

2019 New York State  
Legislative Session Summary:  
The Impact on New York's Counties

*An Interim Report on Bills the Legislature Passed  
August 14, 2019*



NYSAC®

NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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Dear County Official,

The mission of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is to represent, educate, advocate for, and serve the 62 counties of New York State, including the City of New York. During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Association's legislative staff, together with its membership, worked with the State Legislature and Governor in support or opposition to a number of legislative or budget items.

Some key county priorities in the 2019-20 State Budget include:

- Passing the Internet Tax Conformity Act- leveling the playing field for main street businesses.
- Securing limited restorations in community college funding cuts proposed by the Governor by increasing the base FTE community college rate by \$125 to \$2,972.
- Securing \$24.7 million in additional state aid to fund the early voting reforms
- Approving state funding support for substance abuse services in county jails supported by NYSAC and spearheaded by NYSCLMHD
- Securing an additional \$50 million for indigent defense.
- Securing an additional \$100 million for implementation costs associated with the raise the age legislation that was passed in 2017.
- Beating back proposals to eliminate funding for PINS preventive services, among others.
- Securing \$15 million to address the unmet needs of seniors.

Outside of these budget actions, Lawmakers approved 935 matching bills that have been or will be sent to Governor Cuomo for his signature or veto before the end of 2019. These include several county home rule revenue bills for mortgage recording, hotel occupancy and sales tax, highlighted in the "Local Government Operations & Finance" section of this report.

What follows is a snapshot of the bills that passed both the Senate and Assembly that will have a direct or indirect impact on county governments. Each section provides the bill number (with direct links to the bill text via an electronic document), a brief description, and where it is in the legislative process, including:

- Chapter Number (signed) or Veto Message,
- "Delivered to the Governor" date (the Governor then has 10 days to act not including Sundays),
- "Passed Both Houses" – meaning it has passed the Legislature and is waiting to be delivered to the Governor for action.

It is important for NYSAC to hear from county officials on any bills in this report if there are concerns about these bills being signed (or not) into law. If you have questions, or want to provide input, on any bill listed here (or any other bill), please contact NYSAC at (518) 465-1473.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Nesbitt, Jr.  
President

## 2019 Legislative Session Overview

The 2019 Legislative Session began on January 9<sup>th</sup> and concluded on the early morning of Friday, June 21. The State Legislature passed a total of 1,719 bills, 935 of which were approved by both houses (and 719 of those passed both houses in the month of June). Those 935 bills must be sent to the Governor by the end of 2019 to be signed into law or vetoed.

### County Highlights in the Final 2019-20 State Budget

The enacted state budget was primarily a fiscally-neutral budget for counties. New revenue sources were provided to counties, but they were somewhat offset by a variety of reimbursement reductions, cost shifts, and new program responsibilities. The budget also included targeted reductions to New York City (Article 6 public health funding and TANF costs), as well as the state using a share of county sales tax to support payments to towns and villages that no longer receive traditional AIM payments.

The enacted budget includes two major revenue changes that will benefit counties by increasing sales tax revenues. One related to internet-based purchases and the second eliminates an existing sales tax exemption the Governor and Legislature deemed to longer be needed.

### **Internet Marketplace Fairness – Statutory & Administrative Modernization**

With NYSAC's support, the Governor's proposal to update New York's sales tax collection process to ensure that sales taxes owed on internet transactions are collected finally passed. The statutory changes became effective June 1, 2019.

The internet fairness proposal requires large internet marketplace providers to collect sales tax on behalf of all vendors that use their platform and remit these sales taxes to the state (if the vendors meet certain transaction thresholds). The state has had economic nexus standard in state law since the early 1990's that determined businesses selling into New York without a physical presence (mostly catalog sales at that time) that sold more than \$300,000 dollars in taxable goods and completed at least 100 separate transactions in the prior year were required to collect and remit sales tax. A Supreme Court ruling from the 1990's prevented enforcement of the state standards. This financial threshold was changed to \$500,000 in one of the last bills to pass the Legislature at the end of session.

The inability to enforce the state nexus standards changed in last year's *Wayfair Decision*, when the Supreme Court overturned their earlier decision that states could not compel sales tax collection on remote vendors. The *Wayfair Decision* allowed New York to enforce its existing economic nexus standards and to also make statutory changes that recognize the retail shift that has occurred related to internet-based transactions. In fact, as of the release of this report 42 of the 45 states that have sales tax have enacted laws to require remote vendors to collect sales tax on internet transactions. The three remaining sales tax states have bills pending.

On a full annual basis, the state estimates that as much as \$280 million in local sales taxes could be collected through this “marketplace” fairness change – DOB estimates \$158 million for all local governments (before any sales tax sharing) and \$122 million for New York City. Additionally, a portion of this new revenue will be withheld by the state for state funding purposes (to replace extinguished AIM payments).

Enforcing the state’s recently modified nexus thresholds was implemented administratively in January of 2019. The administrative provisions are estimated to bring in as much as \$110 million annually in currently uncollected local sales tax – DOB estimates \$62 million for all local governments (before any sales tax sharing) and \$48 million for New York City.

### **Elimination of Sales Tax Exemption for ESCOs**

A second sales tax change was the elimination of the exemption for energy services companies (ESCOs) that has been in place for nearly 20 years. The Division of Budget estimates that repealing this exemption is expected to increase local sales tax collections outside of New York City by up to \$46 million on a full annual basis, with about \$38 million accruing to counties before regular sales tax sharing arrangements. New York City eliminated their local sales tax exemption in 2009.

### **Aid to Municipalities (AIM)**

The enacted State Budget eliminates \$59.2 million in state funding to any municipality where this funding represented less than two percent of their total expenditures, which includes more than 1,250 towns and villages. These cuts are backfilled with new internet-based county sales tax revenues that will be withheld by the Office of the State Comptroller.

Counties will not be required to make direct payments to the towns and villages impacted in their county, but the state will withhold county sales taxes beginning sometime this year in a sufficient amount to fully reimburse the eliminated AIM payments for the impacted towns and villages within each county.

With the new formula change, about 99 percent of all AIM payments will go to cities, up from 90 percent. For cities, AIM assistance can be a significant portion of their total budget and could approach 30 percent of total revenue for some municipalities. For the handful of towns and villages that continue to receive AIM payments, AIM will typically represent somewhere between two percent to five percent of their total expenditures.

