

2026 New York State Legislative Session Summary: The Impact on New York's Counties

*A Report on Bills the Legislature Passed
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Hon. Philip R. Church, NYSAC President
Hon. J. Ryan McMahon, II, NYSCEA President
Stephen J. Acquario, Esq., Executive Director

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Executive Summary

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)'s mission is to foster excellence in county government and unite the voice of New York's county leaders. Throughout the 2026 Legislative Session, NYSAC staff—working closely with our members—engaged with the State Legislature and Governor's Office to advocate for and against a wide range of legislative and budgetary proposals.

In total, the Legislature **passed 759 bills** through both houses during the 2026 Legislative Session, compared to 856 in 2025. This report highlights selected bills that passed both the Senate and Assembly in 2026 and may directly or indirectly impact counties if enacted. Each entry includes the bill number (linked to the bill text), a summary, and the bill's current status:

- Passed Both Houses (awaiting delivery to the Governor)
- Delivered to the Governor (awaiting action within 10 days, excluding Sundays)
- Chapter Number (if signed into law)
- Veto Message (if disapproved)

Additionally, the State Budget—a key vehicle for advancing state and county priorities—included several wins for counties, including preservation of the cap on local Medicaid contributions, an extension of the County Infrastructure Grant program, reforms to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), a new \$50 million grant program through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, targeted at emergency preparedness supplies, equipment, and vehicles, and a \$50 million increase in CHIPS funding.

A full summary of the county impact of the SFY 2026-27 State Budget is available at www.nysac.org/nysbudget.

2026 Legislative Session Overview: Non-Budget Legislation

NYSAC has identified the following non-budget bills, organized by issue area, that have the potential to impact county government operations. Each bill was passed by both the Senate and Assembly and has either been signed into law, vetoed, or is currently waiting to be sent to the Governor for her signature or veto.

Aging

Authorizes the Office for the Aging to Operate Transportation Programs – [S.8689 \(Cleare\)](#) / [A.10055 \(Zaccaro\)](#)

This legislation amends the Elder Law to authorize the State Office for the Aging to establish, operate, and maintain transportation services programs, or to contract for their operation with counties, municipalities, school districts, or public or private nonprofit organizations concerned with the aging. The act takes effect 30 days after becoming law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Agriculture

Provides Additional Duties of Community Gardens Task Force – [S.5159-A \(Comrie\)](#) / [A.8901-A \(Torres\)](#)

This legislation requires the community gardens task force to conduct an assessment of all community gardens located on publicly owned land in the state to facilitate each garden's designated as a critical environment area.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes Food Safety and Quality Date Labeling Requirements – [S.7618-B \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.7291-B \(Reyes\)](#)

This legislation amends the Agriculture and Markets Law to standardize food date labeling by requiring manufacturers, processors, and retailers that display a date label to use uniform terms: "USE by" to indicate a safety date and "BEST if Used by" to indicate a quality date. Beginning July 1, 2028, it prohibits the sale of food products bearing the phrase "sell by" except in coded, non-consumer-readable formats. It includes exemptions for infant formula, alcoholic beverages, and shellfish, and clarifies that it does not prohibit donation or use of food past its quality date. The act takes effect 180 days after becoming law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Children with Special Needs

Relates to Certified School Psychologists and Special Education Services for Preschool Children – [S.9611 \(Mayer\)](#) / [A.10894 \(Benedetto\)](#)

This chapter amendment amends Chapter 217 of the Laws of 2015, which authorizes certified school psychologists to conduct evaluations for preschool special education services and early intervention programs, to extend the expiration date of those provisions by two years, from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028. The extension ensures continued access to evaluations for children ages 3 to 5 seeking preschool special education services and children ages 0 to 2 under

the Early Intervention Program, which together serve approximately 48,000 children statewide.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Elections

Relates to the Election of School Board Members After the Number of Members Has Been Increased – [S.6734-A \(Fahy\) / A.4382-A \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation would amend the election law to provide that elections to fill an increased number of seats on a school board will be conducted at the annual meetings after the number of seats was increased.

Status: Return to the Assembly

Requires Certain Elections to be Held in Even-Numbered Years – [S.5711-C \(Skoufis\) / A.5036-C \(Jacobson\)](#)

This concurrent resolution proposes amendments to the State Constitution to require elections for certain judicial, county, and city offices outside of New York City to be held in even-numbered years. The measure builds on Chapter 741 of 2023, which required certain town and county elections to be even-numbered years. County constitutional officers—sheriffs, county clerks, district attorneys, and registers—and city officers, including supervisors, outside of New York City would be elected once every four years in even-numbered years. As a constitutional amendment, this resolution must be approved by two successive separately elected legislatures and then ratified by voters before taking effect.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Online Posting of Sample Ballots Ahead of Early Voting – [S.6253-A \(Skoufis\) / A.6741-A \(Simone\)](#)

This legislation amends Section 7-118 of the Election Law to require the State Board of Elections to post a sample ballot for every election district in the state on its website at least twelve days before the first day of early voting. Each county board must transmit a sample ballot for all of its election districts to the state board in a format the state board determines, and the state board must make those ballots available through a searchable database that allows voters to look up their polling site, district information, and the specific ballot they are eligible to cast.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes College Students to Serve as Election Inspectors and Poll Clerks – [S.1809 \(Fernandez\) / A.8388 \(Jackson\)](#)

This legislation amends the Election Law to allow full-time college and university students to be certified as election inspectors or poll clerks in the county where their school is located, notwithstanding county residency requirements. Eligible students must be registered to vote in New York, hold no elective office, not be a candidate or close relative of one in the district served, and be able to read, speak, and write English.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Notice to Domestic Violence Victims Before Voter Registration Confidentiality Expires – [S.9671-A \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.10960-A \(Rosenthal\)](#)

This legislation amends the Election Law to require boards of elections to notify domestic violence victims whose voter registration records are kept confidential at least six months before that confidentiality is set to expire. The mailed notice must include the expiration date and information on how to reapply for confidential status.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Provides Remedies for Disrupted Elections – [S.4602-B \(Gounardes\)](#) / [A.5846-B \(Gibbs\)](#)

This legislation amends the Election Law to create a statutory remedy when early voting or election day voting is disrupted for more than one hour. It directs boards of elections to toll, adjust, and extend the voting timeframe to account for lost time, either on the same day or, where impracticable, on a successive voting day, including at alternative nearby polling locations if necessary.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes the Legislature to Determine the Form of Submission and Abstract for Proposed Constitutional Amendments – [S.10639 \(Gianaris\)](#) / [A.11557 \(Walker\)](#)

This legislation amends the Election Law to authorize the legislature to determine the form in which a proposed amendment to the constitution is submitted to the people, as well as the abstract thereof. The form and abstract may be set either within the concurrent resolution submitting the amendment or in a separate concurrent resolution adopted by both houses at least 120 days prior to the general election at which the amendment will be submitted.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 130 of the Laws of 2026

