committee and the Assembly Governmental Operations Committee. *Videoconferencing by the Legislature.* (December 19, 2024)

JUDICIARY

Analyst: Gabrielle Bruno
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Uniform Commercial Code Modernization****S.1840A (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.3307A (Bores)**

This bill incorporates cryptocurrency and other digital assets into New York's Uniform Commercial Code. The bill provides default rules for contracts involving digital assets, including rules for determining who owns a digital asset and credit transactions involving cryptocurrency. The bill also acknowledges controllable electronic records, allowing electronic promissory notes and bills of exchange, and facilitating electronic commerce by recognizing electronic equivalents of written or signed requirements.

Proponents: Bankers Association for Finance and Trade (BAFT); New York City Bar Association; BiMCO; Curt Mechling; Financial Technology Association; International Trade and Forfeiting Association; The International Chamber of Commerce Digital Standards Initiative.

Opponents: None Available
Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)
Assembly Vote: 146-0

Grieving Families Act**S.4423 (Hoylman-Sigal, Ashby, Gallivan, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Ortt, Palumbo, Tedisco, Weber) / A.6063 (Lunsford)**

This bill permits the recovery of non-economic damages for a wrongful death claim. Under current law, a wrongful death plaintiff may recover only pecuniary (economic) damages. This bill expands possible relief to include, among other things, compensation for grief caused by the death of the loved one. The bill also extends the statute of limitations for a wrongful death claim from two to three years after the decedent's death.

Proponents: NYS Trial Lawyers Association; NYPIRG.

Opponents: Greater Rochester Chamber; NY American College of Emergency Physicians; Healthcare Association of NYS.

Senate Vote: 51-10 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Cooney, Fahy, Griffo, O'Mara, Oberacker, C. Ryan, Stec, Weik)
Assembly Vote: 131-13

Electronic Wills**S.7416A (Hoylman-Sigal, Gounardes, Skoufis) / A.7856A (Lavine)**

This bill authorizes wills to be executed and signed electronically, rather than in person with a wet signature. An executed electronic will must still be witnessed by two individuals with no direct or indirect interest in the will. Within 30 days after an electronic will is executed, it must be electronically filed with the New York State court system. If an executed electronic will is not filed within this time period, it will be deemed invalid.

Proponents: New York State Bar Association; AARP New York; Asset Pass; Electronic Signature and Records Association; Justice Technology Association; LawFi; Life Legacy; MetLife Legal Plans; Proof; Responsive Law; Trust and Will.

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 94-41

AVOID Act**S.8071A (Addabbo) / A.8728 (Lunsford)**

This bill addresses purposeful delays that occur in civil actions. Currently, there is no timeline associated with when a defendant must bring in a third-party defendant. For example, two years from the beginning of a case, a plaintiff and defendant have concluded their discovery and are preparing for trial. The defendant may implead a third-party defendant at this point and "reset" discovery for all parties, effectively delaying trial. This bill requires that within 60 days of serving an answer to the plaintiff, the defendant must also implead the third-party defendant. However, liability may not be known at that point, so a defendant would otherwise have 60 days from when they become aware of the alleged liability by the third-party defendant to implead them. This bill also requires that a defendant, within 20 days of bringing a third-party defendant into the action, serve all prior pleadings to that third-party defendant. Current statute permits 120 days to serve all prior pleadings.

Lastly, this bill prohibits a defendant (or third-party defendant) from seeking a claim against another party if the note of issue has been filed. The note of issue indicates the parties have completed discovery and are ready for trial.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 136-0

Judicial District Additions and Organization

S.8418 (Gianaris) / A.8883 (Rivera)

This bill reorganizes the Fourth Department by creating the fourteenth and fifteenth judicial districts, and altering the county composition of the fifth, seventh, and eighth judicial districts. Under the bill, the Fourth Department will consist of a total of five judicial districts which are Eastern Rural Counties, Western Rural Counties, and individual judicial districts for the urban counties of Erie, Onondaga, and Monroe.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

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

Assembly Vote: 96-48

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Cameras in Courtrooms

S.462A (Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Ramos, Webb) / A.1518A (Weprin)

This bill permits audio-visual recording and still photography of proceedings in most of the State's trial and appellate courts. Under the bill, journalists may record judicial proceedings subject to the discretion of the presiding judge, who may limit audio-visual coverage to ensure safety and the fair administration of justice. Some matters and sensitive witnesses, including cases in Family Court, may not be recorded.

Proponents: Reinvent Albany; The Fund for Modern Courts.

Opponents: Chief Defenders Association of New York, NYS Defenders Association

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Helming, Martinez, Ortt, Scarcella-Spanton)

Assembly Vote: None

Minimum Education Requirements for Judges of High-Volume Justice Courts**S.1409 (S. Ryan) / A.5787 (Rajkumar)**

This bill requires judges of the busiest Town and Village Courts to be licensed attorneys with at least five years of legal experience. Current law imposes no minimum education requirement on Town and Village Court judges, except for a basic training course administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA). A court is high volume if it is in the top 100 of Town and Village Courts by caseload as determined by OCA in consultation with the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Proponents: New York State Bar Association

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

Ground Lease Co-Op Shareholder Protection**S.2433A (Krueger, Cleare, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Liu, Mayer, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Scarcella-Spanton, Stavisky) / A.2619A (Rosenthal)**

This bill grants a ground lease co-op the right of first refusal to purchase the land on which it sits if the owner attempts to sell it. The bill also protects a co-op's ability to obtain financing for maintenance and improvements. Banks are typically unwilling to lend money if the co-op's continued occupancy of the land is uncertain because they are close in time to the expiration of the ground lease. Currently, there are circumstances in which the landowner can refuse to provide their consent to the co-op in order for them to obtain financing. Under this bill, a landowner can only refuse consent to obtain financing for maintenance or improvements for "reasonable cause." This provision does not apply to any mortgage or security interest.

In the event a ground lease is not renewed by the landowner and co-op, this bill provides the co-op shareholders the same statutory protections as other rental rent stabilized buildings. Within 10 days of the expiration or termination of a co-op ground lease, the co-op will initiate the process to dissolve the co-op, triggering the deconversion to a standard rental property.

Proponents: The Ground Lease Coop Coalition

Opponents: Real Estate Board of New York

Senate Vote: 34-28 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Hinchey, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Skoufis, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Seventeen-Year-Old Eligibility to Vote in Primary Elections

S.3231 (Bailey, Gounardes, Jackson)

This bill is a constitutional amendment to permit 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: 41-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Mattera, O'Mara, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Arbitration Procedure Amendments

S.3879A (Hoylman-Sigal) / 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: 39-20 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, O'Mara, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

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, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, May, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Salazar, Sepúlveda, 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 lead paint. The seller must provide the certification, plus a copy of test results, to the seller before any sale contract is signed. 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; Rent Stabilization Association.

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 106-40

Consumer Debt

S.5546 (Hoylman-Sigal, Cleare, Gounardes) / A.57B (Epstein)

This bill extends the Consumer Credit Fairness Act (CCFA) (L.2021, Ch. 593/S.153 (Thomas)) 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: None

Assembly Vote: 95-49

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

Television Subscriber Choice Act

S.4653 (Comrie, Jackson, Parker, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.5870 (Solages)

This bill prevents a channel "blackout" by governing the negotiations and prohibiting certain contract provisions between a video programmer and distributor. A "blackout" in this context refers to the non-airing of a television program in a certain market. A video programmer (the entity creating the content, like Disney, ESPN, or Amazon) would not be able to: (1) set as a requirement within the contract a certain number of subscribers; (2) prescribe which level of service certain content can be carried in (ex. Disney tells the cable company that Disney content can only be carried in the most expensive Tier 1 service, and not the cheaper tiers); (3) set rates (except pay per view); or (4) otherwise restrict the pricing or programming of the distributor to the consumer.

The bill also requires video programmers to offer individual channel licenses, rather than licensing channels in a bundle. Unreasonable fees or financial obligations by the video programmer would be unlawful under this bill. Lastly, the bill grants a distributor the ability to commence a civil action against any video programmer in violation of this statute and seek an injunctive relief from the court.