- **Cities** (\$647.1 million) – Most cities receive installments in September and December. A handful of cities receive payments in March, June or October as well.
- **Towns** (\$5.2 million – *down from \$47.9 million*). Receive a single payment in September.
- **Villages** (\$3.3 million – *down from \$19.8 million*). Receive a single payment in September.

## Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility

Two years ago, the budget changed state laws to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 over a two-year phase-in which began on October 1, 2018. When fully phased in, the state estimates the program will cost nearly \$400 million on an annual basis with the state supporting most of the costs. Counties will be required to expend some resources up front and seek reimbursement from the state while other costs will be paid directly by the State, mainly detention. State reimbursements to counties are linked to each county staying within their property tax cap, but allowances may be made in circumstances where a county is experiencing fiscal stress.

The enacted budget includes an additional \$100 million for costs associated with implementing Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility. The total appropriation is \$200 million and \$54 million in re-appropriations. Counties are in the process of submitting their reimbursement plans and, as of the release of this report, 39 counties have approved plans. While 39 counties have approved plans, no county has a reimbursement contract in place (10-12 are in the process of contract negotiations), and four have not yet submitted a plan.

## Trigger for Potential Sweeping Cuts

The final budget included language that requires the budget director to develop a plan for submittal to the Legislature if the state financial plan is “...reasonably anticipated...” to end the fiscal year with an imbalance of \$500 million or more. The plan would allow the budget director to cut up to 1 percent in state operating funds (this portion of the budget is \$102 billion). The legislature would have 30 days to enact their own plan. The following types of appropriations would be exempt from reduction in any plan prepared by the budget director and/or any plan adopted by the legislature:

- public assistance payments for families and individuals and payments for eligible aged, blind and disabled persons related to supplemental social security;
- any reductions that would violate federal law;
- payments of debt service and related expenses for which the state is constitutionally or contractually obligated to pay debt service, subject to an appropriation, including where the state has a contingent contractual obligation; and
- payments the state is obligated to make pursuant to court orders or judgments.

## Bail Reform, Speedy Trial and Discovery

The enacted budget includes language to reform bail, discovery and speedy trials. The effective date of this legislation is January 1, 2020. Arresting officers must release individuals under non-monetary conditions and issue an appearance ticket unless an individual is charged with a felony, a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, or if an individual was convicted of a violent felony within the last five years.

The enacted budget **did not** include any funding for counties to implement these changes.

## PINS Reform

The enacted budget restores county reimbursement for PINS preventive services. Non-secure detention will no longer be a viable placement option for PINS youth, however, the ability to

place a child in a pre-dispositional foster care placement is preserved. Judges will have the ability to place PINS children into foster care. The new change in law is that the placement into foster care for PINS children is for an initial period of 60 days (this used to be 12 months). The placement may then be extended for one 6-month period. The second permanency hearing can result in an order for one more extension of 4 months. Beyond that, there cannot be any extensions to placement unless requested by the Attorney for the Child on behalf of the child.

There's also an addition of "family support services"—community-based services that would help youth (and their families) who are at risk of being adjudicated PINS. At this time, we are unclear about "who" exactly can get funded to deliver family support services, and how much funding will be available. This change will be effective January 1, 2020. Until then, the current law remains status-quo.

## **Supplemental Capital Appropriations**

On the last day of session, the Legislature passed supplemental capital appropriations that completed work on the 2019-20 state budget.

### [S.6615 \(Kreuger\)/A.8433 \(Weinstein\)](#) & [S.6616 \(Kreuger\)/A.8434 \(Weinstein\)](#)

This legislation enacts several clean up pieces of legislation as well as enacting supplemental capital appropriations. Of interest to counties and New York City the supplemental bill:

- Updated STAR Credit conversion language that allows the Commissioner to defer the conversion to the credit for one year if an application to switch comes in after established due dates. The bill also directs the commissioner of Tax and Finance to develop a streamlined approach to making the conversion simpler.
- As discussed, raises the remote vendor economic nexus threshold for internet sales tax collections from \$300,000 to \$500,000
- \$425 million for Penn Station Redevelopment
- \$100 million for Lake Ontario flooding and resiliency projects
- \$20 million for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
- \$20 million for security upgrades at summer residential camps and day camps
- \$385 million in new authority for the State and Municipal Facilities (SAM) grant programs
- Adds \$20 million for library grants, bringing the total to \$251 million for eligible library construction projects – managed by the State Education Department;
- \$30 million for grants to private colleges
- \$100 million for NYC public housing authority for lead abatement
- \$65 million for extreme winter weather funding for counties, cities, towns and villages to be distributed through the CHIP formula
- \$5 million for grants to agricultural or horticultural corporations and county extension service associations
- \$5 million for grants to municipal and not-for-profit animal shelters

## **Non-Budget Legislative Action: Legislation that Passed Both Houses of the Legislature**

NYSAC has identified the following pieces of legislation, categorized by issue area, that have or may have an impact on our county governments. These are bills that have passed both the State Senate and State Assembly. Some have already been signed into the Laws of 2019 and others await delivery to and consideration by Governor Cuomo.

### **Aging**

**Requires that residents be fully informed about their health care services, to consent or refuse such services, and be able to choose their own providers for services beyond the facility contract**

[A.1084 \(Gottfried\)/S.874 \(Rivera\)](#)

This legislation would mandate that every resident of an adult care facility be fully informed of their medical condition, proposed medications, treatment services, and to consent or refuse such medication or treatment services. This bill would indemnify the facility for complying with the refusal of care. This legislation also allows a resident or their caregiver to choose their own health care providers for services not covered by the facility contract.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Agriculture**

**Relates to vegetation management plans in a manner that is pollinator friendly**

[S.2044 \(Ritchie\)/A.5312 \(Lupardo\)](#)

The department of agriculture and markets must make available information concerning minimum guidelines for vegetation management plans in a manner that is pollinator friendly.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Enacts the farm laborers fair labor practices act, grant collective bargaining rights workers' compensation and unemployment benefits to farm workers**

[A.8419 \(Nolan\)/S.6578 \(Ramos\)](#)

This legislation grants collective bargaining rights to farm laborers and allows farm laborers one day of rest each week. This legislation also grants farm workers the ability to receive overtime pay at time and a half for any work over 60 hours per week.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 105 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Economic Development**

**Requires each industrial development agency to live stream and post video recordings of all open meetings and public hearings and these recordings must be posted for a period of not less than five years**

[A.3002 \(Solages\)/S.88 \(Kaminsky\)](#)

This legislation provides each locality with immediate and future access to all meetings and public hearings held by industrial development agencies. This bill also requires IDAs to post video recordings of all open meetings and public hearings on their website.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**