Updates Provisions Relating to the Independent Redistricting Commission – [S.10637-A \(Stewart-Cousins\)](#) / [A.11553-A \(Heastie\)](#)

This concurrent resolution proposes amendments to the State Constitution to update the state's redistricting process. The amendment directs the Independent Redistricting Commission (RC) to prepare plans every ten years commencing in 2031, revises the process by which the legislature considers and votes on IRC plans, and removes certain redistricting criteria to better align the state's process with current United States Supreme Court precedent while retaining criteria that protect racial and language minority voting rights, equal population, and contiguity. It also grants the legislature temporary authority to make changes to congressional districts between decennial censuses, based on the 2020 federal census and remaining in force only until a reapportionment plan based on the 2030 census takes effect, subject to federal and state constitutional requirements.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Economic Development

Strengthens Transparency and Accountability for Local Development

Corporations and Municipal Not-for-Profits – [S.6165-A \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.173-A \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation amends the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and the Public Authorities Law to impose greater transparency, oversight, and accountability requirements on local development corporations (LDCs) and other not-for-profit corporations that function as instruments of local or state government. Key provisions require Authorities Budget Office consent before incorporation of entities controlled by municipal officials, expand the definitions of "state authority" and "local authority" to capture quasi-governmental nonprofits, limit LDC contracts with municipalities to 25-year terms, require enhanced public notice for property transfers to LDCs, and subject all state and local authorities and their affiliates to the Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Environment & Energy

Standards of Reuse of Deconstructed Buildings Materials – [S.2091-A \(Kavanagh\)](#) / [A.3029 \(Kelles\)](#)

This legislation would amend the executive law to allow the use of reclaimed or used wood in construction and provide standards for the condition of salvage lumber allowed to be used in construction.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Department of Public Service to Conduct Study on Energy Interconnection Processes into the Electrical Grid – [S.1227-A \(May\)](#) / [A.4127-A \(Stirpe\)](#)

Authorizes and directs the department of public service to conduct a study on the deployment of energy interconnection processes into the electrical grid to meet the state's renewable energy goals. The department of public service is directed to submit a report on its findings one year after the effective date.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends the Urban Deer Management Pilot Program – [S.9098 \(May\)](#) / [A.10112 \(Hunter\)](#)

This chapter amendment amends Chapter 683 of the Laws of 2023, which established an urban deer management pilot program under the Environmental Conservation Law, to extend the program's duration from three years to six years before it expires and is repealed.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits Termination of Electricity of Heat Service During Forecasts of Extreme Temperatures – [S.120-B \(Cleare\)](#) / [A.5786-B \(Solages\)](#)

This legislation prevents nonpayment utility shutoffs during extreme weather events which can be dangerous to utility customers' health.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to the Effectiveness of Provisions of Law Relating to the Provision of Gas Service to New Customers – [S.8812 \(Krueger\)](#) / [A.9462 \(Simon\)](#)

This legislation delays the effective date of an existing law governing the provision of gas service to new customers, changing it from taking effect immediately to taking effect one year after becoming law. It also allows the relevant state agencies to begin developing the necessary rules and regulations during that one-year period so they are ready upon the law's effective date.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 101 of the Laws of 2026

Relates to Rechargeable Battery Recycling – [S.8832 \(Kavanagh\)](#) / [A.9504 \(Glick\)](#)

This chapter amendment amends the Environmental Conservation Law to clarify and strengthen New York's rechargeable battery recycling program. Key changes include expanding the definition of "battery manufacturer" to cover manufacturers of products that come with built-in rechargeable batteries when no other party assumes responsibility and clarifying which types of batteries are covered under the recycling program, including battery packs. It requires manufacturers to reimburse local governments for costs associated with collecting e-scooter and e-bike batteries and requires manufacturers to provide appropriate containers and equipment to retailers and collection sites for safe storage. Rather than requiring the Department of Environment Conservation to promulgate specific fire safety regulations, the amendment instead requires the department to solicit input from fire safety authorities when approving manufacturer recycling plans that include e-scooter and e-bike batteries.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 87 of the Laws of 2026

Expands the Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan (C-PACE) Program – [S.1335-C \(Parker\)](#) / [A.5404-C \(Stern\)](#)

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to expand the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to include financing for qualifying water efficiency improvements, resiliency improvements, and low carbon intensity building components.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires NYSERDA to Develop a Statewide EV Fast Charging Implementation Plan – [S.5189 \(Comrie\)](#) / [A.1012-A \(Barrett\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Authorities Law to require NYSERDA, in consultation with the NYPA, DOT, DEC, and DPS, to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle fast charging station implementation plan within 24 months. The plan must address current and projected fast charger deployment, underserved areas, methods to maximize coverage and prevent program overlap, guidance to municipalities on curbside charging, and labor standards. NYSERDA must also establish a 13-member Fast Charge NY working group that includes representatives from statewide municipal organizations, environmental justice groups, utilities, and charging station developers, and must update the plan annually following adoption.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires NYSERDA to Develop Recommendations on Microgrid Establishment – [S.5510 \(Parker\) / A.1392 \(Cruz\)](#)

This legislation requires NYSERDA, in consultation with DPS and DHSES, to prepare a report with recommendations on establishing microgrids to protect critical facilities across the state. NYSERDA must also identify available or necessary funding mechanisms and submit the final report to the Governor and legislative leaders within one year of the law's effective date.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Public Service Commission to Consider Economic Impact of Utility Rate Increases – [S.1847-A \(Comrie\) / A.2400-A \(Eichenstein\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Service Law to require the Public Service Commission to conduct an economic impact assessment prior to approving any major utility rate increase. The legislation does not limit a utility's right to a fair rate of return but ensures that the financial burden on ratepayers is a formal part of the commission's rate-setting deliberations.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes Fee Transparency Standards for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – [S.7260-A \(Comrie\) / A.7633-A \(Barrett\)](#)

This legislation adds a new Section 66-x to the Public Service Law directing the Department of Public Service, no later than June 1, 2027, to promulgate fee transparency standards for electric vehicle charging stations that require payment. Those standards must require stations to clearly post and update the total price at the point of sale, prohibit requiring a subscription fee to use a station (while permitting separate price schedules conditioned on a subscription or membership), and prohibit making payment via mobile device the only accepted form of payment.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Portable Plug-In Solar Devices – [S.8512-C \(Krueger\) / A.9111-C \(Gallagher\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Service Law and Executive Law to create a new regulatory category for “portable solar generation devices”—plug-in photovoltaic systems that connect to a building through a standard outlet, supply no more than 1,200 watts to the grid, and are safety-certified. It exempts such devices from utility interconnection and net-metering requirements, bars utilities from requiring approval, fees, or additional equipment, and instead requires only that the owner notify the utility through a simple online form. The bill also directs that future updates to the State Fire Prevention and Building Code be optimized to allow these devices to be connected through an electrical outlet.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Disclosure of Supply and Delivery Charge Breakdowns in Utility Rate Cases – [S.7869 \(Comrie\) / A.8151 \(Barrett\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Service Law to require that the one-page rate-case summaries the Public Service Commission publishes—both when a major rate case is initiated and upon its conclusion—break out the respective changes to service (supply) and delivery charges for residential, commercial, and industrial ratepayers. The sponsor's stated aim is to

give consumers clearer insight into which portions of a proposed rate increase stem from commodity prices versus maintenance of the distribution network.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Enacts the Responsible Data Center Development Act – [S.10642 \(Gonzalez\) / A.11560 \(Rules/Barrett\)](#)