Proponents: Optimum; DirecTV.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

LABOR

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Requires Employers to Include an Opioid Antagonist Where First Aid Kits are Required by Federal Law****S.5922A (Fernandez) / A.2725A (Paulin)**

This bill requires employers to include an opioid antagonist (medications such as naloxone and naltrexone, which can block the effects of opioids and rapidly reverse opioid overdoses) where first aid kits are required by federal law. In New York State, private employers are generally required to have adequate first aid supplies readily available in the workplace. This requirement for first aid kits is mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and ensures that employees have access to immediate medical assistance in case of injury or illness.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 52-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 146-1

Relates to Paid Family Leave Benefits**S.50 (Comrie, Harckham, Jackson, Ramos, Skoufis) / A.4727 (Bronson)**

This bill expands eligibility for Paid Family Leave benefits for construction workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement who often work for multiple employers for short periods, and may be subject to brief layoffs, making it difficult to meet the current 26-consecutive-week work requirement. The bill allows this class of workers to become eligible for Paid Family Leave benefits, provided they have been employed by a covered employer for at least 26 of the last 39 weeks. Once eligible, these employees would remain eligible if they return to work with the same or a different covered employer after an agreed-upon unpaid leave of absence or a temporary layoff.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Borrello, Rhoads, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 138-10

Includes Certain Off-Site Custom Fabrication as Public Work for the Purposes of Prevailing Wage Payments

S.2536A (Jackson, Addabbo, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Kavanagh, Krueger, Mayer, Parker, Ramos, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stavisky) /A.2747A (Bronson)

This bill ensures prevailing wage rates for construction and custom fabrication done outside of a public work site, provided that such construction or custom fabrication is done for specific use in a public work project and constitutes a significant portion of the building or work. Custom fabrication includes, but is not limited to: the fabrication of exterior or interior wall panel systems, woodwork, electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, ventilation or exhaust duct systems, rebar cages, and mechanical insulation solely and specifically designed and engineered for installation in the construction, repair or renovation of a building which is the subject of a contract with the State.

A "significant portion of building or work" means that portions or modules of the building or work, as opposed to smaller prefabricated components, are delivered to the place where the building or work will remain, with minimal construction work remaining other than the installation and/or assembly of the portions or modules. Contractors who employ workers off-site for work on a public work project must maintain certified payrolls to the contracting agency to the Department of Labor at least annually and upon request.

Proponents: The Building and Construction Trade Council, New York State Council of the Sheet Metal Workers, AFL-CIO

Opponents: NYS Council of NECA Chapters - National Electrical Contractors Association, Allied Building Metal Industries Inc (ABMI), The Associated General Contractors of New York State

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Helming, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 119-20

Provides Protections for Telecommunications Tower Technicians

S.2709 (May, Baskin, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Cooney, Fernandez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Martinez, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Serrano, Skoufis) / A.4938 (Levensburg)

This bill requires tower services procurement contracts between New York State or any of its agencies and a private company to require certified safety trainings for tower climbers. Tower technicians employed by a bidder and all its contractors and/or subcontractors will need to be provided trainings during work hours without suffering a loss of pay, by a bona fide source that must, wherever possible, meet or exceed OSHA safety standards or be OSHA certified.

Proponents: Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 147-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Increases and Expands Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)**

S.172 (Ramos, Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Parker, Rivera, C. Ryan, Salazar, Serrano, Webb) / A.84 (Solages)

This bill increases the weekly TDI benefit over a five-year period, tied to the New York State Average Weekly Wage (SAWW), to eventually align with the Paid Family Leave (PFL) program. This bill also provides temporary PFL coverage for birthing parents who experience stillbirth in order while the TDI benefit is phased in. This bill also provides that TDI benefits may be taken in daily increments.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO; The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU); A Better Balance Coalition

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 50-11 (Borrello, Helming, Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rolison, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Enacts the Wage Payment Integrity Act**S.2236A (Gounardes, Jackson, Ramos, Webb) / A.2222A (Simon)**

This bill, the Wage Payment Integrity Act, specifies that the definition of "wages" under Section 190 of the Labor Law includes any form of compensation, such as a bonus, not payable at an employer's sole and absolute discretion. The bill responds to court decisions holding that promised bonuses are not considered "wages" if they are tied to any factor other than an individual employee's performance. Under this bill, for a bonus or other form of compensation to be excluded from the definition of wages, an employer must notify the employee in a clear, prominent, timely, and uncontradicted manner that the employer has sole and absolute discretion to decide whether to pay it.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes Prohibitions On Non-Compete Agreements And Restrictive Covenants**S.4641A (S. Ryan) / No Same As**

This bill bars any employer or its agent from seeking, requiring, demanding, or accepting a non-compete agreement from any covered individual. This bill also creates a private right of action with a two-year statute of limitations of the later of: (i) when the prohibited non-compete agreement was signed; (ii) when the covered individual learns of the prohibited non-compete agreement; (iii) when the employment or contractual relationship is terminated; or (iv) when the employer takes any step to enforce the non-compete agreement. A court may void any non-compete agreement and order appropriate relief. This bill exempts "highly compensated individuals," defined as those earning more than \$500,000.

Proponents: NYS Academy of Family Physicians

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 40-22 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Sutton, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Annual Sick Leave for Domestic Workers

S.4515 (Ramos, Comrie, Fernandez, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Webb) / A.4996 (Bronson)

This bill requires all employers of one or more domestic workers to provide such domestic workers with paid sick leave.

Proponents: NYS AFL-CIO

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 41-21 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Training to Reduce Public Workplace Bullying and Abusive Conduct

S.4925 (Ramos, Brouk, Cooney, Jackson, Rivera, Webb) / A.4936 (Bronson)

This bill requires public employers to conduct training to reduce abusive conduct and bullying in the workplace. Under the provisions of this bill, every public employer is required to evaluate its workplace or workplaces to determine the presence of factors or situations in such workplace or workplaces that might place employees at risk of occupational assaults and homicides. Every public employer with at least twenty full time permanent employees is further required to develop and implement a written workplace violence prevention program for its workplace or workplaces.

Proponents: The Public Employees Federation (PEF), AFL-CIO

Opponents: The New York State School Boards Association

Senate Vote: 54-7 (Borrello, Chan, Helming, Murray, Oberacker, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES**Prevailing Wage Reform**

S.6378 (Ramos, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Mayer, Rolison, C. Ryan, S. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.6708 (Bronson)

This bill amends the requirements for prevailing wage requirements applicable to construction projects performed under private contract, using public funds by lowering the threshold for determining whether a construction project is subject to prevailing wage requirements, removing certain funding and project exemptions, and eliminating the Public Subsidiary Board, transferring oversight to the Department of Labor, and modifying the timeline that developers must follow when certifying to the Department of Labor that the project is covered.

Proponents: The Building and Construction Trade Council

Opponents: The Westchester Business Council, The Associated General Contractors of New York State

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

LIBRARIES

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

S.1099 (May, Brouk, Comrie, Fahy, Harckham, Hinchey, Jackson, Webb) / A.7777 (Simone)

This bill requires the State Education Department, through its current authority to establish rules over the management of public school libraries, to include policies to ensure that school libraries and library staff are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available to such school districts. This bill further provides that it is the function of school library systems to ensure that school libraries and library staff are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available to participating schools.

Proponents: NY Library Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 46-15 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 89-46

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Requires Parents to Have an Option to Authorize a Minor Child to Receive a Local Library Card Upon Registration for Public Kindergarten**

S.5989A (Bynoe, Murray) / No same as

This bill requires that, upon registration of a minor to attend kindergarten at a public school, parents must have the option to check a space on the registration form authorizing their minor child to receive a public library card. Currently, if requested by a public library located within the boundaries of a school district, the school district must provide informational materials and library card application materials to students in certain grades and upon enrollment.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Open Shelves Act**S.1100A (May, Comrie, Harckham, Jackson, Myrie, Salazar, 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, to 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

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 42-17 (Ashby, Borrello, Chan, Fernandez, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Martins, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

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 to Install Panic Buttons****S.7993A (Ramos, Jackson, Myrie) / 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. This bill adds a new section to the Labor Law that is modeled after existing Labor Law provisions on preventing workplace violence, and would cause association libraries to now be subject to the requirements of the existing workplace prevention requirements within Labor Law.

Proponents: District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 133-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Statewide Authorization for Real Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty****S.683A (Martinez, Addabbo, Jackson) / A.3729 (Williams)**

This bill authorizes any county, city, town, village, or school district to provide for a tax exemption on real property owned by a surviving spouse of a police officer killed in the line of duty at local option up to a 50% exemption of the valuation of the primary residence.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Statewide Authorization for Real Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Volunteer Firefighters or Volunteer Ambulance Workers Killed in the Line of Duty**S.688A (Martinez, Addabbo, Jackson, C. Ryan, Webb) / A.5619A (Stern)**

Establishes an expanded local option for counties, municipalities, and districts to grant a real property tax exemption of up to 50% to the surviving spouse of a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker killed in the line of duty. This increases the benefit from existing law, where a spouse can only continue the volunteer's 10% exemption. The bill also expands eligibility by reducing the deceased member's minimum service requirement from five years to two.