**Requires notice by affected local taxing jurisdictions prior to approval of projects by industrial development agencies**

[A.2947 \(Solages\)/S.2769 \(Comrie\)](#)

This legislation requires IDA's to send notifications of proposed financial incentives for a project and any reasons for deviation from their uniform tax exemption policy to affected local taxing jurisdictions.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Directs the department of public service to study the feasibility of a municipal broadband program within the state**

[S.6041-A \(May\)/A.2037-A \(Gunther\)](#)

This legislation directs the department of public service, in consultation with the urban development corporation and other relevant state entities, to study and evaluate the feasibility of a municipal broadband program.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to studying the implementation of 5G and next gen network technology in New York State**

[A.1503 \(Vanel\)/S.1607 \(Parker\)](#)

This legislation directs the state Office of Information Technology Services to study and evaluate the implementation of fifth generation (5G) and future generation wireless systems technology in the state.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to MWBE Enterprises**

[S.6301 \(Sanders\)/A.7795 \(Bichotte\)](#)

This legislation extends the sunset provision from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2024 and increases the "personal net worth" cap from \$3.5 million to \$15 million to allow for more participation, among other reforms.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2019**

**Enacts the Zombie Property Remediation Act of 2019**

[S.5079-A \(Skoufis\)/A.1859-A \(Magnarelli\)](#)

This legislation authorizes municipalities to compel mortgagees either to complete a mortgage foreclosure proceeding pursuant to article 13 of the real property actions and proceedings law or to issue a certificate of discharge of the mortgage for any property which has been certified abandoned

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Elections**

**Relates to publishing local campaign contribution limits**

[A.111 \(Buchwald\)/S.3140 \(Myrie\)](#)

This legislation mandates that local boards of election calculate and publish on their websites by April 15<sup>th</sup>, the contribution limits for all county, town, city, and village offices on the ballot in that year. This law takes effect December 15, 2020.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to ballot proposals**

[A.112A \(Buchwald\)/S.3145A \(Myrie\)](#)

This legislation amends section 7-110 of the election law to provide clear instructions to voters if the ballot is two-sided.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to voter pre-registration**

[A.774 \(Lavine\)/S.1100 \(Carlucci\)](#)

This legislation allows 16- and 17-year old the ability to pre-register to vote. This legislation allows a person who is at least 16-years old and is otherwise qualified to register to vote, to pre-register to vote, and makes the registration effective when the person reaches the age of eligibility. This legislation will take effect January 1, 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 2 of the Laws of 2019**

**Provides that the board of elections shall transfer a registration and enrollment of a voter to wherever they move in the state**

[A.775 \(Dinowitz\)/S.1099 \(Carlucci\)](#)

This legislation automatically transfers an individual's registration and enrollment to wherever they move within New York State. The state board of elections must promulgate regulations as to the procedures for transferring a voter from one county to another. This legislation took effect in February 2019.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 3 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to political contributions by limited liability companies**

[A.776 \(Simon\)/S.1101 \(Kavanagh\)](#)

This legislation adds Limited Liability Companies (LLC's) to section 13.116 of the election law, so that LLCs are made subject to the existing contribution limits for corporations. This bill would also increase transparency by requiring disclosure of the identity of individuals with membership interests in LLCs and attribute contributions to members of LLCs.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to primary elections and amends certain deadlines to facilitate timely transmission of ballots to military voters stationed overseas.**

[A.779 \(Lavine\)/S.1103 \(Stewart-Cousins\)](#)

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure New York State's election law complies with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amended the date of the primary elections from September to the fourth Tuesday in June. This act shall take effect immediately.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 5 of the Laws of 2019**

**Removes ten-day advance voter registration requirement**

[S.1048 \(Gianaris\)/A.777 \(Carroll\)](#)

Amends the constitution to delete the requirement that registration for purposes of voting be completed at least ten days before election day and provides that laws be made to adequately safeguard against deception in the exercise of the right of suffrage.

**Status: This legislation requires a constitutional amendment and must be voted on during the session beginning January 2020 before going to a referendum vote by the people of the State of New York.**

**Authorizes ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.**

[S.1049 \(Comrie\)/A.1049 \(Vanel\)](#)

Amends the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee ballot voting.

**Status: This legislation requires a constitutional amendment and must be voted on during the session beginning January 2020 before going to a referendum vote by the people of the State of New York.**

**Relates to early voting; provides for the early voting period**

[S.1102 \(Myrie\)/A.780 \(Lavine\)](#)

This legislation amends the election law to allow for an early voting period beginning the tenth day prior to any election and ending on and including the second day prior to the election. This legislation allows anyone who is registered and eligible to vote the ability to vote during a 9-day period prior to the election. This legislation takes effect for the general election in 2019.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to the number of signatures for designating petitions for 2019**

[A.2570 \(Jones\)/S.2862 \(May\)](#)

This legislation amends the election law to reduce the number of signatures required on designating petitions for all public offices to be filled in 2019 with the exception of New York City. This act takes effect immediately and expires on December 31, 2019.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 17 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to signatures for any party position of member of the ward, town, city or county committee**

[A.2693 \(Dinowitz\)/S.2699 \(Bailey\)](#)

This legislation reduces the petitions signature requirement on party positions for ward, city, or county committees to three percent of enrolled voters of the party residing within the election district. This act takes effect immediately and expires on December 31, 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 18 of the Laws of 2019**

**Changes the date for filing the certificate of nomination for new parties to the first of September proceeding a general election**

[A.4081 \(D'Urso\)/S.4426 \(Myrie\)](#)

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 46 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to signatures for designating petitions for areas outside of NYC and the counties of Erie and Nassau**

[A.5979A \(Jones\)/S.4350 \(Breslin\)](#)

This legislation reduces the minimum petition signature requirement for all public offices to be filled in 2019, with the exception of offices in New York City, Nassau and Erie Counties to 3.75% of the enrolled voters of the party residing within the political unit. This legislation takes effect immediately and expires December 31, 2019.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 22 of the Laws of 2019**

**Enacts the voter friendly ballot act**

[S.2300A \(Kavanagh\)/A. 2682A \(Lavine\)](#)

This legislation makes changes to the layout of the ballot to improve clarity and simplicity for the voter. This legislation provides the boards of election with the flexibility to ensure good ballot design, regardless of the particular limits of their voting technology, or the number of contestants and candidates on a ballot. This legislation takes effect immediately and applies to ballots to be used for elections occurring on or after August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Provides that the board of elections will mail special ballots to victims of domestic violence**