This legislation amends the Environmental Conservation Law, Public Service Law, Public Authorities Law, Energy Law, and Labor Law to impose a one-year moratorium on the issuance of permits for large data centers (those with peak demand of 20 megawatts or more) and to require the Department of Environmental Conservation to prepare an environmental impact report on data center development in the state. It directs the Public Service Commission to establish a separate utility service classification for large data centers so that the costs of serving them are borne by those facilities rather than other ratepayers, sets renewable energy and efficiency standards for data centers, requires new or expanding large data centers to fund host community benefits through a public proceeding and hearing process, and establishes prevailing wage and other labor standards for data center construction.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Enacts the PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act – [S.4574-B \(May\) / A.5832-B \(Kelles\)](#)

This legislation amends the Environmental Conservation Law to require certain State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit holders to conduct PFAS monitoring and disclose the results. It applies to covered industrial dischargers, covered industrial users sending wastewater to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), and POTWs themselves, requiring quarterly monitoring for one year upon issuance of new permits, with continued monitoring where PFAS are detected at levels warranting it. The act takes effect one year after becoming law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

General Government

Extends Cooperative Purchasing Authority for Local Governments – [S.10075-A \(Zellner\) / A.11162-A \(Solages\)](#)

This legislation extends through June 30, 2027 the authority of municipalities, school districts, and other local governmental entities to engage in cooperative purchasing—commonly known as “piggybacking”—under General Municipal Law §103(16). Piggybacking allows local governments to purchase goods and services through competitively bid contracts already awarded by federal agencies or other states, eliminating duplicative procurement processes and generating cost savings. Without the extension, this authority sunsets on June 30, 2026.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends New York City Joint Bidding Authority for Public Works Projects – [S.10195-A \(Bottcher\) / A.11455 \(Burke\)](#)

This legislation extends through December 31, 2027, the authorization for joint bidding on contracts for public works projects in New York City, first enacted in 2014.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Electronic Filing of All Lobbying Filings – [S.5843 \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.2330 \(McDonald\)](#)

This legislation requires electronic filing of all lobbying filings with the commission on ethics and lobbying in government.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Government Entities to Use Multifactor Authentication for Network Access – [S.1139 \(Gonzalez\)](#) / [A.6347 \(Otis\)](#)

This legislation requires governmental entities to, whenever possible and feasible, implement multifactor authentication for local and remote network access.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Use of Automated Employment Decision-Making Tools and Artificial Intelligence Systems by Certain State and Local Entities – [S.8831 \(Gonzalez\)](#) / [A.9487 \(Otis\)](#)

This chapter amendment amends the State Technology Law, Education Law, and Civil Service Law to clarify and restructure how existing rules governing AI and automated employment decision-making tools apply to state and local government entities. Key changes include requiring counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, BOCES, SUNY, CUNY, and community colleges to publicly disclose on their websites any automated employment decision-making tools they use.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 86 of the Laws of 2026

Authorizes Electronic Service of Process on the Secretary of State by Governments – [S.8397 \(Martinez\)](#) / [A.11390 \(Braunstein\)](#)

This legislation allows the state and municipalities to serve process electronically on the Secretary of State as agent for a business or other covered entity, even where that entity has not opted into electronic service. The Department of State would then forward the process to the entity by certified mail or email notice, reducing the time and cost municipalities incur to effect service.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Advance Notice of Non-Emergency Utility Work – [S.8865-A \(Harckham\)](#) / [A.11030-A \(Levenberg\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Service Law to require a utility corporation or municipality to provide property owners at least five business days' notice before beginning any scheduled non-emergency work that will result in a planned interruption to a customer's property. The notice must describe the work, its expected duration and location, and contact information for the utility. The requirement does not apply during natural or man-made disasters, states of emergency, or where notice would prevent timely restoration of service.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes the Homeowner Protection Program – [S.2627-A \(Kavanagh\)](#) / [A.1625-A \(Solages\)](#)

This legislation amends the Real Property Law to codify the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), directing the Department of Law to establish the program within one year to ensure the availability of free housing counseling and legal services to homeowners for the purpose of mitigating threats to homeownership. The bill authorizes the Department of Law to provide

grants to eligible not-for-profit housing counseling organizations and legal services organizations in every county, funded by annual appropriation, to assist homeowners with loss mitigation, foreclosure defense, deed fraud and scams, tax and lien issues, and redress of predatory and discriminatory lending.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Municipalities to Establish an Emergency Repair Pilot Program – [S.1838 \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.5641 \(Hunter\)](#)

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to authorize the Secretary of State, with assistance from the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, to establish an emergency repair pilot program enabling participating cities to immediately repair hazardous code violations in buildings where the owner has not undertaken such repairs in a reasonable time and to bill the owner for the cost. The bill requires participating municipalities to enact an enabling local law, directs the state to provide technical assistance and a model local law, excludes owner-occupied and primary residences, and requires an annual report to the Legislature and Governor evaluating the program. The act takes effect 90 days after becoming law and sunsets on May 1, 2029.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Provides a Filing Extension for the Enhanced STAR Exemption – [S.5069 \(Griffo\)](#) / [A.11350 \(Rules/Buttenschon\)](#)

This legislation amends the Real Property Tax Law to grant a one-time filing deadline extension to initial applicants for the enhanced STAR exemption who missed the taxable status date but are otherwise entitled to the exemption. An applicant may submit a written request to the commissioner, who must grant the exemption upon being satisfied that the applicant has not previously received such an extension and is otherwise eligible.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Registrations of Residential Mortgages in Default – [S.7933-A \(Cooney\)](#) / [A.8244-A \(Peoples-Stokes\)](#)

This legislation increases the maximum annual registration fee that municipalities may impose on mortgagees or their agents for the registration of residential mortgages in default from seventy-five dollars to three hundred dollars.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Extended Hours for Alcohol Sales During the World Cup – [S.9990-A \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.11564 \(Stirpe\)](#)