Proponents: NYS Association of Fire Chiefs; Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York; Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 63-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

**Removes Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from Property Tax Cap
S.1515 (May, Fahy, Jackson, Webb) / A.2177A (Lupardo)**

This bill exempts expenditures for emergency medical services (EMS) from the state's real property tax cap calculation for local governments and school districts. Generally, the current real property tax cap limits localities outside New York City from increasing their annual tax levy beyond an annual growth factor tied to the rate of inflation, up to a maximum of two percent, unless a 60% supermajority of the local governing board or voters approve exceeding the cap. By adding EMS to the list of allowable exemptions, alongside costs like pensions and large court judgments, this bill allows localities to fund essential emergency services without the spending counting against their annual tax levy limit and without the local governments having to vote to override the cap.

Proponents: New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC); New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Borrello, Griffo, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 142-1

Partial Exemption of Residential Real Property Owned by a Nonprofit, Community Land Trust, or Land Bank and Transferred to Low-Income Persons**S.1718B (Hinchey) / A.355C (Barrett)**

This bill creates a new Section 457-a of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) to provide for a real property tax exemption for residential real property transferred from a nonprofit housing organization, community land trust, or land bank to a qualified low-income household.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 49-12 (Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Skoufis, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Extending Bond Length for School Districts for Judgments, Compromised Claims, or Settled Claims from Cases under the Child Victims Act

S.6372 (Mayer) / A.7631 (Lunsford)

Establishes a 30-year period of probable usefulness for judgments, compromised claims, or settled claims against school districts and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) resulting from lawsuits filed under the Child Victims Act (CVA). Under State Finance Law, the period of probable usefulness sets the maximum length of time over which a municipality can issue bonds to pay for a specific purpose. By authorizing a 30-year term for these purposes, this bill provides school districts facing significant, unforeseen CVA-related liability a longer term financing tool to manage these costs.

Proponents: Association of School Business Officials; BOCES of NYS; Capital Region BOCES; NYS Educational Conference Board; NYS School Boards Association

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Directs Counties to Develop and Maintain Comprehensive County Emergency Medical System (EMS) Plans

S.7501A (Mayer, Fahy, Harckham, Hinchey, May, Webb) / A.8086A (Otis)

Requires each county to develop a comprehensive emergency medical services (EMS) plan in collaboration with the cities, towns, and villages within its borders. Each plan must specify which entities will provide service, the organizational structure for delivery, and the method for allocating costs, allowing for a variety of service models, including municipal, intermunicipal, not-for-profit, for-profit contract, special district, or regional agreements. Completed plans must be submitted within six months to the Department of Health (DOH) and the State Emergency Medical Services Council (SEMSC) for review and comment.

Proponents: New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM); New York Association of Towns (AOT)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 141-3

Mandate Reporting of Cyber Incidents and Cybersecurity Awareness Training**S.7672A (Martinez) / A.6769A (Jones)**

This bill is based on the negotiated agreement of PPGG Part K and PPGG Part X of the 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal related to cybersecurity incident reporting and awareness training. It establishes new cybersecurity requirements for public entities, mandating both prompt incident reporting and annual employee training. It requires all municipal governments and public authorities to report cybersecurity incidents to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) within 72 hours. The bill also creates a stricter 24-hour reporting deadline for any ransom payments, which must be accompanied by a detailed written justification explaining the payment's necessity and the alternatives considered.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the legislation also mandates annual cybersecurity awareness training for all state and local government employees who use technology. While the state will provide a training program at no cost to localities, the requirement can be met with an alternative training. The training must be conducted during regular, paid work hours.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 142-0

Clarifies Certain Expenses and Revenues for the Appraisal Method for the Wind and Solar Energy Systems Property Tax Assessment Model

S.8012 (Harcckham, Jackson) / A.8332 (Lasher)

This bill clarifies the standard appraisal methodology for solar and wind energy systems with a nameplate capacity equal to or exceeding one megawatt, in response to a recent court decision (*Airey et. al. v. State of New York*) that found Section 575-b of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) unconstitutional. The court ruled that the Legislature, not the Department of Taxation and Finance, must determine how to value these projects for tax purposes. To resolve the resulting uncertainty for assessors and developers, this bill amends the RPTL to statutorily define what constitutes revenue versus expenses. Specifically, it designates host community benefit payments, decommissioning costs, and community solar management costs as deductible expenses, while classifying federal Investment Tax Credits (ITCs), Production Tax Credits (PTCs), and environmental values ("e-values"), including Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), as intangible assets that are not to be included as taxable revenue.

Proponents: ACE NY and various renewable energy companies and developers

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 43-15 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: 88-56

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Expands Training Time for Environmentally Conscious Planning Training for Local Municipalities

S.600A (Hinchey) / A.476A (Clark)

This bill expands the minimum annual training and attendance requirements for municipal planning boards and boards of appeals from four hours to five hours and requires that at least one hour be related to environmentally conscious planning. New York City is exempt from this legislation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-4 (Helming, O'Mara, Ortt, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

**Prevents Elected Officials from Serving on Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Boards
S.2317A (Skoufis, Krueger, Mayer, Webb) / A.931A (Magnarelli)**

This bill provides that a member of an IDA cannot be an elected official of the municipality in which the IDA is located, nor can they be an elected official of any county, city, town, or village within the county where the IDA is located. Existing members of the IDA who are elected officials of the municipality would be replaced pursuant to the current appointment practices outlined in the General Municipal Law (GML). The bill provides for exemptions for any elected officials required to serve under Title 2 of Article 18-A of the GML, or to any IDA that has a board entirely composed of elected officials from the municipality that chartered such IDA.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM)

Senate Vote: 42-16 (Baskin, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Martinez, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Persaud, Rhoads, Rolison, S. Ryan, Tedisco, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

**Provides Lifetime Special Accidental Death Benefit to Children of Certain Deceased
Members****S.3815B (Rivera) / A.8810 (Dinowitz)**

This bill would guarantee that the child or children of a municipal worker who has died in the line of duty can claim the accidental death benefits for the duration of their lifetime if there is no surviving spouse to claim such benefits. In practice, this bill would mainly affect members of the New York City Police and Fire Retirement Systems.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Mandatory Members**S.4464 (Mayer, Skoufis) / A.838 (Solages)**

This bill amends the organization of IDAs by requiring (1) at least one member to be from a local labor organization and (2) at least one member to be a school board representative or superintendent of a school district, or a school district designee. Current law requires IDAs to consist of between three and seven members who are appointed by the municipality. IDA members may include representatives of local government, school boards, organized labor, and business.

Proponents: CSEA; New York State School Boards Association; NYS Educational Conference Board; NYSUT

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 45-11 (Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Use of Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Funds for E-Commerce**Warehouses****S.4658A (S. Ryan) / No Same As**

This bill prohibits IDA funds from being used for e-commerce storage and warehousing facilities. An e-commerce warehouse is a facility in which physical goods are stored for online sale.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 49-13 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Helming, Martinez, Martins, Oberacker, Rhoads, Rolison, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Limits Interest Rate on Delinquent Property Taxes**S.6166 (S. Ryan) / No Same As**

This bill limits the maximum delinquent tax interest rate imposed by municipalities to the prime interest rate, as determined by the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. This legislation limits the delinquent tax interest rate to between 2% and 16% and requires the Commissioner to set it every 5 years. The bill requires the delinquent tax interest rate to be set to the prime interest rate starting in 2026, and the initial determination of the effective prime interest rate must be based on the 2026 prime interest rate.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Next Generation 911 System****S.192 (Martinez, Baskin, C. Ryan) / A.4369 (Rajkumar)**

This bill amends the County Law to add Section 325-a to create the next generation 911 system, an emergency services internet protocol network (ESINet). ESINet is defined as a "new base technology enabling the public or subscriber of a communication service to reach an appropriate public safety answering point (PSAP) by sending the digits 911 via dialing, text, or short message service (SMS), or by any other technological means." This bill requires the state to offer a statewide ESINet available for connection to local PSAPs.