[A.219A \(Paulin\)/S.3232A \(Savino\)](#)

This legislation will give all victims of domestic violence the right to vote by mailing in a ballot, including those who remain in the county where they are registered, regardless of their ability to vote at a polling location. This legislation takes effect immediately.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 150 of the Laws of 2019**

**Allows voters to include their email addresses when registering to vote**

[A.1565 \(Galef\)/S. 1718 \(Carlucci\)](#)

This legislation allows individuals registering to vote to provide their email addresses (at an individual's option) on voter registration forms to allow boards of elections to contact individuals with pertinent election information.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Provides that election workers shall be given special ballots as soon as the ballots are printed**

[A.202 \(Cahill\)/S. 5199 \(Metzger\)](#)

This legislation allows election employees or individuals who have been appointed to serve as an inspector, poll clerk, or election coordinator at a polling place other than the one at which he/she is registered to vote to submit a special ballot at any time after the ballot has been printed.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to voter notification of special elections**

[S.211-C \(Benjamin\)/A.837-A \(Rosenthal\)](#)

The board of elections shall, as soon as practicable, but not less than two weeks prior to any special election, prominently display on its website the date and hours of the election, the

offices to be voted on in the county, part of a county, or the city of New York, and a link to any poll site information or poll location tools, where available.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes consolidation of voting districts with a small number of eligible voters**

[A.3543 \(Carroll\)/S.6449 \(Comrie\)](#)

This legislation states that if an election district contains fewer than ten voters eligible to vote in such election then the normal limitation of 500 maximum voters in a combined district shall not be applicable.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Environmental Conversation**

**Relates to installing Lyme and tick-borne disease warning signs at all state-managed parks**

[S.4355 \(Serino\)/A.6752 \(Barrett\)](#)

This legislation requires an assessment of state parks, including trails, to determine where it is appropriate to install Lyme and tick-borne disease warning signs at all state-managed parks.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Prohibits the use of pesticide chlorpyrifos**

[S.5343 \(Kaminsky\)/A.2477B \(Englebright\)](#)

Prohibits all use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos. The bill initially bans aerial application of chlorpyrifos, beginning January 1, 2020. Beginning January 1, 2021, all applications of chlorpyrifos, other than applied to apple tree trunks, are banned. As of December 1, 2021, all uses of chlorpyrifos are banned.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**

[S.6599 \(Kaminsky\)/A.8429 \(Englebright\)](#)

This legislation establishes a renewable energy program designed to achieve a minimum of 70 percent of statewide electric generation be secured by renewable energy systems by 2030 and zero emissions from the statewide electrical demand system in 2040. This legislation also provides at least 35% of uncommitted clean energy and energy efficiency funds to disadvantaged communities.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 106 of the Laws of 2019**

**PFAS Reduction in Firefighting Activities**

[S.439-A \(Hoylman\)/A.445-A \(Steck\)](#)

This legislation prohibits local governments use of firefighting foam that contains intentionally added PFAS chemicals. Two years from the effective date, manufacturers may not manufacture, sell or distribute firefighting foam that contains PFAS.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Paint Stewardship Program**

[S.4351 \(Kennedy\)/A.6373 \(Englebright\)](#)

This legislation establishes a post-consumer paint collection program to promote the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the generation of paint and to maximize the collection, transportation and process of paint for end of product life management.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Prohibition of 1,4 Dioxane**

[S.4389-B \(Kaminsky\)/A.6295-A \(Englebright\)](#)

Prohibits household cleaning products, cosmetic products and personal care products that contain 1,4-dioxane

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Enacts the Flood Mitigation Council Act**

[A.7456-A \(Otis\)/S.2682 \(Mayer\)](#)

This legislation establishes a flood mitigation and flood prevention task force based within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, including representatives of various agencies and local government officials, to identify regions most affected by flooding, prioritize mitigation efforts, identify sources of funding, and support additional research on mitigation efforts.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Housing**

### **Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019**

[S.6458 \(Stewart-Cousins\)/A.8281 \(Heastie\)](#)

This legislation makes a series of rent reforms and extends provisions and makes certain provisions of law permanent relating to rent control and rent stabilization. Part C of this legislation extends the rent regulation provisions throughout New York State (outside of New York City) so long as the local municipality (town, city, village) chooses to opt-in to this legislation of the housing stock meets the eligibility requirements.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 36 of the Laws of 2019.**

### **Authorizes Tompkins County to contract for the development, maintenance and management of affordable housing**

[S.6340 \(O'Mara\)/A.8225 \(Lifton\)](#)

This bill would authorize Tompkins County to contract with non-profit organizations and other corporations, associations and agencies formed for the purposes of affordable housing development, maintenance, or management.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Human Services**

### **Job and Vocational Skills Training for Juveniles**

[S.1191 \(Comrie\)/A.838 \(Hyndman\)](#)

This legislation amends a chapter of the laws of 2018 relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide job and vocational skills training to youth who have been adjudicated juvenile delinquents or juvenile offenders residing in a facility overseen by the office of children and family services. This legislation makes this provision permanent.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **An act in relation to the application of a relative to become a foster parent**

[S.6405 \(Montgomery\)/A.8059 \(Jaffee\)](#)

Currently, applicants are limited to relatives who are within the third degree of either parent. This legislation expands this class to include kin such as step-grandparents.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to exempting income earned by people under the age of 24 from certain workforce development program for the determination of need for public assistance**

[A.6753 \(Eichensten\)/S.6443 \(Persaud\)](#)

This legislation amends the social services law to exclude income of an individual up to the age of 24 earned from their participation in the summer youth employment program from the calculation of family income for the purposes of public assistance.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Exempts certain funds from the calculation of household benefits under public assistance programs**

[S.5402 \(Persaud\)/A.7817 \(Hevesi\)](#)

This legislation exempts funds in a New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (NY ABLE) savings accounts from assets limit tests to qualify or recertify for public assistance.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to the adjustment of juvenile delinquency cases by local departments of probation in family court**

[S.6475 \(Bailey\)/A.7939 \(Jaffee\)](#)

Requires probation departments to consider the views of the complainant and the impact of the alleged act or acts of juvenile delinquency upon the complainant and upon the community in determining whether adjustment under this section would be suitable.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to proceedings against juvenile and adolescent offenders**

[S.6550 \(Bailey\)/A.8315 \(Lentol\)](#)

