### Interim

# SFY 2025 One-House Budgets County Impact Report



March 15, 2024

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy, NYSAC President Hon. Steven Neuhaus, NYSCEA President Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director

### **Table of Contents**

Introduction	3
Changes in Taxation & Finance Important to Counties	3
Other Major Changes in Taxation	
State Financial Plan	
State Spending by Functional Areas	
Agriculture	
Community Colleges & Higher Education Tuition Assistance	11
Early Childhood Development and Children with Special Needs	
Economic Development	
Education	
Elections	
Environment	
Gaming	
General Government	
Housing Assistance	
Human Services	
Judiciary and Court Related Matters	
Office of Indigent Legal Services & Legal Defense	
Medicaid & Health Care	
Mental Health	
Personnel, Labor, Civil Service & Public Pensions	
Public Health & Nursing Homes	
Public Safety	
Transportation	
Veterans	44

#### Introduction

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Governor introduced her proposed SFY 2025 State Budget. On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Senate released their rebuttal to the Governor's proposed budget. On Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly released their one-house budget recommendation.

NYSAC's interim county impact report detailed areas of the Governor's proposed budget that will impact county functions, departments, services, and programs. This report has been updated to reflect the budget priorities of the Senate and Assembly.

#### Changes in Taxation & Finance Important to Counties

#### Modernize the State Tax Code to Include the Vacation Rental Industryi

Similar to changes made several years ago to address the collection of sales tax on internet-based transactions, the Governor is proposing to modernize the state code to ensure sales tax is collected on short term rentals. This would be achieved by updating certain definitions to capture these rentals as if they are commensurate with accommodations at hotels and other places of temporary lodging for purposes of collecting sales tax.

The budget language reverses the "bungalow rule," which excluded from sales tax the rentals of furnished living units (e.g., bungalows, cabins, etc.) without typical hotel amenities (dining and housekeeping). Finally, this bill would include vacation rentals in the imposition of the \$1.50 NYC hotel unit fee.

Additionally, sales tax collection by the vacation rental marketplace provider would improve tax compliance by reducing the number of small vacation rental providers who handle sales tax payments before they are remitted to the Department. This would also help level the playing field for New York's hotel operators that compete with vacation rental marketplace providers that do not collect tax on vacation rentals in the state.

The bill does not require these platforms to collect local occupancy taxes as these are local tax laws and therefore not a state administered tax. The bill does not require platforms to share individual property listings activity but does require them to maintain appropriate information as a sales tax vendor for state sales tax administration purposes.

The state estimates the 57 counties would receive about \$6.5 million annually from this change, and New York City would generate about \$10 million in new revenue.

#### Senate Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to modernize the vacation rental industry by replacing the Executive's language with language that creates a statewide registry of short-term rentals, while allowing localities to maintain their own registries, and imposes the sales tax and hotel and motel occupancy taxes on short term rentals (S.885-B).

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly modifies the Executive proposal to subject all vacation rentals to sales taxes, including the \$1.50 per unit NYC Convention Center fee, and to repeal the "bungalow rule,"

which allows rentals of furnished units to be exempt from sales tax, by creating statewide registration and verification for vacation rentals, preventing rent-regulated housing from being operated as vacation rentals, and subjecting them to local hotel taxes. This proposal is similar to S.885-B / A.4130-A.

#### **State Sales Tax Growth Projections**

The State Financial Plan is projecting conservative sales tax growth after the close of the SFY 2024 budget as follows:

- SFY 2024 (+5.3 percent)
- SFY 2025 (+2.3 percent)
- SFY 2026 (+2.5 percent)
- SFY 2027 (+2.7 percent)
- SFY 2028 (+2.4 percent)

#### **Sales Tax**

#### Senate Changes

The Senate proposes new language (Part T) ending the sales and use tax exemption for the cost of a boat above \$230,000 (S.2557) and a new (Part U) ending the sales and use tax exemption for private aircraft (S.2556). The Senate also advances language (Part Z) to exempt the installation of residential energy storage systems from the sales and use tax (based on S.4547).

#### **Assembly Changes**

#### Exclude Certain Fire Prevention Equipment from Sales Tax in Octoberii

The Assembly includes language excluding fire extinguishers, fire alarms, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms from state sales taxes during the month of October.

#### Exclude School Supplies from Sales Tax for 15 Days prior to Labor Dayiii

The Assembly includes language to provide a sales tax exemption on school supplies with a value of \$110 or less per item for the 15 days prior to the first Monday in September (Labor Day).

#### Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Oral Care Productsiv

The Assembly includes language to exempt toothbrushes, toothpaste, tooth powders, mouthwash, dental floss, and other similar products from the state sales tax.

#### **Personal Income Tax**

The Governor's Budget Recommendation proposed no changes to current personal income tax rates.

#### **Senate Changes**

Proposes a new Part DD to increase the personal income tax rates for filers making over \$5 million but not over \$25 million from 10.3 to 10.8 percent and for filers making over \$25 million from 10.9 to 11.4 percent for Tax Years 2024 through 2027. This proposal is estimated to increase state revenues by \$1.1 billion annually.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly also proposes increases in income tax rates on high income earners that would generate about \$930 million according to their projections.

#### **Business Taxes**

#### Senate Changes

The Senate advances new language (Part II) increasing the *Corporate Franchise Tax* rate for companies with a net business income of \$5 million or above to 9 percent for Tax Years before 2027. The Senate will advocate for the use of additional revenue from the corporate franchise tax surcharge to provide significant relief to the state's Unemployment Insurance fund.

Simultaneous with that relief, the Senate supports restarting the scheduled increases to the maximum weekly benefit for unemployed workers. Maximum benefits should increase to eventually achieve half of the state median income over a reasonable period and should reach no less than 44% of average weekly wages by 2026. This proposal is estimated to increase state revenues by \$1.1 billion annually.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly also proposes an expansion of business tax surcharges estimated to generate \$1.4 billion in the coming year. This does not include billions in new fees proposed by the Assembly assessed against health insurance Managed Care Organizations.

These increases are partially offset by nearly \$1 billion in property tax rebates and \$324 nillion from a supplemental Empire State Child Credit.

#### General Support for County Governmentsvi

Total state spending on behalf of counties outside of New York City through major local aid programs is expected to total over \$7.4 billion in SFY 2025 under the Executive Budget. This includes over \$3.3 billion attributable to the state takeover of local Medicaid growth.

Traditional local impacts result in a net positive impact of \$267 million in County Fiscal Year 2025, most of which is due to significant investments that include:

- \$85 million for a new partnership program with counties on public safety communications systems;
- \$50 million for a new partnership program with counties on infrastructure grants;
- \$50 million in new resources to support antipoverty initiatives in Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo;
- \$30 million in funding for district attorney offices and GIVE jurisdictions to prevent domestic violence;
- \$3.8 million for grants to counties to improve flood resiliency (\$15 million over two years);
- \$3.7 million in the upcoming local fiscal year (\$14.7 million over two years) to provide new e-poll books and a \$3.7 million increase annually in funding for postage for boards of elections; and

• \$10 million annually for dedicated retail theft teams in district attorney offices, with a separate \$5 million annually for local law enforcement agencies to combat retail theft.

#### **Local Government Assistance**

The Executive Budget Recommendation flat-lined most local government assistance programs including AIM but did propose the elimination of the Shared Services program immediately including state matching grants. This included ending matching grants for 18 counties that submitted shared services plans in 2023 that were approved.

#### **Senate Changes**

The Senate adds \$210 million to the AIM program distributed across current AIM recipients with consideration on indexing AIM funding to inflation and reinstating AIM to New York City. The Senate also advances language to establish an AIM Redesign Task Force, similar to S.770.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly adds \$100 million to AIM.

Other actions with a positive local fiscal impact for counties include \$16.5 million to increase human services case management and wrap-around services, \$15.2 million in administrative efficiencies in the Early Intervention Program, as well as several revenue actions including repealing and replacing the cannabis potency tax and modernizing Tax Law to include the vacation rental industry (see above).

These positive impacts are partially offset by an increased TANF FFFS child welfare threshold (\$14.6 million impact) as well as a five percent in-person Early Intervention rate increase (\$2.4 million) and a four percent Early Intervention rate modification in rural counties (\$0.2 million).

#### Other Major Changes in Taxation

#### Repeal and Replace the Cannabis Potency Taxvii

The Executive Budget proposes to simplify the tax collection obligations and burden for cultivators, processors, and distributors by repealing the wholesale THC potency tax and replacing it with a wholesale excise tax of 9 percent. New York State will maintain the State retail excise tax rate of 9 percent and the local retail excise tax rate of 4 percent.