Proponents: New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Pilot Program for Implementation of Local Land Value Taxation**S.1131A (May) / A.3339A (Bores)**

This bill directs the Secretary of State to establish a pilot program in up to five municipalities for the implementation of local land value taxation based on classes of land. The pilot program would authorize participating municipalities to create a two-rate property tax system that applies a higher tax rate to the assessed value of land and a lower, separate tax rate to the assessed value of the buildings and improvements on that land. In essence, this structure shifts the local tax levy more heavily onto the value of the underlying land itself, rather than the structures built upon it, allowing municipalities to incentivize development.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

MENTAL HEALTH

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Study on Child and Youth-Targeted Mobile Crisis Outreach****S.8043 (Bynoe) / A.4276 (Cunningham)**

This bill directs the Office of Mental Health to conduct a study on the use of child and youth-targeted mobile crisis outreach teams with the State. The study will examine current usage trends; gather data on demographic gaps in child and youth-targeted crisis intervention services; and identify challenges in implementing child and youth-targeted mobile crisis outreach teams.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Prohibits Suicide Hotline Automation****S.1366 (Serrano, 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: 58-0

Restricts Access to Court Records Relating to Appointment of a Guardian**S.1728 (Brouk, Harckham, Hinchey, Webb) / A.6804 (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

Allows Descendants of a Deceased Person Access to Medical Records**S.4713A (Fahy) / A.3733A (Bronson)**

This bill designates clinical records of individuals who were treated at facilities licensed or operated by the Office of Mental Health or the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities 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 mental health history.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 51-1 (Walczyk)

Release of Mental Health Records**S.8082 (Brouk) / No Same As**

This bill directs the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to develop a process allowing the release of records of deceased residents of OMH-operated mental health facilities to family members. 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.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 62-0

First Responder Peer Support Programs**S.5407A (Harckham, Brouk, Fernandez, Hinchey, Jackson, C. Ryan, Webb) / A.7285A (Burdick)**

This bill directs the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to establish a grant program providing funding to organizations to create peer-to-peer mental health programs for first responders. The model is the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Support Program, established as part of a four-county pilot project premised on the idea that no one understands a veteran's experiences better than other veterans.

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

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Release of OMH Patient Records****A.5546 (Simon) / No Same As**

This bill directs the Office of Mental Health to issue regulations authorizing the release of patient records.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Assembly Vote: 149-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Women's Issues, Health, Social Services, and Mental Health. *An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State*. (February 24, 2025).

NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Requires New York City to Provide Transportation after 4pm for Nonpublic School Students for Remedial Services, Homework, or Childcare

S.3786 (Felder, Webb) / A.5314 (Pheffer Amato)

This bill expands the required after 4:00pm transportation services that must be provided by the New York City Department of Education to include transportation of nonpublic students who receive remedial services, childcare, or who work on homework until 4:00 p.m. or later.

Currently, these transportation services are only available when there are regularly scheduled academic classes until 4:00 p.m. or later.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

Requires All Special Education Students in New York City to be Assigned to New Schools That Are Able to Accommodate the Student's Needs Prior to School Closure

S.79 (Liu) / A.702 (Epstein)

This bill requires that all special education students attending New York City 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 closure or change.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Includes Citywide Council on High School in the Selection of Certain Panel for Education Policy Members

S.1510 (Liu) / No Same As

This bill allows the president of the Citywide Council on High Schools to participate in the selection of the members of the Panel for Education Policy, which is the Board of Education, elected by the Community Education Council presidents.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-5 (Lanza, O'Mara, Rhoads, Skoufis, Walczyk)

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.1325C (Hoylman-Sigal, Addabbo) / A.3950B (Pheffer Amato)

This bill requires that, across the State, each school district shall provide written notice to all parents or persons in parental relation to students with disabilities parentally placed in nonpublic schools regarding the process for requesting special education services. In New York City, by the first Friday in October of 2025, 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 the IESP. The expedited review shall be conducted within 60 calendar days of the request.

Proponents: Agudath Israel of America, NYS Association of Independent Schools, NYS Catholic Conference

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

None.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE

None.

PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

MWBE Rebuttable Presumption

S.596 (Hinchey, Cooney, Fernandez, Parker, Webb) / A.2296 (McDonald)

This bill creates a rebuttable presumption for recertification of a Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) when the business has not undergone material changes in management and ownership. Certifications last for a period of five years, and businesses must reapply to maintain their official MWBE status.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Expands MWBE Growth Plans

S.1218 (Bailey, Webb) / A.333 (Cruz)

This bill requires all contracting State entities to develop a more comprehensive three-year growth plan that identifies and analyzes MWBE participation, capacity, resources, recommendations, usage of waivers, and the debriefing process.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 47-10 (Borrello, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-2

Preferred Source Status for Certain Entities That Employ Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**S.3257 (Cooney, Jackson) / A.2496 (McDonald)**

This bill adds businesses that employ formerly incarcerated individuals for the production of commodities and services and the assembly and fulfillment of commodities to the list of preferred sources. Preferred sources are not subject to competitive bidding.

Proponents: Center for Community Alternatives; FEDCAP Rehabilitation; Goodwill of New York and New Jersey; Business Council

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 99-45

Prohibits Procurement with Businesses That Pose a National Security Threat**S.3259 (Cooney) / A.2237 (Rajkumar)**

This bill prohibits the state from procuring information and communications technology and electronic parts, products, or services that are currently banned by the federal government for posing a national security threat. This bill authorizes waivers in certain circumstances for the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), the Adjutant General, the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Cyber Officer, and the Chief Technology Officer of the City of New York. The effective date is two years after it becomes law; however, effective immediately, the bill directs the Office of General Services (OGS) to establish rules and regulations and issue guidance to all state agencies and local procurement authorities necessary for the eventual implementation.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: DJI Technologies

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 139-0

Debriefings and Written Explanations of Contract Awards**S.5149 (Comrie) / A.5524 (Jackson)**

This bill requires a state contracting agency to provide all unsuccessful bidders with an explanation and written analysis by mail or electronic mail that is identical to what would be provided in a debriefing, upon request, and extends the length of time an unsuccessful bidder has to request a debriefing from 15 to 30 days. Currently, a formal debriefing is the only method available for an unsuccessful bidder to receive feedback from the agency to review reasons they did not receive the award, and they are not always provided in writing.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

New York Holocaust Memorial**S.5784 (Fahy) / A.7614 (Romero)**

This bill directs OGS to erect the "New York State Holocaust Memorial" to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and educate the public about the Holocaust and the dangers of antisemitism, racism, and all manifestations of intolerance. This bill gives OGS authorization to consult with Holocaust memorial organizations that provide remembrance services to obtain ideas and suggestions for the design, programming, and location.

Proponents: Capital District Jewish Holocaust Memorial

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 56-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

MWBE Mentorship**S.6315 (Sanders, Jackson) / A.7235 (Bichotte Hermelyn)**

This bill requires the MWBE Division to identify and establish mentorship opportunities when there is a contract between a MWBE general contractor and a subcontractor or contractor working on a state contract. The original parties to the contract are the ones bound by the bill language. This bill also requires MWBE general contractors to mentor their subcontractor MWBEs.

Proponents: Building Trades Employers' Association; Empire State Subcontractors Association, Inc.; Subcontractors Trade Association, Women Builders Council; Building Restoration Contractors Association; Association of Master Painters & Decorators of New York, Inc.; Boilermakers Association of Greater New York; Roofing Association of New York; Associated General Contractors of America (AGC NYS);

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 140-0

Non-Profit Prompt Payment**S.7001 (Mayer, Bailey, Comrie, Fahy, Harckham, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.7616 (Paulin)**

This bill seeks to expedite payment for state contracts to non-profits by attempting to avoid lapses in payments between renewal contracts, increasing non-profits' access to and awareness of the Non-Profit Short Term Revolving Loan Fund, and requiring that written directives to non-profits include an invoice and schedule.