This bill amends the criminal procedure law to provide any accessible magistrate authority to remove any juvenile offender or adolescent offender brought before them, with the consent of the district attorney, to the family court at the initial appearance. This bill is effective immediately.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## Judiciary

### **Relates to the determination of capacity to stand trial in juvenile delinquency proceedings in family court**

[S.5516-B \(Montgomery\)/A.8092 \(Jaffee\)](#)

This legislation was requested by the Chief Administrative Judge to streamline and clarify the process for determining the competency to stand trial for the accused juvenile.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to permanency planning in juvenile delinquency and PINS proceedings**

[A.7940 \(Jaffee\)/S.6535 \(Montgomery\)](#)

This legislation was requested by the Chief Administrative to amend the family court act, in relation to permanency planning in juvenile delinquency and persons in need of supervision proceedings in family court.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to the state commission on prosecutorial conduct**

[S.1190 \(Bailey\)/A.781 \(Perry\)](#)

This legislation creates the state commission on prosecutorial conduct and establishes the functions and powers of the commission and its members.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 23 of the Laws of 2019.**

### **Relates to the assignment of counsel**

[S.3672 \(Bailey\)/A.748 \(Cook\)](#)

This legislation provides for appointed counsel on appeal for persons unable to afford representation. This is specific to post-trial motions and provides that appellate counsel's representation may include the preparation and proceedings on such motions.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## Local Government Operations & Finance

### **Extends the authorization for the county of Greene to impose an additional mortgage recording tax until December 1, 2020**

[S.712 \(Amedore\)/A.209 \(Tague\)](#)

This legislation extends the mortgage recording tax for Greene County until 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 13 of the Laws of 2019.**

### **Extends from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021, the expiration of the authority of the county of Essex to impose an additional mortgage recording tax**

[S.720 \(Little\)/A.211 \(Stec\)](#)

This legislation extends the mortgage recording tax for Essex County until 2021.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 14 of the Laws of 2019.**

### **Extends Warren county's additional mortgage recording tax authorization until December 1, 2020**

[S.721 \(Little\)/A.210 \(Stec\)](#)

This legislation extends the mortgage recording tax for Warren County until 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 15 of the Laws of 2019.**



**Extends provisions of law relating to authorizing the county of Cattaraugus to impose an additional mortgage recording tax**

[S.959 \(Young\)/A.208 \(Giglio\)](#)

This legislation extends the mortgage recording tax for Cattaraugus County until 2021.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 16 of the Laws of 2019.**

**Relates to the time needed by small businesses and local governments to comply with new regulations**

[S.5812 \(Kaplan\)/A.842 \(Simotas\)](#)

This legislation requires any state agency to indicate in a rule's regulatory impact statement the estimated period of time necessary to enable regulated persons to achieve compliance. This legislation also requires agencies to assure that small businesses and local governments have been given an opportunity to participate in a rulemaking that could affect them. This bill would require agencies proposing new rules that would impact small businesses and local governments to give due consideration to the practical, legal and economic or fiscal constraints that may affect the ability of these entities to implement new regulatory requirements.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Increases from 4% to 5% the Hotel/Motel Tax for Schenectady County**

[A.2198 \(Steck\)/S.5761 \(Amedore\)](#)

This legislation increases the Hotel/Motel bed tax for Schenectady County from 4% to 5%.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to the "driver's license access and privacy act" (Green Light NY)**

[A.3675-B \(Crespo\)/S.1747-B \(Sepulveda\)](#)

This legislation allows for the issuance of a driver's license for undocumented immigrants.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 37 of the Laws of 2019.**

**Authorizes Washington County to impose an additional 25 cents per \$100 of debt, mortgage recording tax**

[A.4474 \(Stec\)/S.1960 \(Little\)](#)

This legislation allows Washington County to impose an additional mortgage recording tax to place the total mortgage recording tax at a rate of 1.25%. These funds are used to pay for all expenses incurred by the county for the support of community colleges.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Broome County to impose an additional communications service surcharge to provide for an enhanced 911 emergency telephone system**

[A.6546 \(Lupardo\)/S.4392 \(Akshar\)](#)

This legislation authorizes Broome County to impose an additional surcharge of \$1.10 per month to fund the county's Public Safety Radio Capital project.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 120 of the Laws of 2019**

**Authorizes Chenango County to establish a hotel/motel bed tax**

[A.6548 \(Crouch\)/S.4419 \(Seward\)](#)

This legislation authorizes Chenango County to establish a 4% hotel/motel bed tax.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Essex County to increase the hotel/motel bed tax from 3% to 5%**

[A.7450 \(Stec\)/S.5451 \(Little\)](#)

This legislation authorizes Essex County to impose an additional 2% for a total of 5% hotel/motel bed tax.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Westchester County to impose an additional 1% of sales and compensating use tax**

[A.8088 \(Pretlow\)/S.6304 \(Mayer\)](#)

Relates to revising the period of authorization for the county of Westchester's additional one percent rate of sales and compensating use tax and the expiration of the Westchester county spending limitation act, such 1% increase shall expire on November 30, 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 43 of the Laws of 2019**

**Authorizes Oneida County to increase their hotel/motel bed tax to 5%**

[S.6362 \(Griffo\)/A.8175 \(Buttenschon\)](#)

This legislation authorizes Oneida County to change their hotel/motel bed tax rate from 2% to 5% for the promotion of tourism development, economic development and other directly related and supporting activities.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Niagara County to impose an additional 1% hotel/motel occupancy tax to benefit the Discover Niagara shuttle**

[A.2163 \(Morinello\)/S.1765 \(Ortt\)](#)

This legislation imposes an additional 1% bed tax on rooms located within Niagara County and dedicates these funds to the Discover Niagara Shuttle. Startling around Memorial Day 7 days a week the Discover Niagara Shuttle runs between 9am-6pm making stops about every 30-35 minutes and on weekends, roughly every 45-60 minutes from 6pm-midnight. The shuttle currently operates in Niagara Falls, Lewiston and Youngstown. This additional revenue will allow the shuttle to operate more frequently and expand the number of stops it makes, including into Lockport.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Essex County to enter into a municipal cooperative agreement for emergency medical services and general ambulance services**

[S.1997-B \(Little\)/A.4676-B \(Stec\)](#)

This legislation authorizes Essex County to enter into a municipal cooperative agreement for emergency medical services, general ambulance services, or a combination of both.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Madison County to impose an additional mortgage recording tax of \$.25 per \$100 of debt**

[S.5672 \(May\)/A.7711 \(Salka\)](#)