After the slow start in the adult-use cannabis market the state is projecting dramatic growth in the coming years for its share of taxes generated from adult use cannabis production and sales, as follows:

- SFY 2023 \$0
- SFY 2024 \$70 million
- SFY 2025 \$158 million (+126%)
- SFY 2026 \$245 million (+87%)
- SFY 2027 \$339 million (+38%)
- SFY 2028 \$363 million (+7%)

#### Senate Changes

The Senate modifies the Governor's proposal with language to phase in a permanent rate for the new wholesale tax over a multi-year period (S.4831-B).

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly modifies the Executive proposal to replace the potency tax with a single wholesale excise tax of 9% by lowering the wholesale rate to 7%. Under the Assembly's proposal, the state retail excise tax rate would remain at 9%, and the local retail excise tax rate would remain at 4%.

#### In Rem Tax Foreclosure

See the General Government section.

#### Close the Telecommunications Property Tax Loopholeviii

The Executive Budget includes Article VII legislation to clarify that only property "primarily or exclusively" used in the transmission of radio, television, or cable television signals is excluded from the definition of real property. This closes a loophole that some providers have used to escape paying property taxes.

The Assembly and Senate reject the Governor's proposal.

#### Establish a Statewide Worker Opportunity Tax Creditix

The Assembly includes language to provide a tax credit for employers who hire individuals from targeted groups. The credit would be equal to 100 percent of the federal credit, not to exceed \$500 per employee and the total amount of tax credits provided over a three-year period would not exceed \$30 million.

### State Financial Plan

The state financial plan has careened from a nearly \$70 billion 4-year deficit at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020, to a \$40 billion surplus peak less than two years later in March 2022. Since this peak, projected balances in the financial plan have fallen to a \$36 billion deficit in July 2023, that improved to about a \$20 billion deficit in November 2023. Fortunately, during the period of surplus, the state did build reserves to \$19 billion.

Prior to the Governor's release of the SFY 2025 budget, the recent decline in state finances was largely attributed to falling income tax receipts, the end of COVID era federal aid, and higher spending in Medicaid than anticipated. While these factors are accurate, the state has also increased permanent spending aggressively over the last several years, often relying on temporary aid to fill the gap. According to budget documents, the growth in spending of about five percent per year over the multi-year financial plan outpaces revenue growth of four percent – adding to growing fiscal gaps. <sup>x</sup>

The SFY 2025 budget is projecting a \$20.5 billion 4-year deficit in the financial plan, after a \$5.9 billion increase in spending and other cost containment actions proposed by the Governor in her SFY 2025 proposal.

The deficit picture improved slightly due to higher anticipated revenues over the next four years than projected in the mid-year update. Higher revenue accruing in SFY 2024, from the updated projections, will result in an estimated surplus of \$2.2 billion for the current budget year. Most of this surplus will be used to prepay SFY 2025 expenses, and the remainder (\$500 million) will go into state reserves. The SFY 2025 budget projects a general fund balance at the close of the year of \$44 billion, with about half of this amount being held in reserves and the remainder generally set aside for pending liabilities and cash flow. xi

The chart below highlights the changes in the state's fiscal circumstances in recent years.

Changes in State Finances Since COVID Pandemic			
State Budget Monitoring Point	Projected 4-year (Deficit)/Surplus		
April 2020 - SFY 2021 Enacted Budget	(\$69B)		
March 2022 - SFY 2023 amended Budget	\$40B		
<b>July 2023</b> - Q1 SFY 2024 Financial Plan	(\$36.4B)*		
October 2023 - Q2 Mid-year Update	(\$21.5B)*		
January 2024 - SFY 2025 Introduced Budget	(\$20.5B)*		

<sup>\*</sup> Gaps do not reflect the use of any reserves to balance operations

#### **State Spending**

State Operating Funds adjusted spending will increase from \$130.2 billion to \$136.2 billion (4.5 percent) largely driven by increases in:

- School Aid \$921 million (2.1 percent)
- Medicaid \$3 billion (10.9 percent)
- State Agency Operations \$1.9 billion (5.8 percent)
- Debt Service \$405 million (6.4%)

Offset by the prepayment of some expenses and other items.