Proponents: Empire Justice Center, Human Services Council of New York, New York Council of Nonprofits, New York Legal Services Coalition, Nonprofit New York, Nonprofit Westchester and various other organizations

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Additional Information in MWBE Annual Agency Reports**S.8393 (Webb) / A.7222 (Bichotte Hermelyn)**

This bill expands the existing annual reporting requirement for agencies reporting to ESDC on MWBE participation to require information about certifications and recertifications and the length of time in which a determination was made to be broken down by gender and minority type and included in the annual report. Second, the bill would require the addition of information about contracts identified as goods or services, whether the contract was awarded to a minority-owned or a women-owned business, the name and address of the prime and subcontractors, and the dollar amount.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE ONLY**Time to Cure Defects on MWBE Certification and Recertification Applications****S.6020 (Baskin, Webb) / A.4134 (Stirpe)**

This bill increases the amount of time that a MWBE or prospective MWBE has to cure an omission or technical error on a statewide certification application from 30 to 60 days. It also increases the amount of time an unsuccessful applicant has to request a hearing before an independent examiner from 30 to 60 days.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Noncompliant Not-for-Profit Contracts**S.2075 (Mayer, Bailey, Cooney, Fernandez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, May) / A.506 (Paulin)**

This bill establishes factors to determine whether a state agency is noncompliant for failure to execute contracts in a timely manner with not-for-profit (NFP) corporations. The bill also requires NFP agencies that have been noncompliant for a minimum of six months to develop reports detailing remedial efforts.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Local Food Procurement Goals**S.6576 (Hinchey) / No Same As**

This bill requires state agencies that purchase more than \$50,000 of food or food products to set annual local food procurement percentage goals. The percentage requirements would begin at 15% and increase by five percent every additional year leading up to a total goal of 25% by the fourth year.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Enacts The Rainforest Economic and Environmental Sustainability (“TREES”) Act**S.7203 (Krueger, Cooney, May, Brisport, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Salazar, Sanders, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Webb) / A.8673 (Glick)**

This bill restricts New York State's procurement of tropical hardwoods to reduce deforestation, imposes sanctions on non-compliant contractors and subcontractors, and establishes a "Supply Chain Transparency Assistance Program." This bill also prohibits the procurement of other bi-products such as palm oil, beef, and soy, and other tropical forest-risk commodities, and secondary material that ends up in the waste stream. This bill creates exceptions for the use of Ekki wood by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), and the use of Greenheart wood for the Staten Island Ferry, and both exceptions contain specific provisions stating that the exception granted will expire by January 1, 2030, and that by October 1, 2025, the entities must develop and issue a transition plan outlining the steps the authority will take to minimize and eventually phase out the use of the tropical hardwood.

Proponents: Citizens Climate Lobby New York State; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); NYPIRG; New York State Council of Churches; Tony's Chocolonely; Zero Waste New York City; 350 Brooklyn

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 36-22 (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

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: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**New York State Alcoholic Beverage Preference****S.1158A (Cooney, Skoufis) / A.3754A (Jones)**

This bill requires State Agencies, the Legislature, or Judiciary to purchase at least one alcoholic beverage made within the state of New York to serve at any event they host that serves alcohol.

Proponents: New York Farm Bureau

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 136-0

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. Currently, retainage is withheld on construction jobs to ensure that the owner signs off on the contract. This bill would remove 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

Horsemen's Organization Benefit Plans

S.2612B (Addabbo) / A.8206 (Woerner)

Ensures that welfare, medical, and retirement plans for horsemen continue during periods without a contract between the licensed harness racing corporation and the horsemen's organization. It mandates that the corporation pay the previously negotiated amount for these benefits monthly from the horsemen's gross purse enhancement amount derived from video lottery gaming.

Proponents: Standardbred Owners Association of NY

Opponents: Empire City Casino; New York Gaming Association (NYGA)

Senate Vote: 57-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games

S.5935A (Addabbo) / A.6745A (Woerner)

Prohibits the operation, conduct, or promotion of online sweepstakes games that simulate casino-style gaming using a dual-currency system. It makes it unlawful for financial institutions, payment processors, and others to support such games. The bill grants the State Gaming Commission, State Police, and Attorney General's Office authority to enforce the prohibition, with penalties including fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per violation and potential loss of a gaming license.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Electronic Transactions Association; New York State Credit Union Association; Social Gaming Leadership Alliance

Senate Vote: 57-2 (O'Mara, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: 141-0

Electronic Bell Jar Games**S.6351B (Addabbo, Ashby, Griffo, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Walczyk) / A.7475B (Woerner)**

Authorizes and regulates the use of electronic bell jar vending machines by licensed charitable organizations to increase fundraising profits. The bill outlines operational requirements for the machines, requires approval from the Gaming Commission, and establishes limitations on the number of machines an organization can operate based on membership levels and proximity to other gaming facilities in order to prevent the creation of casino-like parlors.

Proponents: Ancient Order of Hibernians; NYS Council of Veterans' Organizations

Opponents: New York Gaming Association (NYGA); Saratoga Casino Hotel

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Borrello, Krueger, Ortt, Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 134-5

Jockey Health Insurance Reserve Fund**S.2618A (Addabbo) / A.5921A (Woerner)**

Creates the Jockey Health Insurance Reserve Fund to provide health insurance coverage for eligible jockeys. The fund will be administered by a program established by NYRA, funded through a percentage of the gross purse enhancement from video lottery gaming. The bill outlines eligibility requirements for jockeys based on the number of races they have ridden, their retirement status, or a permanent disability resulting from a racing accident.

Proponents: Jockeys' Guild, Inc.

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Maintaining Live Racing at Gaming Facilities**S.8358 (Addabbo) / A.7802A (Sayegh)**

Requires that any harness racetrack location awarded a gaming facility license must maintain live racing activity and its schedule of race dates. The bill intends to preserve the State's horse racing industry and its associated jobs and economic impact as casino gaming expands to include existing racetrack locations and video lottery gaming facilities that may convert to full casinos.

Proponents: Standardbred Owners Association of NY

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-4 (Brisport, Krueger, Martinez, Skoufis)

Assembly Vote: 138-1

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Operation of Games of Chance by Employees****S.2294 (Skoufis) / A.8667 (Stirpe)**

Permits employees of "authorized organizations," such as charities and veterans' organizations, to operate and manage games of chance like 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: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

Participation in Bingo by Minors**S.2611 (Addabbo) / A.3400 (Santabarbara)**

Amends the General Municipal Law to permit minors to participate in games of bingo so long as they are accompanied by an adult. The law currently prohibits children under the age of 18 from playing bingo.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 55-5 (Bynoe, Krueger, Martinez, May, Sutton)

Assembly Vote: None

Anonymity for Lottery Winners**S.2613 (Addabbo, Bailey) / No Same As**

Requires the state to keep the identities of state lottery winners anonymous from the general public unless a winner provides their consent for disclosure. The purpose is to protect winners from potential crime, fraud, and harassment.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-2 (Griffo, Ortt)

Assembly Vote: None

Gambler Self-Exclusion Program Enhancements**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: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Frequency of Bingo Games****S.5614 (Addabbo) / A.3681A (Woerner)**

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: None

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Mobile Sports Betting Revenue for Youth Sports****S.5640C (Bailey, Addabbo, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gounardes, Jackson) / A.8167A (Wright)**

Requires that \$20 million of mobile sports betting (MSB) tax revenue be spent to fund a statewide youth team sports and education grant program. The funding, administered by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), would be split evenly between capital expenditures and programming. While capital funds would be distributed by county youth bureaus statewide, programmatic funding in New York City would be specially allocated: 75% would be distributed by the City's Department of Youth and Community Development, and the remaining 25% by a designated nonprofit organization focused on youth development through sports.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibiting Gambling for Individuals Under 21**S.2610 (Addabbo) / A.6814 (Woerner)**

Raises the legal gambling age from 18 to 21 for all forms of gaming regulated by the Gaming Commission. The bill aims to address higher rates of problem gambling among young adults.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Up to three downstate casino licenses are expected to be awarded in 2025, per the timeline established by the Gaming Facility Location Board (GFLB). Eight casino applications have been submitted to the local community advisory committees (CACs), which must vote on the respective proposals to indicate support or opposition by September 30. These applications must obtain all necessary zoning and land use approvals in addition to CAC approval before being considered by the GFLB and the Gaming Commission.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Analyst: Janine Smith
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Establishes a Task Force to Examine Fiscal Cliffs in New York State's Public Assistance Programs****S.244 (Persaud, Cooney, Webb) / A.2497 (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: Benefits Bridge Coalition; Housing Works

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

Adds the New York State Thruway Authority and the Departments of Transportation and Motor Vehicles to the Human Trafficking Task Force**S.181 (Persaud, Bailey, Fernandez, Martinez, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb) / A.5311 (Reyes)**

This legislation would expand the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons to include the Executive Director of the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Adding NYSTA, DOT, and DMV aims to strengthen existing efforts against human trafficking, especially regarding the role of transportation systems in enabling this crime.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 144-0

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) / 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: Capital Region Chamber

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: None

Prohibits Requiring A Court Proceeding to be Initiated to Qualify for Rental Assistance**S.913 (Kavanagh) / A.1401 (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: Homeless Services United