This legislation amends the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law to authorize on-premises consumption licensees statewide to remain open for extended hours during the period commencing June 11, 2026, and ending July 20, 2026, notwithstanding more restrictive hours a county may have previously imposed. The extended hours do not apply in any case where the Authority has imposed more restrictive hours as a condition of a license. Intended to support small businesses and accommodate fans during the World Cup, the act takes effect immediately and expires and is deemed repealed July 21, 2026.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 131 of the Laws of 2026

Judiciary

Establishes Three New Judicial Districts – [S.10626 \(Gianaris\)](#) / [A.11550 \(Rivera\)](#)

This legislation amends the Judiciary Law to create three new judicial districts—the fourteenth (Onondaga County), fifteenth (Monroe County), and sixteenth (Erie County)—within the fourth judicial department and alters the fifth, seventh, and eighth judicial districts accordingly. The bill reapportions Supreme Court justices across the affected districts and designates currently serving justices to their new respective districts.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Reporting Obligations Regarding Cases Terminated Due to Mental Disease or Defect – [S.8813 \(Myrie\)](#) / [A.9491 \(Simone\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 675 of the Laws of 2025 clarifies the discharge planning process for defendants whose cases are terminated due to mental illness or a mental defect. It also establishes annual reporting requirements for OMH, including data on the number of defendants committed, the counties where orders originated, and the facilities where defendants were observed.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 29 of the Laws of 2026

Relates to the Removal of Actions to Certain Courts in Adjoining County – [S.8762 \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.9494 \(McDonald\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 587 of the Laws of 2025 allows a criminal case to be transferred from one county's court to a specialized human trafficking, veterans treatment, or mental health court in a neighboring county. The defendant may request the transfer with consent from both the local and neighboring district attorneys. It ensures that people whose case may be better suited for a specialty court can access one even if their own county doesn't have one.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 45 of the Laws of 2026

Relates to the Method of Notifying Certain Crime Victims of the Disposition of Criminal Trial – [S.8763 \(Brouk\)](#) / [A.9493 \(Romero\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 584 of the Laws of 2025 updates how district attorneys are required to notify crime victims of the outcome of a felony case. Where the law previously required notification to be sent by mail, this amendment allows the written summary of the case's disposition to be delivered by mail, electronically, or by any reasonable and secure means of written communication.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 46 of the Laws of 2026

Relates to the Time Frames for Certain Court Filings – [S.8809 \(Addabbo\)](#) / [A.9502 \(Lunsford\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 704 of the Laws of 2025 limits the use of third-party impleading, the process by which a defendant brings an additional party into a lawsuit, as a delay tactic. It restricts the filing of a third-party summons and complaint without a court order to no more than 90 days after the defendant's answer is served and prohibits such filings altogether once a note of issue has been filed, unless good cause is shown or it is in the interest of justice.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 79 of the Laws of 2026

Establishes Statewide Supervised Visitation Initiative – [S.9498 \(Mayer\) / A.65-B \(Hevesi\)](#)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to direct the Office of Victim Services, in consultation with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, to establish a statewide supervised visitation initiative providing safe, structured parenting time in cases involving family violence, child protective proceedings, and custody disputes. Counties would be required to submit annual assessments of local need, plans for meeting that need, and data on program usage and effectiveness.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Limits Public Access to Court Records in Article 81 Guardianship Proceedings – [S.1728-A \(Brouk\) / A.6804-A \(Griffin\)](#)

This legislation amends the Mental Hygiene Law to restrict access to court records in guardianship and related proceedings under Articles 77, 78, and 81. Rather than requiring a written finding of good cause before sealing such records, the bill provides that court records in these proceedings may not be perused, examined, disclosed, taken, or copied by anyone other than a party, a party's attorney or counsel, the guardian, the court evaluator, or the court examiner—except by order of the court or by the Office of the Attorney General.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Local Government Finance

Relates to the Clergy Property Tax Exemption – [S.8527-B \(Kavanagh\) / A.9570-C \(Lee\)](#)

This legislation permits local governments to extend the existing clergy residential property tax exemption to include clergy residing in co-ops. This legislation clarifies that the clergy property tax exemption shall not affect eligibility for certain other tax abatements.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Technical Assistance Provided to Municipalities Related to College and University Closures – [S.8777 \(May\) / A.9430 \(Stirpe\)](#)

This legislation moves an existing provision about supporting municipalities affected by college or university closures from the executive law to the economic development law. It requires the Department of Economic Development to provide technical assistance, upon request, to any municipality where a college or university has closed. That assistance can cover workforce transition, attracting new employers, repurposing the former institution's land and buildings, and planning for dealing with creditors and other financial stakeholders, though the state cannot become a party to any related legal proceedings.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 91 of the Laws of 2026

Increases Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers – [S.6233-A \(Martinez\) / A.6790-A \(McMahon\)](#)

This legislation amends the Tax Law and Real Property Tax Law to increase the personal income tax credit for active volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. The bill also ends the long-standing rule barring volunteers who receive a related real property tax exemption from also claiming the credit.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Values-Based Procurement for Municipal Food Purchase Contracts – [S.7638-B \(Hinchey\) / A.8091-B \(Peoples-Stokes\)](#)

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to allow municipalities to award food purchase contracts to an otherwise qualified, New York State–based bidder who satisfies one or more “values-based procurement standards,” even when that bidder’s cost is up to 10% higher than the lowest responsible bidder. The seven standards a bidder may meet are local economies, environmental resilience, racial equity, valued workforce, valued agricultural sector, animal welfare, and nutrition. For counties and other political subdivisions outside New York City, use of this preference must be authorized by local law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Rounding of Cash Purchases to the Nearest Five Cents – [S.8580-A \(Skoufis\) / A.9274-A \(McDonald\)](#)

The “New Yorkers for Common Cents Act” adds new sections to the General Business Law requiring merchants engaged in face-to-face sales to round the total price of cash transactions to the nearest five-cent denomination, with sums ending in 1–2 or 6–7 cents rounded down and those ending in 3–4 or 8–9 cents rounded up. Rounding does not apply to transactions of four cents or less or to non-cash payments, and any resulting gains or losses are exempt from state and municipal tax. The rounding requirement, prompted by the federal phase-out of the penny, takes effect 180 days after becoming law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Public Employee Relations & Labor

Allows Municipalities to Post Employment Positions on the Department of Civil Service’s Jobs Site – [S.8797 \(May\) / A.9434 \(Kassay\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 664 of the Laws of 2025 amends the civil service law requiring the department of civil service to allow municipalities to post municipal employment positions. This amendment requires the law to take effect December 31st 2027, or thirty days after the commissioner of civil service certifies that the department’s website is able to accommodate the listings, whichever is earlier.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 5 of the Laws of 2026

Amendment to Labor Law in Relation to Informing Employees About Provisions in Employment Contracts – [S.496 \(Fernandez\) / A.618 \(Shimsky\)](#)