Outside of state operating funds, Capital Projects are slated for a \$3.1 billion increase, or 20 percent. xii

The SFY 2025 Executive Budget assumes balance in the coming fiscal year (after proposed actions) with outyear gaps rising to just over \$20 billion, as follows:

• SFY 2025 - \$0;

- SFY 2026 \$5 billion;
- SFY 2027 \$5.2 billion (Assumes the federal sunset of the SALT cap, which will provide a one-time increase in state receipts by \$3 billion to \$4 billion. If the SALT cap is extended or modified the fiscal gap for SFY 2027 will increase correspondingly); and
- SFY 2028 \$9.9 billion (assumes New York's current high-earner state income tax rates will sunset as scheduled, reducing receipts in the final quarter of SFY 2028 by about \$1 billion)

Per DOB, "The projected budget gaps do not reflect the use of any principal reserves to balance operations but do include the use of prior year surpluses carried forwarded into future years and the one-time use of a portion of the Reserve for Economic Uncertainties to fund additional assistance to the City of New York to alleviate fiscal pressures from asylum seekers in FY 2026." xiii

#### **Assembly & Senate Changes**

The Assembly proposes an All Funds budget of \$245.8 billion for SFY 2024-25, which is \$13.1 billion or 5.6 percent over the Executive proposal. This increase is largely attributed to \$10 billion in spending actions related to Medicaid; and commitments to School Aid, Higher Education, human services, Indigent legal representation, transportation, and various programs.

The Senate proposes significant spending increases in the State Financial Plan largely relying on increases in income taxes on the highest earners and corporations

Below is a table highlighting Assembly and Senate spending proposals compared to the Executive Budget Recommendation.

State Financial Plan Spending Comparison - FY 2025 (\$ in billions)						
	Executive	Assembly		Ser	ate	
	SFY 2025	SFY 2025	% Change	SFY 2025	% Change	
General Fund	<b>\$107.6</b>	\$110.3	2.5%	\$116.3	8.1%	
State Operating Fund	\$129.3	\$139.3	7.7%	\$137.9	6.7%	
All Funds	\$232.8	\$245.8	5.6%	\$246.2	5.8%	

#### Smart Schools Bond Act of 2024xiv

The Assembly proposes a \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act to fund capital projects to provide learning technology equipment or facilities, enhanced internet connectivity for schools and communities, educational facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs, and install or construct zero-emission school bus charging infrastructure. The bond act would be voted on during the November 2024 general election.

### State Spending by Functional Areas

Below is an interim analysis of how the SFY 2025 Executive Budget impacts county programs, services, and operations, and includes comparisons with the one house bills enacted during the

week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. NYSAC will continue to monitor negotiations as the Governor and State Legislature work toward a final spending plan.

#### Agriculture

#### **Local Agriculture Assistance**xv

The Executive Budget includes \$48.9 million for local agriculture assistance, a decrease from the \$56.5 million included in the SFY 2024 Enacted Budget. The Budget also includes \$20 million for non-point source pollution control, farmland preservation, and other agricultural programs, consistent with past years.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate adds \$13.1 million, for a total of \$62 million, and the Assembly adds \$12.4 million, for a total of \$61.3 million.

#### **Expanding Dairy Processing Capacity**xvi

The Governor proposes to commit \$34 million over two years to expand dairy processing capacity. This includes a \$24 million appropriation in the Executive Budget for the dairy farm modernization grant program, which provides grants for on-farm milk storage technologies and processing infrastructure to mitigate transportation issues, improve dairy supply chain efficiency, and avoid raw milk dumping related to emergency events.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate and Assembly accept the Executive's proposal.

#### Farm to School Program<sup>xvii</sup>

The Senate advances new language to expand the eligibility of the Farm to School Reimbursement program (S.423) and ensure the program is compatible with schools attaining reimbursement through the Community Eligibility Provision (S.8378).

#### Support for Cannabis Farmersxviii

The Senate advances language to assist cannabis farmers whose crops were impacted by the delayed implementation of the cannabis program and includes appropriations to support the new programs. The legislation would establish a rescue and relief fund (\$40 million), loan program (\$60 million), and refundable tax credit for cannabis farmers (\$28 million).

The Assembly includes \$80 million to establish the cannabis rescue and relief fund, which would make available resources to cultivators and processors that have experienced a substantial financial hardship, with priority given to cultivators.

#### Cider Salesxix

The Senate advances language to allow for the direct intrastate and interstate shipment of cider (S.1999).