This legislation amends the tax law by adding a new section 253-y to authorize Madison County to impose an additional mortgage recording tax on mortgage debt for real property located within the county.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Madison county to increase the 9-1-1 telephone service surcharge**

[S.5698-A \(May\)/A.7715-B \(Salka\)](#)

This legislation grants the authorization for Madison County to charge a \$.65 per access line per month wireline communication service surcharge to fund an enhanced 911 (E911) emergency telephone system for the county.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Extends Tompkins County's communication service surcharge**

[S.5193-A \(O'Mara\)/A.7417 \(Lifton\)](#)

This legislation extends the Tompkins County communication surcharge until 2029.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 78, of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to communication service surcharge extenders for Onondaga County**

[S.4294 \(May\)/A.4763 \(Magnarelli\)](#)

This legislation extends the authorization for Onondaga County to charge a \$.65 per access line per month wireline communication service surcharge to fund the Onondaga County Interoperable Communications System (OCICS) until 2029.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 124 of the Laws of 2019**

**Establishes an electronic open auction bond sale pilot program**

[S.5886-A \(Gaughran\)/A.8336-A \(Thiele\)](#)

This legislation would establish a two-year electronic open auction bond sale pilot program to allow municipalities the option to sell municipal bonds in an open electronic auction format instead of by a closed electronic bid format. This pilot program is limited to counties with a population in excess of 400,000, and cities and towns with a population of 100,000 or more, in addition to other requirements.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to imposing an additional .25% mortgage recording tax for Livingston County**

[S.6375 \(Gallivan\)/A.8006-A \(Byrnes\)](#)

This legislation grants Livingston County the authorization to impose an additional .25% mortgage recording tax to 1.25%.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Residency requirement for special patrol officers in Oswego County**

[S.6345 \(Ritchie\)/A.8155 \(Barclay\)](#)

Allows Oswego County to hire special patrol officers from a contiguous county.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to net tax collections in Genesee County**

[S.4247 \(Ranzenhofer\)/A.6590 \(Hawley\)](#)

This legislation allows Genesee County and the City of Batavia to enter into an agreement whereby the County could enter into an agreement as to the division of its sales tax revenue to the City of Batavia for a term not to exceed forty years.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Marijuana and Hemp**

### **Decriminalization of Marijuana**

[S.6579-A \(Bailey\)/A.8420-A \(Peoples-Stokes\)](#)

This legislation decriminalizes possession of small amounts of marijuana and automatically expunges certain low-level convictions.

- First, the bill amends the penal law to remove criminal penalties for possession of any amount of marijuana under two ounces. Possession of less than one ounce of marijuana is a violation subject to a \$50 fine (previously \$100), and possession of between one and two ounces is a violation subject to a \$200 fine (previously a Class B misdemeanor). Possession of more than two ounces is still a crime.
- The bill also amends the penal law to remove language that makes smoking in public view a misdemeanor offense. Public health law is amended to ban smoking of marijuana anywhere tobacco is prohibited.
- Finally, the legislation provides for the expungement of certain low-level marijuana convictions. The Drug Policy Alliance estimates that the measure will allow for the expungement of criminal records for approximately 900,000 low-level marijuana arrests in the past 20 years.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 131 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Provides for vacating records for certain proceedings**

[S.6614 \(Zebrowski\)/A.8432 \(Peoples-Stokes\)](#)

This bill is a supplement to S.6579-A (Bailey)/A.8420-A (Peoples-Stokes), which decriminalizes possession of small amounts marijuana offenses and provides for the expungement of related records. It specifies that the chief administrator of the courts must notify the heads of all appropriate police departments, district attorney's offices, and other law enforcement agencies of all convictions that have been vacated and dismissed.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 132 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Relates to the growth of industrial hemp and the regulation of hemp extract**

[S.6184-A \(Metzger\)/A.7680-A \(Lupardo\)](#)

This legislation amends the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the growth of industrial hemp and the regulation of hemp extract. It establishes a permitting process under the Department of Agriculture for growers, processors, and marketers and directs the Department to create regulations to address the process and enforcement of licensing provisions.

Manufactures and extractors are required to have their products tested for quality. Product packaging must contain warning labels warning about the potential impact on human health, as well as information about serving sizes and potency.

The Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to collect and publish data and research related to growth, cultivation, production, and processing methods. The Commissioner may also work with Cornell Cooperative Extension to promote best farming practices for industrial hemp that are compatible with state water quality and other environmental objectives.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Public Employee Relations & Labor**

### **Prohibits discrimination against victims of domestic violence in employment and provides a limited reasonable accommodation**

[S.1040 \(Persaud\)/A.5618 \(Weinstein\)](#)

This legislation prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of an employee's status as a victim of domestic violence and requires an employer, unless it would be an undue hardship, to provide a reasonable accommodation to a victim of domestic violence, limited solely to allowing an absence, charged to leave or unpaid, for certain activities. This legislation also requires an employee who must be absent from work to provide reasonable notice, except where such notice is not feasible.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to 55-c eligible jobs**

[S.3300 \(Brooks\)/A.6297 \(Barrett\)](#)

This legislation requires that employers prominently display that a job is 55-c eligible on such job postings, which are intended to employ disabled veterans.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to disability retirement benefits for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, undersheriffs, and correction officers in Nassau County**

[S.3946 \(Gounardes\)/A.5021 \(Abbate\)](#)

This legislation allows disability benefits for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, undersheriffs and correction officers in Nassau County when the disability causing injuries are the natural and proximate cause of an intentional or reckless act of a civilian.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Sets limits on severance packages for public at-will employees**

[S.4292 \(Comrie\)/A.2480 \(Wallace\)](#)

This legislation sets a limit on severance packages equal to three months salary for public at-will employees not subject to a collective bargaining agreement or union contract.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Provides for disability retirement benefits for various ambulance workers in Nassau County**

[S.5133 \(Kaplan\)/A.5324 \(Abbate\)](#)

This legislation provides for a ¾ performance of duty retirement for various ambulance technician titles within Nassau County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to the residency of correction officers employed by Nassau County**

[S.5766 \(Gaughran\)/A.7825 \(Lavine\)](#)

This legislation waives the residency requirement for correction officers for Nassau County to allow them to reside within an adjoining county.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Increases the amount of money a retiree may earn in a position of public service to \$35,000**

[S.1866-B \(Breslin\)/A.2858-B \(McDonald\)](#)

Beginning January 1, 2020, public employee retirees may earn up to \$35,000 in a position of public service without impacting their retirement benefits.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Assistant District Attorneys and Assistant Public Defenders in Chenango County to reside in an adjoining county**