This legislation would require employers to inform their employees that non-disclosure or non-disparagement provisions in their employment contracts do not prohibit them from speaking with law enforcement or other relevant agencies.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Grants Employees Access to Personnel Records – [S.3460 \(Gounardes\) / A.2107 \(Gonzalez-Rojas\)](#)

This legislation allows all private and public sector employees to access their personnel records at least twice a year at all worksites in New York State. Employers would need to furnish records within five business days of receiving a written request from the employee and notify employees when negative content is filed against them and give employees an opportunity to review said content.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Requiring Employers to Obtain Acknowledgement of Receipt of Sexual Harassment Prevention Policies - [S.10057 \(Ramos\) / A.368 \(Rozić\)](#)

This legislation amends the Labor Law to require employers to obtain written or electronic acknowledgement from employees confirming receipt of the employer's sexual harassment prevention policy, and to retain those acknowledgements for six years. It also requires employers to notify employees in writing of any changes to policy at least seven before such changes take effect.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Permits Public Employees to Use Accrued Leave During Workers' Compensation Waiting Periods – [S.10350-A \(Ramos\) / A.1202-A \(Simon\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the Civil Service Law allowing public employees—including county, municipal, school district, and public authority employees—to voluntarily use accrued sick, vacation, personal, or compensation time during the mandatory waiting period before workers' compensation benefits commence, or during periods when a claim is being controverted. The bill does not apply to employees covered by collective bargaining agreements unless their union opts in, and it expressly preserves existing bargaining rights.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Permits Telemedicine for Mental and Behavioral Health Services Under Workers' Compensation – [S.998 \(Brouk\) / A.949 \(Lunsford\)](#)

This legislation amends the Workers' Compensation Law to authorize telehealth visits for psychological testing, treatment, and counseling by psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers treating injured workers under the workers' compensation system.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes an Optional 25-Year Retirement Plan for 911 Operators and Dispatchers – [S.7635-B \(C. Ryan\) / A.9162-A \(Pheffer Amato\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the Retirement and Social Security Law to create an optional twenty-five-year retirement plan for public safety dispatchers, telecommunicators, 911 operators, and similar emergency-communications titles employed by the state, a county, or a municipality. Eligible members may retire after twenty-five years of creditable service, without regard to age, with a retirement allowance equal to half of final average salary—rising by one-sixtieth for each additional year of service up to a cap of three-quarters of final average salary. The plan is available only where the employer elects to provide it by resolution and bears the

associated cost.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Repeals Compulsory Interest Arbitration Provision for Certain Deputy Sheriffs – [S.4894 \(Jackson\)](#) / [A.9665 \(Cashman\)](#)

This legislation repeals paragraph (g) of subdivision 4 of section 209 of the Civil Service Law, which currently governs the resolution of disputes in collective negotiations with certain deputy sheriffs. The repeal provides the affected deputy sheriffs with the same interest arbitration scope afforded to municipal police officers.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Annual AI Impact Reporting by Large Employers – [S.8706-B \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.9581-B \(Bronson\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section the Labor Law requiring covered businesses—those with more than fifty employees or that are publicly traded—to report annually to the Department of Labor on the impact of artificial intelligence on their hiring and the nature of their AI use. The Department must develop standard reporting forms and produce its own annual report presenting aggregate data by sector, geography, and business size. Covered businesses that fail to report are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500 per day.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Optional Disability Coverage for County Probation Officers – [S.8837 \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.2535 \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to extend optional disability coverage under section 207-c to county probation officers at the option of any county, expanding a benefit previously limited to Nassau County probation officers. The coverage provides officers injured or taken sick in the performance of their duties with full salary or wages until the disability ceases, along with associated medical treatment and hospital care. The bill permits county employers and employee representatives to negotiate this benefit through collective bargaining, with all costs incurred by the employer and/or employee as determined through that process.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends the Presumptive Eligibility Period for World Trade Center-Related Retirement Death Benefits – [S.10085-A \(Jackson\)](#) / [A.11213-A \(Pheffer Amato\)](#)

This legislation extends the presumptive eligibility period from twenty-five to thirty-five years for certain accidental death retirement benefits. Under the bill, where a retiree or vestee dies from a qualifying World Trade Center condition related to 9/11 rescue, recovery, and clean-up operations within thirty-five years of retirement, the death is presumed, unless the contrary is proven, to have resulted from an accident sustained in the performance of duty, entitling the eligible beneficiary to an accidental death benefit.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Public & Mental Health

Reforms the Competency Restoration Process for Defendants Unable to Stand Trial – [S.1004-B \(Brouk\)](#) / [A.5567-B \(Simon\)](#)

This legislation amends Article 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law and related provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law to modernize and constitutionally conform the process by which courts determine whether incapacitated defendants can be restored to competency to stand trial. Key changes include requiring psychiatric examiners to opine on the likelihood of successful restoration in their examination reports, creating a statutory definition of “restoration services” to clarify that such services are aimed solely at achieving legal competency rather than broader mental health recovery, and directing courts to limit restoration commitments to defendants for whom there is a reasonable expectation of success.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes a Statewide Competency Restoration Workgroup – [S.10309 \(Brouk\)](#) / [A.11024 \(Simon\)](#)

This legislation amends the Mental Hygiene Law to establish a statewide competency restoration workgroup to evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of New York's competency restoration system under Article 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law. The 19-member workgroup will include representatives from state agencies, the judiciary, counties, law enforcement, and mental health professionals. The workgroup is charged with submitting a preliminary report by December 30, 2026, with short-term solutions, and a comprehensive report by June 30, 2027 outlining medium- and long-term reforms. The workgroup must also evaluate the current state-county cost structure and provide a county-by-county accounting of competency restoration costs dating back to 2020.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Staff and Attendees of Summer Camps to be Vaccinated – [S.3958 \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.3254-A \(Dinowitz\)](#)

This bill would require that any child attending an overnight, summer day, travelling summer day or children's nonregulated camp be up to date on their vaccinations, excluding those with a compromising medical condition.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits Sale of Kratom to Individuals Under the Age of Twenty-One – [S.8814 \(Fahy\)](#) / [A.9472 \(McDonald\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 655 of the Laws of 2025 delays the effective date by 180 days to allow for implementation, requires retailers to post notices online in addition to physical signage, clarifies that the Attorney General may seek injunctive relief following violations, and adds further clarification on how fines are to be assessed.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 81 of the Laws of 2026

Permits Local Health Officials to Request Copies of Certain Reports and Records – [S.8801 \(Baskin\)](#) / [A.9513 \(Cashman\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 662 of the Laws of 2025 clarifies that cross-county requests by a local health officer are permitted where there is a clear nexus between the requesting district and the case.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 34 of the Laws of 2026