#### Community Colleges & Higher Education Tuition Assistance

#### Maintaining the Community College Funding Floorxx

The Executive Budget will maintain a funding floor for community colleges at 100 percent of prior year funding. Without a funding floor, community colleges would face a \$143 million (23 percent) loss in formula aid due to enrollment declines.

Total funding for community colleges will decline slightly in the budget due to one-time funding provided in SFY 2024. Overall funding for Community College operating aid is \$441 million for SFY 2025. The State Financial Plan assumes this appropriation level will continue with no increase through SFY 2028.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly proposes Article VII language that would require CUNY and SUNY to provide the Governor and Legislature with recommendations for a new community college funding formula that ensures predictable and reliable funding.xxi

#### Tuition Assistance Program (TAPxxii

The Assembly provides \$118.3 million for changes to TAP, including:

- Increasing the TAP income threshold:
  - o from \$80,000 to \$125,000 for dependent students, certain independent students, and students who qualify as an orphan, foster child or ward of the court:
  - o from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for independent married students who have no other tax dependents; and
  - o from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for single independent students who have no tax dependents.
- Raising the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1,000;
- Allowing a fifth year of TAP awards; and
- Providing Part-Time TAP to Proprietary College students.

# Early Childhood Development and Children with Special Needs Special Education Tuition Rate-Setting Reform\*xiii

Funding for preschool and school-age special education providers is determined through a ratesetting methodology administered by SED. These providers serve approximately 80,000 preschool children year-round, 50,000 school-age students during the summer, and 14,000 school-age students during the school year. As requested by SED, the Executive Budget provides an additional \$1.4 million for SED to study and design a new special education tuition rate-setting methodology in order to streamline and improve the timeliness of tuition rates for providers, bringing total available project funding to \$3.9 million. The Executive Budget also extends the deadline for SED to present its recommendations from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2027.

#### Senate Changes

The Senate does not mention this funding for rate setting methodology. However, the Senate does require interim rates to include the annual growth amount for such rates approved in the

current school year and annually thereafter for Special Act School Districts, 853 schools, and 4410 schools.

The Senate also increases tuition rates for all Special Act School Districts, 853 schools, and 4410 schools commensurate with the state aid increases (amended version of S.6516-A of 2022).

NYSAC is working to understand the fiscal implications of the Senate proposal.

#### Increase Rates in Early Interventionxxiv

The Executive Budget provides for a 5 percent rate increase for in-person services, as well as a 4 percent rate modifier for rural areas and underserved communities.

#### Assembly & Senate Changes

The Assembly provides \$7.3 million to increase, the Early Intervention (EI) reimbursement by a total of 11 percent.

The Senate also provides for an Early Intervention (EI) eimbursement rate increase of 11%.

NYSAC opposes these rate increases, not because they aren't needed, but because the state fails to include any funding to offset the additional costs borne by counties, which is estimated to be somewhere around \$40 million.

#### Modify Early Intervention Billingxxv

The Budget makes various administrative changes to align billing requirements with federal regulations resulting in savings.

The Senate and Assembly do not note these reforms as they are administrative actions.

Removal of School Psychologists for Rendering Early Intervention Services xxvi This budget provision removes the temporary exemption school psychologists currently have that allows them to practice as Early Intervention (EI) providers but would extend their authorization to provide non-EI services for certain preschool programs.

#### Senate Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to remove the temporary allowance of certified school psychologists to practice as Early Intervention (EI) providers and to extend the authorization of Non-EI services for school psychologists for certain preschool programs for an additional two years by only accepting the extension and rejecting the rest of the proposal.

#### **Economic Development**

#### Accessing \$650 Million in REDC and Other Funds xxvii

Multiple programs amounting to \$650 million to promote regional economic development and other programs have been available to local governments through a competitive application meant to bolster economic opportunities in designated regions. The Governor's SFY 2025 budget will now require that to receive priority in accessing these funds, a local community

must be certified by the NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal as a Pro-Housing Community. These programs include:

- Downtown Revitalization Initiative, administered by the Department of State;
- NY Forward, administered by the Department of State;
- Regional Council Capital Fund, administrated by Empire State Development;
- New York Main Street, administered by NYS Homes and Community Renewal;
- Market New York capital grants, administered by Empire State Development;
- Long Island Investment Fund, administered by Empire State Development;
- Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund, administered by Empire State Development; and
- Public Transportation Modernization Enhancement Program, administrated by the Department of Transportation

#### Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs)xxviii

The Executive Budget includes \$150 million in core REDC funding and \$75 million in new Excelsior tax credits. To qualify for this funding, municipalities must be certified by HCR as a Pro-Housing Community.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate advances language to establish a requirement that Regional Economic Development Council awardees certify that they maintain internship programs for young people between the ages of 18 and 24.