[S.547 \(Akshar\)/A.1244 \(Crouch\)](#)

This legislation waives the residency requirement for ADA and APD positions within Chenango County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Assistant District Attorneys in Lewis County to reside in an adjoining county**

[S.2125 \(Griffo\)/A.5195 \(Blankenbush\)](#)

This legislation waives the residency requirement for ADA positions within Lewis County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Assistant District Attorneys or Senior Assistant District Attorneys in Cayuga County to reside in an adjoining county**

[S.3115 \(Helming\)/A.6551 \(Finch\)](#)

This legislation waives the residency requirement for ADA positions or Senior ADA positions within Cayuga County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes Assistant District Attorneys in Washington County to reside in an adjoining county**

[S.4978 \(Little\)/A.6737 \(Woerner\)](#)

This legislation waives the residency requirement for ADA positions within Washington County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to increased protections for protected classes and special protections for employees who have been sexual harassed**

[A.8421 \(Simotas\)/S.6577 \(Biaggi\)](#)

This legislation enacts comprehensive sexual harassment legislative reform and extends provisions of law set to expire.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 160 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to full-time status of the district attorney of Hamilton County**

[S.4632 \(Tedisco\)/A.7215 \(Smullen\)](#)

This legislation amends the County Law to establish a full-time district attorney in Hamilton County.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Public Health**

### **Increases the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years old to 21 years old**

[A.558A \(Rosenthal\)/S.2833 \(Savino\)](#)

An act to amend the public health law and the penal law, in relation to increasing the purchasing age for tobacco products from eighteen to twenty-one. This act shall take effect 180 days after it shall have become law.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 100 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Requires hospitals to establish policies/ procedures regarding domestic violence**

[A.2850A \(Lavine\)/S.3962A \(Salazar\)](#)

This legislation mandates hospitals to develop, maintain, and disseminate written policies for the identification, assessment, treatment and referral of confirmed or suspected cases of domestic violence. This legislation also requires a training program for all current and new employees regarding the domestic violence policies the hospital establishes. Requires hospitals to designate a staff member to coordinate services to victims of domestic violence and requires the coordination of services to victims by utilizing the local victim assistance organization.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Establishes the office of the advocate for people with disabilities**

[A.4737 \(Steck\)/S.1674 \(Skoufis\)](#)

This legislation establishes a state office of the advocate for people with disabilities. The purpose of this office is to function as an advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to including electronic cigarettes and liquid nicotine with the tobacco use and prevention program**

[A.481-A \(Ronsethal\)/S.301-A \(Hoylman\)](#)

This legislation expands the current school-based programs and marketing initiatives aimed at reducing tobacco use, to include electronic cigarette and liquid nicotine use.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to medication assisted treatment for substance use disorders**

[S.5935-A \(Harckham\)/A.7246-B \(Rosenthal\)](#)

This legislation would allow individuals under Medicaid the ability to access whichever MAT medication is most beneficial to them and their needs, without utilization control mandated prior authorization, or lifetime limits.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Establishes a temporary commission relating to the office of mental health housing programs**

[S.5637-A \(Carlucci\)/A.7489-A \(Gunther\)](#)

This bill would establish a temporary commission to investigate and provide policy guidance and recommendations relating to the adequacy of funding levels and need for sufficient staffing in all supportive housing under the auspices of the Office of Mental Health (OMH).

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Public Safety**

### **Establishes an extension of time for national instant background checks**

[S.2374 \(Gianaris\)/A.2690 \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation establishes an extension of time of up to 30 days for national instant background checks before the individual is allowed to possess the firearm.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 129 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Prohibits the possession, manufacture, transport and disposition of rapid-fire modification devices**

[S.2448 \(Sepulveda\)/A.2684 \(Fahy\)](#)

This legislation prohibits the possession, manufacture, transportation, shipment and sale of items that accelerate the firing rate of firearms, rifles, or shotguns.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 130 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Establishes the municipal gun buyback program and municipal gun buyback program fund**

[S.2449 \(Mayer\)/A.2685 \(Rosenthal\)](#)

This bill mandates the Division of State Police, in conjunction with the NYS Department of State, provide a statewide standard for the safe removal of illegal, unsecured, abandoned, or unwanted firearms.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 139 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Establishes extreme risk protection orders as a court-issued order of protection prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing, or attempting to purchase or possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun**

[S.2451 \(Kavanagh\)/A.2689 \(Simon\)](#)

This legislation creates an extreme risk protection order which would prohibit the respondent from purchasing, possessing, or attempting to purchase or possess a firearm, rifle, or shotgun while the order is in effect, and to surrender any firearms, rifles or shotguns to law enforcement pending a court hearing to be held no sooner than three days and no longer than six days after the issuance of a temporary order, unless the respondent requests more time to prepare, to determine whether a final extreme risk protection order will be issued. This legislation allows family members and law enforcement to petition a court to have an individual access to guns temporarily suspended when they are a risk to themselves or others.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2019**

### **School bus safety cameras**

[A.4950B \(Magnarelli\)/S.4524B \(Kennedy\)](#)

This legislation would amend various portions of law to allow red-light/ stop cameras to be installed on school buses to assist in the enforcement of individuals who fail to stop for a school bus. This legislation creates a demonstration program authorizing counties not wholly contained within a city, cities, towns and villages to enact local laws or ordinances imposing liability on vehicle owners for the failure of motor vehicle operators to comply with VTL § 11 74 (overtaking and passing stopped school buses displaying red visual signals) within parameters established by this section. The demonstration program would empower these municipalities to install and operate school bus photo violation monitoring systems (stationary or mobile), which could be installed on school buses owned or operated by the school district within the



municipality pursuant to an agreement. All costs would be borne by the municipalities subject to the agreements.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 145 of the Laws of 2019**

**Permits legislative staff to visit correctional facilities**

[A.6849 \(Weprin\)/S.4566 \(Sepulveda\)](#)

This bill allows visiting state legislators to bring their staff into correctional facilities.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Requires that public buildings with multi-line telephone systems configure their system hardware in order to allow any call placed to 911, to be directly connected to a PSAP**

[S.4756 \(Brooks\)/A.458 \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation sets the requirement that all public buildings operating on a multi-line telephone system configure their system hardware to allow any call to 911 on the system to be directly connected to a public service answering point. However, an exception to this requirement would be established for any public building that would be required to upgrade their system hardware in order to comply. If such an exception applies, telephones in such public building would be required to have an instructional sticker on or around the telephone informing users of the phone's inability to directly dial 911 and the procedures to follow to connect to 911 in case of an emergency.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to the detention of individuals in a county jail pending a first court appearance in an off-hour's arraignment part**