Establishes Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS in Drinking Water – [S.3207-B \(Kavanagh\)](#) / [A.8634-B \(Lee\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Health Law to codify maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for several PFAS compounds in drinking water, lowering existing MCLs for PFOA and PFOS from 10 parts per trillion to 4 parts per trillion and establishing new MCLs of 10 parts per trillion for PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX (HFPO-DA). Public water systems would be required to comply with the new standards by May 1, 2029, and the Department of Health must report to the Governor and Legislature by May 1, 2028, on what additional requirements may be warranted to address cumulative PFAS exposure.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Strengthens Regulation and Taxation of Vapor Products – [S.4527-B \(Comrie\)](#) / [A.4619-B \(Solages\)](#)

This legislation amends the Tax Law to restructure how vapor products are taxed and establishes a new licensing regime for vapor products distributors with associated fees and enforcement penalties. Additionally, the bill creates a publicly available directory of approved vapor products maintained by the Tax Commissioner.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Annual State Report on Heat Vulnerability and Heat-Related Deaths – [S.5056-B \(Rivera\)](#) / [A.755-B \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Health Law to require the Department of Health to produce an annual report examining heat vulnerability and heat-related deaths statewide. The report must include a county-by-county assessment of relative heat vulnerability and must be posted publicly on the department's website with the first report due by June 15, 2027.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Provides Liability Protections for Health Care Providers Who Administer Vaccines – [S.9604 \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.9140 \(Rosenthal\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Health Law to shield home care agencies, Article 28 facilities, and other health care providers from liability for injury caused by an act or omission in administering a vaccine, so long as the immunization conforms to applicable federal, state, or local standards and the conduct is not willful misconduct or gross negligence. It extends comparable protection to those who prescribe, dispense, order, furnish, or administer a vaccine to a minor where the immunization is required by state law or given through an outreach program.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes a Drug Test Strip Program for Emerging Contaminants – [S.9221 \(C. Ryan\)](#) / [A.9001 \(Steck\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the Mental Hygiene Law directing the Commissioner of the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to establish a program providing free drug test strips to detect medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and other harmful contaminants, distributed through facilities such as emergency rooms, addiction treatment centers, homeless shelters, and urgent care centers. Individuals obtaining test strips at these facilities may not be targeted by law enforcement. The bill also directs the Commissioner, with the Department of Health, to conduct a public awareness campaign on the dangers of these contaminants and the availability of free test strips.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Notice Before Cities Discontinue Water Fluoridation – [S.8283-A \(C. Ryan\)](#) / [A.8680-A \(Burke\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the General City Law providing that a city fluoridating its public water supply may not discontinue fluoridation unless it first complies with Section 1100-a of the Public Health Law and publishes notice of the discontinuance date in local newspapers and on the city's website and social media pages at least ninety days beforehand.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes the Rural Suicide Prevention Council – [S.3610-A \(Helming\)](#) / [A.8434 \(Kelles\)](#)

This legislation amends the Mental Hygiene Law to establish a Council on Rural Suicide Prevention within the Office of Mental Health. The council is charged with identifying barriers to mental health and substance use treatment in rural areas, assessing capacity for peer supports and crisis services, evaluating use of the 988 lifeline, identifying vulnerable populations such as farmers and agricultural workers, and recommending policies, funding initiatives, and legislation to reduce death by suicide.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Expanding Opioid Overdose Prevention Measures in Certain Settings – [S.9272-A \(Fernandez\)](#) / [A.8814-A \(McDonald\)](#)

This legislation amends the Education Law to require, rather than merely permit, school districts, public libraries, boards of cooperative educational services, county vocational education and extension boards, charter schools, and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide and maintain on-site opioid antagonists in each instructional facility or library. The bill requires the Department of Health, upon request, to provide opioid antagonists at no cost in amounts sufficient for compliance and directs the commissioner of health to establish a request process. Participation by individuals in administering antagonists remains voluntary and subject to approved training, clinical oversight, record keeping, and reporting requirements. The act takes effect on the first of July succeeding the date it becomes law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends Provisions Related to Certified School Psychologists and Preschool Special Education Services – [S.9611 \(Mayer\)](#) / [A.10894 \(Benedetto\)](#)

This legislation extends, from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028, provisions authorizing certified school psychologists to conduct evaluations for preschool special education services and early intervention programs. These evaluations serve children ages three to five under approved preschool programs and infants from birth through age two under the Early Intervention System.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Public Safety

Continuing Education Requirements for Coroners and Coroner's Deputies – [S.8788 \(Ortt\)](#) / [A.9439 \(McDonald\)](#)

This bill is a chapter amendment to Chapter 648 of the Laws of 2025, which required coroners and coroner's deputies to complete state approved medical-legal investigation courses, that

would clarify the criteria, frequency, and implementation of the continuing education requirement.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 9 of the Laws of 2026

Prohibiting the Procurement of Certain Technology and Products Which Pose a Security Risk – [S.8793 \(Cooney\)](#) / [A.9456 \(Rajkumar\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 683 of the Laws of 2025 aligns state and local procurement laws with federal law prohibiting the procurement of certain technology and electronic parts or products which are determined to pose a risk to state and national security.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2026

Correctional Services Omnibus Chapter Amendment- [S.8825 \(Salazar\)](#) / [A.9516 \(Dilan\)](#)

This legislation enacts into law components of legislation necessary to implement changes to the omnibus bill of 2025 related to correctional services. The three parts of the legislation are described as follows:

- Part A: Requires the timely disclosure of video footage or audio recordings related to the death of incarcerated individuals involving correction officers or peace officers to the attorney general's office of special investigations.
- Part B: Relates to establishing comprehensive camera coverage for covered facilities and covered vehicles; Repeals certain provisions of the correctional law requiring institutions and local correctional facilities to adhere to certain standards regarding the camera coverage of incarcerated individuals and detainees, and access to camera recordings.
- Part C: Clarifies standards for next of kin notifications where an incarcerated individual dies in custody.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2026

Establishment of Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans – [S.896-A \(Martinez\)](#) / [A.6388-B \(Hyndman\)](#)

This legislation requires the inclusion of local and municipal animal shelters, any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and veterinary services when establishing local comprehensive emergency management plans. This bill requires that information to the public include the communication accommodation needs of persons with vision or hearing impairments and information on which temporary housing and other necessary facilities are designated as animal-friendly.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Directs Counties to Develop and Maintain Comprehensive County Emergency Medical System Plans – [S.8806 \(Mayer\)](#) / [A.9440 \(Otis\)](#)

This legislation amends existing law to strengthen the process by which counties develop emergency medical services (EMS) plans. It requires the state Department of Health to review each county's submitted EMS plan and provide written feedback and recommendations within 60 days. The department may also publish a model plan format on its website to help guide counties. Counties must identify current EMS providers for each part of their jurisdiction, note any gaps in coverage, and detail any local government actions needed to implement their plan.