The Assembly proposes language that would define pro-housing funding eligibility, provide a variety of options for a municipality to be designated a Pro-Housing Community, and require an annual report on the Pro-Housing Community program.xxix

#### **Downtown Revitalization**xxx

The Executive Budget provides \$100 million for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and \$100 million for New York Forward, which is focused on the revitalization of downtowns in rural and smaller communities. To qualify for this funding, municipalities must be certified by HCR as a Pro-Housing Community.

The Senate and Assembly accept this proposal.

#### Local Tourism Promotionxxxi

The Executive Budget includes \$15 million in competitive funding through the Market NY Program to support tourism marketing plans and other projects that demonstrate regional collaboration among counties to promote regional attractions. This includes \$2.45 million in matching grants for local tourism promotion, which is a decrease from the \$3.45 million in last year's enacted budget.

The Senate and Assembly restore funding for local tourism promotion grants to \$3.45 million.

#### Empire Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiativexxxiii

The Executive Budget includes \$250 million in appropriations for the Empire AI initiative, which aims to position New York at the forefront of AI research and innovation.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate eliminates the Governor's appropriation and replaces it with a new \$930 million lump-sum appropriation for various programs, noting their desire to obtain adequate details and implement requisite financial guardrails and agency transparency requirements.

The Assembly includes \$250 million in funding for Launch NY AI consortium and amends the appropriation language to explicitly include SUNY and CUNY, as well as reporting requirements and other program parameters.

# One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships (ON-RAMP) Program<sup>xxxiii</sup>

The Executive Budget includes an \$80 million appropriation to launch the ON-RAMP program, which will establish four new workforce development centers in strategic, high-impact locations along the I-90 corridor, with a flagship facility in Syracuse.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate eliminates the Governor's appropriation and replaces it with a new \$930 million lump-sum appropriation for various programs, noting their desire to obtain adequate details and implement requisite financial guardrails and agency transparency requirements.

The Assembly provides \$93 million and amends the legislation establishing the program to explicitly make community colleges eligible and allow the Legislature to approve any plans submitted.

#### Restore New York Communities Program\*xxxiv

The Executive Budget includes \$50 million for the Restore New York Communities Program to support municipal efforts to demolish, deconstruct, rehabilitate, or reconstruct vacant, abandoned, condemned, or surplus properties

#### Senate Changes

The Senate modifies the proposal by adding language excluding funding from being used for demolition projects.

#### FAST NY Shovel-Ready Grant Program<sup>xxxv</sup>

The Executive Budget includes \$100 million to prepare and develop sites to jumpstart New York's shovel-readiness and increase its attractiveness to large employers.

#### Senate Changes

The Senate replaces it with a new \$930 million lump-sum appropriation for various programs, noting their desire to obtain adequate details and implement requisite financial guardrails and agency transparency requirements.

#### Increase Transparency for Local Economic Development Entitiesxxxvi

The Senate advances language to increase transparency and accountability for local economic development entities by:

- Creating a searchable database of subsidy and economic development benefits provided by local authorities (S.1737).
- Extending the applicability of Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Laws to public or quasi-public not-for-profit corporations (S.2727A).
- Authorizing county comptrollers to examine Industrial Development Agencies and local development corporations (S.2297).
- Granting the Authorities Budget Office additional enforcement powers to prevent unauthorized activity and willful submission of false financial reports (S.6746).

#### Economic and Workforce Development Reportingxxxvii

The Assembly advances legislation to require comprehensive annual reporting for the state's economic development programs, including the direct and indirect return on the state's investment and overall economic impact of such awards.

#### Education

The Executive Budget Recommendation proposed a minor increase in school aid of about \$800 million, but the net increase also includes changes to the current hold harmless aid provisions for school districts that experience a decline in student census causing many school districts to receive a cut in that portion of their state aid.