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Implements EMV Chips for EBT Cards**S.1465 (Serrano, Gonzalez, Liu, C. Ryan, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis) / A.699 (Gonzalez-Rojas)**

This legislation directs the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), to the extent consistent with federal law or regulations, to implement commercially available electronic benefits transfer (EBT) systems, including at a minimum EMV chip cards, by June 21, 2026. Additionally, any necessary upgrades to the EBT system must be completed as soon as practicable.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-0

Assembly Vote: None

Creates a Refugee Resettlement Program**S.2516A (Gounardes, Brisport, Comrie, Fahy, Fernandez, Jackson, May, Myrie, Webb) / No Same As**

Currently, OTDA runs a Refugee Services program. This legislation codifies a refugee resettlement program and expands upon the refugee resettlement program administered by the Bureau of Refugee Services. The Department of Social Services would be permitted to partner with public and/or private nonprofit agencies to provide refugee services, with the goals of achieving economic and social self-sufficiency, assisting victims of human trafficking, and assuring proper foster care for unaccompanied refugees and entrant minors. The services provided would include, but not be 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: American Immigration Council; Catholic Charities Community Services; Central America Legal Assistance; International Rescue Committee of NY

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 56-3 (Oberacker, Stec, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Supporting Reentry with Streamlined Access to Public Assistance**S.5059 (Cleare, Brisport, Fernandez, Harckham, Jackson, Ramos, Salazar, Webb) / A.3935 (Hevesi)**

This legislation streamlines access to public assistance for incarcerated individuals nearing release by requiring correctional facilities to initiate benefits applications and provide support services before release. Benefits navigators must complete safety net applications within 72 hours of parole residence approval, and individuals must be assigned dedicated assistance. Facilities must provide and assist with applications for programs such as SNAP, WIC, HEAP, SSI, and state supplemental payments. This legislation enables nonprofit partnerships to support reentry services and requires the reporting of service delivery data by benefit type and demographic group.

Proponents: The Fortune Society; Legal Action Center

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 45-13 (Borrello, Chan, Helming, O'Mara, Weber, Ortt, Tedisco, Weik, Gallivan, Griffo, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to Provide Smart Home Harassment Materials**S.8045 (Bynoe) / 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: NYSCADV

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

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

Forum on Human Trafficking in the Transportation Sector. *Forum to examine recent and proposed New York State efforts to combat human trafficking, with participation from ground transportation experts, the Department of Transportation, the Trucking Association, and nonprofit service providers.* (January 27, 2025).

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Housing, Construction & Community Development; Aging; and Social Services. *To assess rental assistance programs and examine the need for expanded residential rental assistance to prevent evictions* (February 18, 2025).

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Women's Issues, Health, Social Services, and Mental Health. *An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State.* (February 24, 2025).

TRANSPORTATION

Analyst: Vincent Rodriguez
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Establishes a Study on DMV Safety Inspection Requirements and Fees

S.3103 (Cooney) / A.468 (Magnarelli)

This legislation directs the DMV to conduct a study to examine and review the existing requirements and fees of safety inspections conducted on all motor vehicles and motorcycles. The study will consider logistics regarding inspection items, such as whether more are needed, if they should be changed, and cost analysis.

Proponents: Independent Service Stations & Repair Shops

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Requires Thruway Authority Emergency Service Permits for Ambulances and Fire Vehicles

S.31 (Comrie, Borrello, Mattera, Oberacker, Palumbo, Rolison, Skoufis, Weber, Weik) / A.34 (Eachus)

This legislation eliminates the requirement that the Thruway Authority issue refunds for tolls incurred by ambulances and fire vehicles when they are engaged in an emergency operation and instead replaces it with a requirement that the Authority establish a process for ambulance and fire vehicles to be able to apply for emergency services permits (E-ZPasses).

Proponents: New York State Association of Counties

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

Biannual Reports for Thruway Authority**S.608 (Comrie) / A.7086 (Torres)**

This bill changes the frequency and expands the scope of annual reports from the NYS Thruway Authority regarding operations and fiscal transactions, including its financial condition, receipts, and expenditures. The reporting frequency is changed from annually to biannually, and the scope of the report to include a list of all contracts entered into by the Thruway Authority during the period of the report.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 147-0

DMV Notice on National Bone Marrow Donor Program**S.3335A (Cooney, Oberacker, Rhoads) / A.5122A (Solages)**

Requires DMV to inform individuals about the National Bone Marrow Donor Program at the time of application for or renewal of a driver's license or non-driver identification card.

Proponents: National Bone Marrow Donor Program

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Prohibits MTA from Using One-Person Train Operation**S.4091 (Parker, Addabbo, Bynoe, Jackson, Martinez, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, Sanders, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Stavisky, Webb) / A.4873 (Chandler-Waterman)**

This legislation requires any subway and train operated by the New York City Transit Authority - the subsidiary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that runs the subway system, Staten Island Railway, and many of the MTA's buses - to have at least one conductor on board whenever a subway or train has more than two cars attached to the engine. This is intended to prohibit the MTA from using "one person train operation," which various other transit authorities like Boston and Paris are already using.

Proponents: TWU Local 100

Opponents: MTA

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Griffo, Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

**Establishes an Online Insurance Verification System for Motor Vehicle Insurance
S.5331A (Bailey, Addabbo, Fahy, Helming) / A.4404A (Weprin)**

This bill establishes an online motor vehicle insurance verification system through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and requires insurers to provide necessary data. It builds on an existing electronic database and includes a registration sticker indicator for law enforcement access.

Proponents: New York Insurance Association, American Property Casualty Insurance Association, and National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: 144-1

**Process for Surrendering Title to Manufactured Homes
S.7120 (S. Ryan) / A.7512 (Jones)**

This legislation allows owners to convert a manufactured home which is considered personal property to real property when it is affixed to a permanent foundation, and establishes procedures for the conversion to real property. The bill further allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept and verify affidavits of affixation from manufactured home owners demonstrating their intent to have their homes treated as connected with the real property.

Proponents: Greater Rochester Chamber; Rural Housing Coalition of NY, Upstate United; New York Bankers Association

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

**Special Vintage Snowmobile Registration
S.7200B (C. Ryan) / A.2163B (Jones)**

This bill adds a \$5 fee to all vintage snowmobile registrations and sets total fees at \$130 for non-club members and \$75 for members of approved NYS snowmobile clubs. This applies both to new registrations and renewals.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-1 (Martinez)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY**Additional Requirements for Commercial E-Bike Operations****S.106 (Comrie) / A.4971 (Zinerman)**

This bill sets new rules for commercial e-bike operators and the businesses that employ them. Businesses must provide safety training, ensure traffic law compliance, equip bikes with unique ID numbers, and supply safety gear. Non-compliance will result in a \$250 fine for the first offense, increasing by \$50 for each additional violation.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 45-14 (Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber)

Assembly Vote: None

Driver's License Suspension for Boating While Ability Impaired (BWA) or Boating While Intoxicated (BWI)**S.200 (Martinez, Addabbo, Borrello, Murray, Palumbo) / A.5907 (Durso)**

This bill directs the sentencing court to suspend a person's driver's license for an alcohol or drug-related operating offense with respect to a vessel (boat), and authorizes the Court to suspend the motor vehicle registration of the person as well. This bill also authorizes DMV to adopt rules to permit conditional or restricted operation of a motor vehicle by any such person after a three year period.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 60-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Enacts "Bryan Johnson's Law" to Consider Previous BWI Convictions for Purposes of DWI Repeat Offense Charges**S.258 (Martinez, Addabbo, Borrello, Harckham, Palumbo) / A.1814 (Levenberg)**

This bill updates sentencing rules by requiring a 10-year lookback for prior boating while intoxicated (BWI) offenses when sentencing for driving while ability impaired (DWAI) by alcohol and/or drugs, or driving while intoxicated (DWI), or aggravated DWI. It sets a 5-year lookback for prior alcohol-only DWAI offenses with lower BACs. It also mandates a 10-year lookback for all BWI offenses when a person has two or more prior DWAI or DWI convictions within 10 years.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

MTA Rider Representation Act**S.1148 (Gounardes, Cleare, Comrie, Fernandez, Gianaris, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Martinez, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton, Sepúlveda, Weber) / A.1162 (Dinowitz)**

This legislation increases the total number of voting positions on the MTA Board by four from 17 to 21, and requires that members from the rider/commuter councils and from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities each receive the ability to make a written recommendation to the Governor for appointment to the Board. It correspondingly eliminates the non-voting rider representative from the Board.