The legislation also delays the effective date of the underlying law by six months to allow adequate time for implementation.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 93 of the Laws of 2026

Requires Inclusion of Animal Services in Local Emergency Management Plans – [S.896-A \(Martinez\)](#) / [A.6388-B \(Hyndman\)](#)

This legislation amends the Executive Law to require that local and municipal animal shelters, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, veterinary services, and county animal response teams be included as partners in the development of local comprehensive emergency management plans. The bill also requires that evacuation plans identify temporary housing and other facilities designated as animal-friendly, and that public communications consider the accommodation needs of persons with vision or hearing impairments.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends Authority for Local Correctional Facilities to Board Out-of-State Incarcerated Individuals – [S.10538 \(Salazar\)](#) / [A.11439 \(Burdick\)](#)

This legislation extends until September 1, 2029, the authority of local correctional facilities to enter into contracts to house incarcerated individuals from other states' local correctional facilities. Many counties built or expanded jail facilities to accommodate larger incarcerated populations and have since experienced population decreases, leaving capacity underutilized. Allowing counties to board out-of-state individuals helps offset the fixed costs of operating those facilities. This authority was first enacted in 2011 was set to sunset on most recently through September 1, 2026.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes Visiting Policies for Incarcerated Individuals – [S.5037-A \(Sepulveda\)](#) / [A.4603-A \(Weprin\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the Correction Law requiring both state and local correctional facilities to establish visiting policies that provide incarcerated individuals with meaningful opportunities for in-person contact with family members, friends, clergy, and volunteers. Facilities must offer visiting hours that include evenings and/or weekends, ensure visits are of sufficient duration, and publish an equitable overcrowding policy. The bill explicitly prohibits video conferencing from substituting for in-person visits or counting toward any legally required visitation minimums.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Minimum Standards Policy for Non-Law Enforcement Use of Automatic License Plate Readers – [S.10227 \(Cooney\)](#) / [A.563-A \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation directs the Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection to develop, maintain, and publicly disseminate a minimum standards policy governing the use of automatic license plate reader (ALPR) systems by non-law enforcement and non-government entities, covering permissible uses, data sharing, prohibited uses, record retention, and employee training.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Social Media Platforms to Comply with Search Warrants Within 72 Hours – [S.8217-B \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.8022-A \(Steck\)](#)

This legislation adds a new Section 690.60 to the Criminal Procedure Law imposing obligations on operators of “covered platforms”—public or semi-public websites, online services, or applications used by minors that allow users to build profiles and post content viewable by others—that have at least one million discrete monthly users. Such operators must maintain a streamlined, continuously available process allowing law enforcement agencies to contact the platform and must comply with a search warrant within seventy-two hours of receipt.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Bars Correctional Facilities from Denying Entry Over Menstrual Products or Contraceptive Devices – [S.8353-A \(Salazar\)](#) / [A.8840-A \(Hooks\)](#)

This legislation adds a new section to the Correction Law prohibiting any state or local correctional facility from denying entry or contact visits to a visitor because the person is menstruating, has a contraceptive device, or appears on a body scan or other screening to be using a menstrual product or contraceptive device. Such products may not be required to be removed as a condition of entry or a contact visit.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Caps Commissary and Canteen Markups at Correctional Institutions – [S.1692-B \(Ramos\)](#) / [A.2592-B \(Peoples-Stokes\)](#)

This legislation amends the Correction Law to require that items sold at commissaries and canteens in correctional institutions be priced at no more than three percent over their purchase price and bars the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision from receiving commissions or other financial incentives in vendor contracts while directing it to maximize bulk-purchasing discounts. The Department must publish the price lists for all commissary items at each institution on its website beginning June 1, 2026 and annually thereafter.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Medicaid Enrollment of Incarcerated Individuals Prior to Release – [S.614-B \(Rivera\)](#) / [A.269-A \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation amends the Correction Law and the Social Services Law to require state correctional facilities and local jails to take the steps necessary to enroll eligible incarcerated individuals in Medicaid before release, and, for those found ineligible, to assist them in applying for other medical insurance programs for which they qualify. Enrollment documentation must be kept in the individual’s records and provided to them upon release, and the state must report annually on enrollment outcomes.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes a Real Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Correction Officers Killed in the Line of Duty – [S.9325 \(Martinez\)](#) / [A.10562 \(Stern\)](#)

This legislation amends the Real Property Tax Law to authorize a local-option real property tax exemption of up to fifty percent of assessed value on the primary residence of the surviving spouse of a state or county correction officer who died in the line of duty. A county, city, town, village, or school district must adopt a local law or resolution to provide the exemption and may set a lower percentage. The act takes effect the first January after becoming law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits the Use of Restraints on Incarcerated Individuals During Labor and on Pregnant Persons During Custodial Interrogation – [S.2667-C \(Salazar\)](#) / [A.1670-B \(Rosenthal\)](#)

This legislation amends the Correction Law and the Executive Law to prohibit the use of restraints on, and the use of force against, incarcerated individuals during labor and those who have experienced any pregnancy outcome, absent extraordinary circumstances, and to restrict restraints on pregnant and post-pregnancy persons during custodial interrogation by law enforcement.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Social Services

Requires Any Online Application Associated with EBT to be Offered in Other Languages – [S.5807-A \(Sepulveda\)](#) / [A.2332-B \(Berger\)](#)

This legislation would require any website or mobile application associated with an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system to be offered in the twelve most common non-English languages.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Social Service Districts to Provide Luggage to Children in Foster Care – [S.8791 \(Brisport\)](#) / [A.9482 \(Hevesi\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 684 of the Laws of 2025 requires local social service districts to provide luggage to children in foster care. The expenditures for such luggage will be reimbursed by the state under the foster care block grant.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 26 of the Laws of 2026

Guidance to Children and Family Services Staff on Circumstances that Indicate the Presence of Controlled Substances – [S.8775 \(Rivera\)](#) / [A.9483 \(Paulin\)](#)

This amendment to Chapter 619 of the Laws of 2025 provides guidance to certain staff accepting registration, issuing licenses or conducting inspections of child day care homes, programs or facilities on the identification of circumstances that may indicate the presence of controlled substances and referrals to law enforcement.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 27 of the Laws of 2026

Training Requirements for Certain Child Protective Services Workers – [S.8771 \(Bailey\)](#) / [A.9492 \(Reyes\)](#)

This legislation requires the office of children and family services to promulgate regulations for training requirements for child protective services workers assigned to a multidisciplinary investigative team.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 30 of the Laws of 2026

Requires Social Service Districts to Maintain a Waiting List of Family Applicants for Childcare Assistance – [S.8819 \(Persaud\)](#) / [A.9506 \(Walker\)](#)

This legislation amends Chapter 632 of the Laws of 2025 to require each social services district to maintain a waiting list of eligible families who have applied for childcare assistance. This bill requires the local districts to report such list to the office of children and family services who

will then compile such reports and issue one report to the state legislature annually. This legislation also requires the social services districts to collect data regarding the income of families who have applied, were denied and received childcare assistance and issue a report to the office of children and family services who will then compile such reports and issue a report to the legislature annually.

Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 32 of the Laws of 2026

Prohibits Finger Imaging as a Requirement for SNAP Benefits – [S.7754-A \(Persaud\)](#) / [A.2538-A \(Davila\)](#)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to prohibit commissioners of social services from requiring applicants for or recipients of SNAP benefits to submit to finger imaging as a condition of program participation. Since the state moved away from finger imaging, SNAP participation among eligible New Yorkers increased significantly. This bill codifies the existing administrative practice into state law.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Expands Health Services Available to Foster Families Through Voluntary Foster Care Agencies – [S.9237 \(Rivera\)](#) / [A.2726-A \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation amends the Public Health Law to expand the definition of “family” for purposes of Article 29-I health services provided by voluntary foster care agency (VFCA) health facilities, explicitly including both the birth family and foster family of children in foster care, as well as other families receiving child welfare prevention services from the authorized agency or local departments of social services. Currently, VFCAs often become aware of clinical needs across an entire family unit but are limited in their ability to provide or bill for services to family members beyond the child in care. By broadening eligibility, the bill aims to reduce fragmentation in care and support family preservation.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Panic Buttons for Social Services Employees Conducting Home Visits – [S.6987-A \(Harckham\)](#) / [A.7833-A \(Levenberg\)](#)

This legislation adds a new Section 63 to the Social Services Law requiring every city or county social services district to provide a panic button to each employee whose job responsibilities necessitate direct interaction with clients in a client’s home. Districts must also develop a plan for timely assistance in areas where panic-button functionality may be limited.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Strengthens Support and Data Collection for Children with Complex Needs – [S.7978-A \(Brouk\)](#) / [A.7603-B \(Hevesi\)](#)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to expand the authority of the Council on Children and Families and its Interagency Resolution Unit to serve children with complex behavioral health needs who require services from multiple state agencies. It directs the Council to collect detailed data on children who are boarding or awaiting residential placement and to establish and maintain a confidential online data portal, accessible to the Council, local

and voluntary agencies, and payors, that tracks both these children and the availability of beds in licensed residential therapeutic programs.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Provides Internet Access to Individuals Residing in Temporary Housing – [S.8026-A \(Gonzalez\)](#) / [A.1755-A \(Reyes\)](#)

This legislation amends the Social Services Law to require temporary housing facilities to provide high-speed broadband and Wi-Fi service to all residents in private and common areas, with exceptions for areas of the state unserved by broadband. The bill defines covered facilities broadly to include shelters for adults, families, domestic violence survivors, runaway and homeless youth, and refugees, and requires each facility to submit an implementation plan to the department within one year. It amends the New York State Urban Development Corporation Act to allow the ConnectAll Digital Equity Grant Program to fund or reimburse the required internet access.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes a Fiscal Cliff Task Force – [S.8750 \(Persaud\)](#) / [A.10143 \(Davila\)](#)

This legislation establishes a nineteen-member fiscal cliff task force to study fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs—defined as a sudden decrease in benefits resulting from a small increase in earnings—and to recommend ways to reduce or eliminate them. The task force, composed of legislative and gubernatorial appointees, local social services district commissioners, and relevant state agency heads, is directed to study programs including SNAP, HEAP, housing assistance, Medicaid, childcare subsidies, and tax credits such as STAR and the childcare tax credit. The task force must issue a preliminary report by January 1, 2028 and a final report by September 1, 2028.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Veterans

Real Property Tax Exemptions for Certain Veterans – [S.1788-A \(Hinchey\)](#) / [A.5578-A \(Hunter\)](#)

This legislation provides a ten percent property tax abatement for veterans who have served on submarines or on classified missions during a period of war.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Pre-Release Briefings for Incarcerated Veterans Regarding Available Federal and State Benefits – [S.9315 \(Scarcella-Spanton\)](#) / [A.10163 \(Lavine\)](#)

This legislation directs the department of veterans' services to conduct pre-release briefings for incarcerated veterans regarding available federal and state benefits available to veterans and their families and how to apply for such benefits.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes a Veterans' Bill of Rights – [S.7708-B \(Fernandez\)](#) / [A.6559-C \(Benedetto\)](#)

This legislation amends the Veterans' Services Law by adding a new Section 29-f requiring the Department of Veterans' Services to establish, print, publish, and distribute a Veterans' Bill of

Rights describing veterans' existing rights under current law. The bill enumerates rights including the right to apply for benefits, to receive assistance from state and local veterans' service agencies, to obtain explanations of available federal and state benefits, to receive written notice on benefit approvals or denials, to be treated with dignity and respect, to appeal adverse determinations, to confidentiality as provided by law, to fair and equal treatment without regard to protected characteristics, and to request information on legal, educational, employment, housing, tax, and discharge-upgrade assistance.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Provides Disabled Veterans Free or Discounted Fitness and Aquatic Memberships at SUNY and CUNY – [S.7784-A \(Scarcella-Spanton\)](#) / [A.6001-A \(Schiavoni\)](#)

This legislation directs the State University of New York and the City University of New York each to adopt a policy requiring SUNY, CUNY, college, and community college campuses that offer fitness-and-aquatic membership programs to the general public to extend those memberships to disabled veterans on the same terms as the general public, but without any fees or charges, or at a discounted rate. The sponsor cites a successful no-cost program already operating at SUNY Suffolk County Community College and research identifying cost as the leading barrier to fitness-facility access.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Clarifies the Definition of “Period of War” for the Alternative Veterans’ Tax Exemption – [S.3194-A \(Skoufis\)](#) / [A.3450-A \(Santabarbara\)](#)

This legislation amends the Real Property Tax Law to refine the “period of war” definition used for the alternative veterans’ real property tax exemption. The bill mirrors the federal government’s position that the Persian Gulf War has not yet been formally terminated, thereby clarifying that veterans who served during that period, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan, are covered by the exemption.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Accessible Parking Plates for 100% Disabled Veterans – [S.8571-A \(Ryan\)](#) / [A.9351-A \(Magnarelli\)](#)

This legislation amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law to add veterans rated 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a category eligible for a license plate bearing the Universal Symbol of Access. The change recognizes the VA disability rating as sufficient proof of eligibility, eliminating duplicative DMV certification by a physician.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Local Fee Waivers for Disabled Veteran Home Modifications – [S.10398-A \(Martinez\)](#) / [A.10921-A \(Stern\)](#)

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to authorize a city, town, or village to adopt a local law waiving or reducing building department fees—including permit, plan review, inspection, and reinspection fees—for improvements to the primary residence of a veteran with a service-connected disability made to accommodate that disability. Adoption is at local option, and the act takes effect December 1 following enactment.

Status: Passed Both Houses



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515 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
518-465-1473
www.NYSAC.org