[A.7647 \(Weprin\)/S.5593 \(May\)](#)

This legislation authorizes the county correctional facility to be used for the detention of persons under arrest being held during off-hours arraignment. This measure would address the problem by allowing a county jail facility to accept pre-arraignment prisoners if done in connection with the establishment of an off-hour's arraignment part. The measure does not mandate that the sheriff accept pre-arraignment prisoners and will have no impact on those counties that have already secured legislative authority for pre-arraignment detention of arrested individuals. The measure is designed to relieve a county of the need to individually petition the Legislature for pre-arraignment detention authority when done as part of their approved plan for an off-hour's arraignment part.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to death certificates for persons whose death is caused by an opioid overdose**

[S.1668 \(Brooks\)/A.4915 \(Jean-Pierre\)](#)

This legislation would require that the death certificate also include the specific opioid that caused the death of the decedent along with any other related information as the Commissioner of Health may require.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Expands the Department of Health review of correctional health services**

[S.1073-A \(Rivera\)/A.1130-A \(Gottfried\)](#)

This legislation directs the department of health to study staffing levels in correctional settings. Witnesses at a 2017 hearing reported nursing vacancy rates of 20% and 25% for physicians in DOCCS facilities. The bill requires biennial reporting by department of health in consultation with DOCCS on staffing adequacy; potential challenges to adequate staffing; and impacts of staffing levels on availability of services.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to law enforcement's access to records of applications for licenses of firearms**

[A.7739 \(Paulin\)/S..6160 \(Biaggi\)](#)

This legislation allows local and state law enforcement upon request to be granted access to and copies of application information for firearm licenses.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

### **Relates to the designation of a substitute jail for programmatic purposes**

[S.6154 \(Sepulveda\)/A.7944 \(Weprin\)](#)

Allows for a county jail inmate transfer between local correctional facilities for participation in beneficial programming.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Real Property**

### **Provides a temporary extension for payment of real property taxes owed by a person who has either been furloughed or designated non-pay federal employee due to a shutdown**

[A881 \(Zebrowski\)/S.1675 \(Skoufis\)](#)

This legislation provides a temporary extension to pay property taxes for furloughed or non-pay federal employees impacted by a federal government shutdown. Local governments have the authority to opt in to provide a temporary local property tax extension. This legislation took effect immediately and expires June 1, 2020.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 9 of the Laws of 2019**

### **Expands the length of time to pay delinquent taxes in installments to 36 months**

[A.4420 \(Zebrowski\)/S.4585 \(Sanders\)](#)

This bill allows the length of time to pay delinquent taxes in installments can be up to 36 months (it is currently up to 24 months).

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

## **Social Services**

### **Provides for the examination of the re-entry of incarcerated individuals**

[S.3550 \(Carlucci\)/A.7103 \(Cruz\)](#)

This legislation directs the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to examine and make recommendation on current sanctions placed by the state and local social service districts on individuals prior to and after their release from incarceration.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to conciliation and non-compliance with public assistance employment**

[S.3840A \(May\)/A.2455A \(Hunter\)](#)

This legislation enables local social service districts to promote re-engagement of welfare recipients in welfare work activities to either avoid or end sanctions. This bill amends Section 341 of the Social Services Law to require the social service district to determine if there is an exemption, local of child care, transportation or an accommodation for disability before issuing a re-engagement notice.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Enacts the New York State Reuniting Families Act**

[S.5024A \(Parker\)/A.2106A \(Kim\)](#)

This legislation allows social service districts the flexibility to consider the circumstances and delay the filing of a petition to terminate parental rights if the parent is incarcerated in immigration detention or immigration removal proceedings.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 125 of the Laws of 2019**

**Transportation & Public Works**

**Relates to establishing in the city of Buffalo a demonstration program implementing speed violation monitoring systems in school speed zones by a means of photo devices**

[A.951 \(Peoples-Stokes\)/S.231 \(Kennedy\)](#)

This legislation allows the city of Buffalo to implement a pilot program for a speed violation camera monitoring system in school speed zones. This legislation takes effect 13 days after it becomes law and expires 5 years after the effective date.

**Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 148 of the Laws of 2019**

**Relates to wildlife management, authorizes cull permits to certified nuisance wildlife specialists**

[S.5849 \(May\)/A.1599 \(Hunter\)](#)

This legislation creates a program for wildlife damage management, qualifications for certified nuisance wildlife specialists, and procedures for issuing and using permits for wildlife damage management.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Authorizes the City of New York to use design-build**

[S.6293-A \(Comrie\)/A.7636-B \(Braunstein\)](#)

This bill expands New York City's express design build authorization to fully include additional departments and agencies. This authorization applies to any public work undertaken pursuant to a project labor agreement that has a cost of no less than \$10 million with the exemption of certain homeland security, cultural, and housing projects.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to bicycles with electronic assist and electric scooters**

[S.5294 \(Ramos\)/A.7431-B \(Rozić\)](#)

This legislation authorizes e-bikes and e-scooters in New York State. This legislation allows cities, towns and villages to set their own rules for governing dockless scooters, and e-bikes including whether they are allowed on sidewalks and the maximum speed in which they can travel. E-bikes and e-scooters are prohibited from operating on public highways in a county with a population of less than 1,586,000.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to damages to contracts occasioned by delay**

[S.5933-A \(Comrie\)/A.2040-A \(Kim\)](#)

Requires state agency and authority public works contracts to include a clause authorizing contractors to recover reasonable damages for delay under limited circumstances.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Relates to payment in construction contracts**

[S.2394 \(Breslin\)/A.3552 \(Cusick\)](#)

This bill would establish a new comprehensive definition of "substantial completion" for public construction projects under State Finance Law and General Municipal Law. This bill would define substantial completion as when the work required by the contractor with the public owner is sufficiently completed so that the public owner may occupy or utilize the work for its intended use. Within 30 days, the public owner shall submit to the contractor a written list describing all remaining items required to be completed by the contractor.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Veterans**

**Relates to the listing of county and city veterans' service agencies**

[A.4413 \(Stern\)/S.2405 \(Kaplan\)](#)

This legislation requires the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs to post on their website a listing of the local veterans' service agencies with the name, location, hours of operation and contact information for each county and city veterans' service agency in New York.

**Status: Passed Both Houses**



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