Proponents: Business Council of New York State; Center for the Independence of the Disabled NY; Disabled in Action --No Memo; NY Lawyers for the Public Interest; NYPIRG; OpenPlans; Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA; Riders Alliance; Rise and Resist; Streets PAC; Tri-State Transportation Campaign; WE ACT For Environmental Justice.

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 53-6 (Ashby, Chan, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, Stec)

Assembly Vote: None

Requires Instruction on Traffic Stops During 5-Hour Course**S.1284 (Persaud, Comrie, Gallivan, Gounardes, Rolison, Webb) / A.1545 (Simon)**

This legislation requires the five-hour pre-licensing course to include training on a driver's responsibilities when stopped by law enforcement and requires at least one question during the related test. It also requires similar training to be provided during defensive driving course Instruction.

Proponents: Police Conference of New York; Suffolk PBA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 61-0

Assembly Vote: None

Allows for Virtual Hearings for Parking Violations**S.1511A (Liu) / A.1425A (Dinowitz)**

This bill allows individuals to appear electronically for parking violation hearings. Municipalities can set rules for these appearances, and individuals may plead not guilty and choose an in-person or electronic hearing. Pleas can be submitted in person, by mail, or online.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Walczyk)

Assembly Vote: None

Three-Foot Passing Rule for Motor Vehicles Passing Bicyclists**S.1665 (Harckham, Cooney, Hinchey, Martinez, Palumbo, Salazar, Sepúlveda) / A.1831 (Steck)**

This legislation replaces the "safe distance" standard, currently implemented in New York for vehicles passing bicyclists, with a clear three-foot standard for passing. It is currently drafted to apply only to cities outside New York City, and to all towns and villages.

Proponents: Families for Safe Streets, Albany Bicycle Coalition, Bike Walk Tomkins, GObike Buffalo, National Safety Council, New York Bicycling Coalition, Open Plans, Parks & Trails NY, Reconnect Rochester, Rochester Bicycling Club, Slow Roll Syracuse, Transportation Alternatives, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and Walkable Albany

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 52-5 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Oberacker)

Assembly Vote: None

Authorizes Camera Enforcement of Street Cleaning Parking Rules in NYC**S.1891 (Jackson) / A.4523 (Cunningham)**

This legislation authorizes New York City to establish a 5-year pilot camera enforcement program to enforce street cleaning parking rules. Similar to bus camera programs, the photo devices would be affixed to the street cleaning vehicles and the cameras would capture images of parked cars in violation of the street cleaning parking rules. Fines are no higher than \$50 per violation with \$25 late fees.

Proponents: New York City Department of Sanitation; Verra Mobility

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 44-18 (Ashby, Borrello, Bynoe, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Griffo, Helming, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton, Stec, Tedisco, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Reckless Driving and Vehicular Awareness Pre-licensing and Criminal Negligence for Reckless Driving**S.2061 (Cooney, Gounardes, Hoylman-Sigal, Myrie, Rivera, Sepúlveda, Stavisky) / A.1788 (Rosenthal)**

This bill clarifies the definition of reckless driving to include driving in a manner that "unreasonably interferes with" or "unreasonably endangers" others. It creates a presumption of criminal negligence if reckless driving causes injury or death. The bill also adds a "Reckless Driving and Vehicular Violence" awareness component to pre-licensing and prevention courses for drivers.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

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

Assembly Vote: None

**Speed Restriction Device Installation for Repeated Speed or Speed Camera Violations
S.4045C (Gounardes, Bailey, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hoylman-Sigal, Krueger, Liu, Martinez, May, Mayer, Myrie, Ramos, Rivera, C. Ryan, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis, Webb, Weber) / A.2299 (Gallagher)**

This bill requires drivers with 11 or more speeding-related points in 18 months, or vehicle owners with 16+ New York City speed camera violations in a year, to install speed limiters on their vehicles for at least one year. These devices cap vehicle speed to 5 mph over the posted limit, with limited flexibility. Failure to comply may result in license suspension or potential misdemeanor charges.

Proponents: Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety; AARP New York; National Transportation Safety Board; NYS Safe Streets Coalition; Tech NYC. S7621 (2024): Child Health Initiative and FIA Foundation; The Institute for Safer Trucking and Road Safe America; Vision Zero Network
Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 44-15 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Walczyk, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Increased Fines for Move Over Law Violations

S.4649A (Cooney, Baskin, Fahy, Harckham) / A.4016A (Magnarelli)

The bill increases fines on drivers that fail to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any motor vehicle parked, stopped, or standing on the shoulder or any portion of such a parkway or controlled access highway (the Move Over Law).

Proponents: CSEA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: None

Establishes the New York Road Salt Reduction Council & Advisory Committee**S.6976A (Harckham, Webb) / A.4481A (Jones)**

This legislation establishes the New York Road Salt Reduction Council and the New York Road Salt Reduction Advisory Committee, similar to the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force but on a statewide level. The Council and Committee will implement the Adirondack Road Salt Task Force recommendations to protect public health and the environment from contamination by road salt.

Proponents: Adirondack Council; New York Section of the American Water Works Association; Snow and Ice Management Association

Opponents: County Highway Superintendents; DOT

Senate Vote: 44-14 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Free Non-Driver IDs for Homeless Individuals**S.7032 (Sepúlveda) / No Same As**

This legislation provides qualified homeless individuals with free non-driver state identification cards through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) if there is proof provided that such individual is in fact homeless. Proof of homelessness can be demonstrated by verification from various sources including any homeless services provider that DMV designates.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 50-12 (Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Helming, Martins, Oberacker, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Assembly Vote: None

Blue Envelope Program for Neurodivergent Vehicle Operators and Passengers**S.8059 (Bailey) / A.8719 (Santabarbara)**

This bill requires the DMV to create a blue envelope program to support safe interactions during traffic stops for individuals with mental health or neurodivergent conditions. The envelopes will hold key documents and include communication guidance for both drivers/passengers and police officers. It also mandates police officer training on the program through the Municipal Police Training Council.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Long Island Railroad Commuter Council Vacancy Requirements****S.5164 (Comrie) / A.5134 (Solages)**

This legislation relates to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR), requiring the number of vacancy recommendations by each of the county executives of Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, or Brooklyn to 1 member each for the Long Island Railroad Commuter Council (LIRRCC).

Proponents: Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: 136-2

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Expansion of Fair Fares and Eligibility****S.3887A (Comrie) / A.7316A (Gonzales-Rojas)**

This bill expands the Fair Fares program to provide a 50% discount on LIRR and Metro-North trips within NYC for current recipients. It also raises eligibility for commuter rail discounts to those earning below 200% of the federal poverty level and requires increased MTA outreach. A version of this legislation was included in the Senate one-house in 2024 and 2025, but was not included in either adopted budget.

Proponents: Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

Construction Permit Surcharge in NYC**S.7936 (Kavanagh) / No Same As**

This bill allows NYC to impose a construction surcharge for street or pedestrian plaza closures, with rates set by zone and affordability-based reductions. It outlines enforcement measures, including penalties and judicial review. Exemptions apply for government entities and projects with at least 50% affordable housing.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Senate Vote: None

Assembly Vote: None

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The SFY 2025-26 Adopted Budget included a host of Article VII legislative changes, including with respect to abandoned vehicles, weigh-in-motion overweight vehicle monitoring, and automated work zone speed enforcement. The respective agencies' and authorities' implementation of these new laws will continue to be monitored. However, issues have been arising when these camera violations are adjudicated through local courts instead of through traffic adjudication bureaus or parking violations bureaus. As camera programs expand, these adjudication issues will expand.

Transportation funding will remain uncertain as the DOT prepares its next five-year capital program and as user fees like gas taxes decline, and as litigation continues against the federal government over congestion pricing (which is needed to fund \$15 billion for the 2020-24 MTA Capital Program).

HEARINGS OR FORUMS

None.

VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Analyst: Damara Fredette
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES**Authorizes Municipalities to Offer Real Property Tax Exemption for Active Duty Military Service Members Deployed to a Combat Zone During a Taxable Year****S.2068A (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Jackson, Mattera, Rolison) / A.6579 (Stern)**

This legislation allows localities, following a public hearing, the option of providing a Real Property Tax exemption to active duty military service members equivalent to 15% of the assessed value of the residential property owned by such member. The exemption is capped at \$12,000, or whichever is less between the state equalization rate computation or the class ratio computation if it is a special assessing unit. Further, this bill stipulates that the exemption shall not apply to taxes levied for school purposes, and that the exemption will not be granted if the service member already receives a Real Property Tax exemption pursuant to Sections 458 (Veterans), 458-A (Veterans, Alternative Exemptions), and 458-B (Exemptions for Cold War Veterans) of the Real Property Tax law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

Includes the Space Force as Members of the Armed Forces or Veterans Eligible for Certain Credits**S.243A (Skoufis, Ashby, Jackson, Rhoads) / A.291A (Barrett)**

This bill ensures that veterans and members of the Space Force are eligible for the same benefits afforded to other veterans and members of the other branches of the Armed Forces. The bill includes Space Force in additional veteran's benefits and credits within the Education Law and adds the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy members to the "military voter" designation under Election Law.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-2 (Brisport, Fahy)

Assembly Vote: 144-0

**Real Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with 100% Service-Connected Disability
S.1183 (Addabbo, Ashby, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Cooney, Griffo, Harckham,
Helming, Hinchey, Jackson, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara, Palumbo,
Ramos, Rhoads, Rolison, Scarcella-Spanton, Skoufis, Stec, Webb, Weber, Weik) / A.74
(Pheffer-Amato)**

This bill grants a full real property tax exemption for the primary residence of veterans and their spouses who have received a 100% service-connected disability rating from the federal Veterans' Administration. It also allows veterans who qualify for federal grants to purchase or modify housing for accessibility to receive a full property tax exemption on those improvements for up to 10 years, provided the local jurisdiction has opted into the program.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: New York State School Boards Association (Amendment Requested)

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 135-0

**Requires Department of Veterans' Services to Provide Information on Employment of
Veterans with Disabilities Program**

S.2623A (Scarcella-Spanton, Addabbo, Mattera, Murray) / A.4751A (Rajkumar)

In current law, the Department of Veterans' Services must maintain a veterans' employment portal on their website, which includes links to New York State Department of Labor Employment Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and provides advice on finding employment within the civilian workforce. This bill would require a link to the New York State Department of Civil Service on the website as well as require a veteran service agency to assist veterans in receiving information about the Employment of Veterans with Disabilities Program, commonly known as the 55-C program.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 57-0

Assembly Vote: 149-0

Veterans Tuition Awards Program**S.4358A (Bailey, Addabbo, Ashby, Cooney, Fahy, Helming, Jackson, Mattera, Murray, Rhoads, Scarcella-Spanton, Webb, Weber) / A.3240A (Dinowitz)**

This bill expands the Veterans Tuition Awards Program to allow an eligible veteran to transfer all or a portion of the tuition money to one or more immediate family members. Veteran eligibility includes: being a legal NYS resident for 12 continuous months; being a US citizen or eligible non-citizen; having matriculated full or part-time at an undergraduate or graduate institution in New York State or a vocational program; being in good academic standing; and being charged at least \$200 tuition annually. Under this bill, a veteran who transfers their award must designate the eligible family member(s) and the number of months the transfer will be effective.

Proponents: Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities; CUNY; 2023 The New York State Association of Counties

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-1 (Martins)

Assembly Vote: 145-0

Veterans' Health Care Review to Ensure Veterans and their Families Have Access to Health and Mental Health Treatment**S.7129 (Martinez, Rhoads) / A.5155 (Stern)**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) and the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a study about veteran health care access and resources, to be submitted to the legislature by December 31, 2027. The study must include reviewing how to: increase access to health care coverage and services for veterans and their families; leverage existing resources and make them accessible; incorporate veterans and their families into all state efforts to expand access to affordable health care; ensure access to mental health treatment, such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, military sexual trauma, reproductive and mental health conditions, and suicide prevention care; increase primary, reproductive, and mental health care services and resources to women veterans; identify all federal and other health resources available to veterans and their families; and effectively coordinate with other government agencies, health care providers, and insurers.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 58-0

Assembly Vote: 146-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ONLY IN THE SENATE**Allows Close Friend or Family Member of Veteran to Request Burial of Veteran in a State Veterans' Cemetery****S.1009 (Brouk, Addabbo, Ashby, Harckham, Helming, Rhoads, Stec) / A.408 (Stirpe)**

This bill authorizes a person responsible or designated to control the disposition of a deceased veteran's remains, and who has knowledge of that veteran's desire to be buried in a veterans' cemetery, to provide evidence of the military service of that deceased veteran in the manner and form required by the State Commissioner. This will allow non-family members, such as close friends or other relatives, to act as an agent for a veteran who may not have family or next of kin to facilitate the veteran's desire to be buried in a state veterans' cemetery.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 60-0

Assembly Vote: None

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED ONLY IN THE ASSEMBLY**Veterans' Bill of Rights****S.7708A (Fernandez) / A.6559B (Benedetto)**

This legislation establishes a veterans' bill of rights, which would be printed, published, and distributed by the Department of Veterans' Services. These rights include the right to apply for veterans' benefits where eligible; to receive assistance from local veteran agencies; to be treated with dignity and respect; and to receive fair and equal treatment without discrimination based on sex, race, religion, disability, or gender identity. These rights are to be posted on the Department's website and made available at all local and county veterans' services agencies.

Proponents:

Opponents:

Senate Vote: None - Reported to Rules

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS IN ANY HOUSE

None.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

None.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Analyst: Andrew Title
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SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Restricts Harmful Substances in Menstrual Products

S.1548 (Fernandez, Addabbo, Baskin, Cleare, Fahy, Gonzalez, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Kavanagh, Liu, Mayer, Persaud, S. Ryan, Serrano, Webb) /

A.1502 (Rosenthal)

This bill prohibits the sale of any menstrual products which contain harmful added substances as identified by the Department of Health (DOH), including lead, mercury, formaldehyde, triclosan, toluene, talc, and propylparabens. Studies have found that menstrual products contain known carcinogens, reproductive toxins, endocrine disruptors, and allergens.

Proponents: Environmental Advocates of NY; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Clean and Healthy; Climate Reality Project; Green Inside and Out; Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition; National Resources Defense Council, Inc.; NAACP; New York League of Conservation Voters; New York Sustainable Business Council; Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; The Just Green Partnership; Women's Voices for the Earth; WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 148-1

Hormone Replacement Therapy Campaign

S.1720 (Persaud, Harckham, Liu) / A.2698 (Forrest)

This bill directs the Department of Health to include information on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and its use for the treatment of perimenopause and menopause symptoms as part of the Health Care and Wellness Education and Outreach Program. HRT can reduce symptoms for these conditions and improve quality of life.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: None Available

Senate Vote: 59-0

Assembly Vote: 143-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

SUNY and CUNY Contraception Vending Machines

S.2058 (Webb, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gianaris, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Salazar, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Skoufis) / No Same As

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: 43-19 (Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber, Weik)

Access to Menstrual Products in Public Buildings

S.3866B (Hinchey, Webb) / A.1740A (Rosenthal)

This bill would require menstrual products to 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)

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

Coverage for Interhospital Transfer of Birthing Individuals**S.7731 (Webb, Comrie, Cooney, Fahy, Jackson, Liu) / A.7384 (Reyes)**

This bill requires commercial health plans to cover the costs associated with interhospital transfer for the postpartum birthing parent 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

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**Cesarean Births Review Board****S.7544A (Brouk, Cleare, Myrie, Ramos, Salazar, Scarcella-Spanton) / A.1541A (Paulin)**

This bill establishes a board of experts to review the rate of cesarean births at hospitals in the state. There is a significant disparity in cesarean birth rates across different birthing populations. Studies have found that cesarean birth rates in hospitals are directly linked to higher maternal death rates.

Proponents: None Available

Opponents: Health Care Association of New York State

Assembly Vote: 145-0

SIGNIFICANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS EITHER HOUSE**Explicit Consent for Drug, Cannabis or Alcohol Testing on Perinatal and Newborn Persons****S.845 (Salazar, Addabbo, Brisport, Brouk, Cleare, Comrie, Cooney, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Gounardes, Harckham, Hinchey, Hoylman-Sigal, Jackson, Krueger, Liu, May, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Sepúlveda, Serrano, Webb) / A.860 (Rosenthal)**

The bill prohibits medical providers from performing a drug, alcohol, or cannabis test or screen 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

Opponents: None Available

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

None.

HEARINGS AND FORUMS

Joint Hearing of the Senate Standing Committees on Women’s Issues, Health, Social Services, and Mental Health. *An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State*. (February 24, 2025).



New York State Senate Democratic Majority

2025 SESSION WRAP-UP