#### **Senate Changes**

Adds \$1.2 billion in new school aid for a total of \$46.1 billion for the State Education Department with school aid changes as follows:

- Restores \$65 million in Legislative adds
- \$747 million for school aid, providing a minimum 3 percent increase for all school districts
- \$150 million for universal pre-K
- \$125 million for universal school meals
- \$105 million for community school funding formula, and
- \$110 million in other various additions

#### **Assembly Changes**

Adds \$5.1 billion above the Governor's recommendation for a total of \$50.9 billion for the State Education Department. Major school aid changes include:

• \$1.1 billion above the Governor's request and restores the Foundation Aid Hold Harmless Provision, return the inflation factor to a one-year calculation and provides a three percent minimum increase to Foundation Aid

- \$125 million for universal pre-K
- \$120 million for universal school meals, and
- \$2 billion Smart School Bond Act, among other items

#### **Elections**

#### Local BOE State Aid for Pre-Paid Return Postage Envelopesxxxviii

The Executive Budget includes \$7.7 million for local BOE's to receive reimbursement of costs related to providing pre-paid return postage and outgoing postage on absentee ballots.

#### E-Poll Book State Aidxxxix

The Executive Budget includes \$14.7 million for local BOE's to procure new electronic poll books.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate adds \$10 million for local Boards of Elections for staff, training, and informational campaigns.

The Assembly provides \$10 million for local Boards of Elections for increased costs related to a Presidential election year.

#### **Environment**

#### Clean Water Infrastructurexl

The Executive Budget provides an additional \$250 million in clean water infrastructure funding, bringing the State's total investment to \$5.25 billion since 2017. Previous state budgets have allocated \$500 million annually for clean water infrastructure.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate and Assembly both restore funding to \$500 million.

The Senate provides \$100 million in additional funding for the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program and \$12.5 million for the Harmful Algal Bloom Grant Program. The Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program would fund replacement and rehabilitation of local public drinking water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer system, similar to S.4350-A.

The Assembly rejects the Governor's lump-sum appropriation and allocates the funding as follows:

- \$220 million for the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and
- \$30 million for Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant program;
- \$100 million for replacement of lead drinking water service lines;
- \$70 million for water quality improvement projects, including \$12.5 million for projects to combat harmful algal blooms and \$10 million for the proper management of road salt;

- \$50 million for projects to protect the New York City watershed; and
- \$30 million for septic systems and cesspools.

#### Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)xli

The Executive Budget includes \$400 million for the EPF to support projects that work to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve agricultural resources, protect water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate and Assembly both maintain funding for the EPR and reject the Executive's proposal to include \$25 million in miscellaneous funding.

Additionally, the Senate advances language to direct revenue from penalties for environmental violations currently deposited in the general fund to a new environmental enforcement account, and to increase penalties for environmental violations by 50%, resulting in increased revenue for the Environmental Protection Fund and for enforcement of environmental laws, similar to S.7086.

#### Tree Plantingxlii

The Executive Budget commits \$47 million to the planting of 25 million trees by 2033. This includes capital investments in the Saratoga Tree Nursery and multi-year annual grants to municipalities to plant trees in support of resilient reforestation and urban forests.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate increases this appropriation to \$50 million.

The Assembly decreases it to \$46 million.

#### New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS)xliii

The Executive Budget includes \$150 million in funding for grant programs to enhance and expand municipal swimming opportunities across the state. This includes \$60 million to build 10 new swimming pools in underserved communities, \$60 million to develop and install floating pools in natural waterways, and \$30 million for pop-up swimming pools that can be deployed to communities that would otherwise not have access to outdoor pools.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate expands the allowance purposes of the program to provide funding for natural swimming areas. The Assembly modifies the appropriation to ensure that not less than \$60 million is for grants to municipalities for pools in underserved communities.

#### **Energy Affordability Guarantee**xliv

The Executive Budget includes \$50 million for NYSERDA's EmPower+ Program. This includes funding for the energy affordability guarantee, which will ensure customers who fully electrify their homes do not spend more than 6% of their income on electricity.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly modifies the appropriation language to establish program parameters.xlv The Assembly also restores \$200 million for the Energy Affordability Program to ensure that enrollment in the program can continue to grow and to reduce costs for ratepayers.

#### Extend the Build-Ready Programxlvi

The Budget extends NYSERDA's Build-Ready Program, which identifies abandoned or underutilized sites in New York State that may be suitable for development as large-scale renewable energy projects, for six years until 2030.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Assembly modifies the Governor's proposal by restricting the use of agricultural land and prioritizing dormant electric generation sites. The Senate also modifies the proposal by extending the program until 2027 and adding language to preserve viable agricultural land (S.1416).

# Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act<sup>xlvii</sup>

The Executive Budget includes the RAPID Act, which would create a one-stop shop for the environmental review and permitting of major renewable energy generation and electric transmission facilities within the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES). Under the legislation, ORES is relocated from DOS to DPS and required to establish comprehensive regulations and uniform permit terms and conditions for major electric transmission facilities.

If enacted, developers would be required to submit proof of consultation with the municipality where the project is proposed to be located prior to submitting an application to ORES. The municipality—with support from the applicant's application fee—would be required to indicate to ORES whether the project complies with applicable local laws and regulations concerning the environment or public health and safety. ORES could elect not to apply local laws or ordinances that are unreasonably burdensome in the view of the CLCPA targets, the environmental benefits, or the public need for the proposed project. If a permit is granted, the permittee would be required to provide a host community benefit or other such project as determined by ORES or as agreed to between the applicant and host community.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate amends the Governor's proposal by adding language on additional reporting and oversight, mitigation of negative impact on prime agricultural land and other protected areas, and to include stand-alone commercial scale battery storage siting. The Senate also adds a new

requirement for regional public hearings to be held on any new uniform standards and conditions to solicit input from local governments and the public.

Amendments proposed by the Senate to protect agricultural land include new requirements for ORES to give preference to sites for solar development that minimize disturbance to local ecosystems (e.g. brownfields, landfills, parking lots, and rooftops) and ensure that solar development will not greatly hinder the amount of farmland within the region/state or be a potential threat to New York's food security. To this end, their proposal requires applicants to:

- 1. submit a report detailing the impacts of the proposed project to agricultural lands and prime soils;
- 2. submit a cumulative impact study as to how the use of farmland for solar siting will impact the region's food economy and farmland protection plan;
- 3. ensure that a critical mass of farmland within the region is not threatened; and
- 4. in the event that a facility is sited on prime soils or farmlands, provide a decommissioning plan that ensures soils will be capable of agricultural production and pay a farmland conservation fee.

The Assembly modifies the Governor's proposal to clarify and further differentiate between transmission and renewable generation and increase transparency and municipal involvement. This includes creating a new requirement for applicants to meet with the host municipalities' chief executive officers before submitting a permit application and provide presentation materials and transcripts to ORES as part of their application.

#### Affordable Gas Transition Actxlviii

The Executive Budget includes legislation to eliminate provisions of law that restrict PSC from ensuring utilities meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)'s greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction requirements. This includes eliminating the "100-foot" rule, which requires natural gas companies to extend gas service to new customers and to charge the costs to all ratepayers for the first 100 feet of infrastructure between a natural gas main and a building proposed to be served by natural gas.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate rejects the Governor's proposal and replaces it with the New York Home Energy Affordable Transition (NY HEAT) Act (S.2016-B). The Assembly also rejects the Governor's proposal but is exploring the removal of the 100-foot rule.

# **Increase the Maximum Grant Award for the Climate Smart Communities Program**<sup>xlix</sup>

State assistance payments under the Climate Smart Communities program are currently capped at 50% or \$2 million. The Executive Budget includes legislation to authorize DEC to provide up to 80% or \$2 million in grants to municipalities that meet the criteria for financial hardship or for being a disadvantaged community.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly amends the proposal to stipulate that "financial hardship" include, at a minimum, low resident income, high unemployment, high commercial vacancy, and depressed property values.

#### Expands DASNY's Authority to Provide Services to Municipalities<sup>1</sup>

The Executive Budget authorizes DASNY to provide its planning, design, procurement, and construction management services to state agencies, counties, and municipalities receiving grants or loans under the following programs: New York State Environmental Bond Act of 2022; American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and NY Forward.

The Senate and Assembly reject this proposal.

#### Safety Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteriesli

The Executive Budget establishes safety standards for the sale of lithium-ion batteries, prohibits the sale of uncertified batteries, and establishes fines for violations.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate rejects this proposal, as S.154-E addresses this issue. The Assembly also rejects this proposal.

#### Clean Air Compliance and Pollution Reduction<sup>lii</sup>

The Executive Budget amends the fee structure for DEC's State Air Quality Program to provide sufficient funds to cover DEC's pollution control activities.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive's proposal by omitting the fee increases on air facility registrations in consideration of the cost impacts on small businesses and by focusing DEC's rulemaking authority expansion on new air pollution fee programs to address severe nonattainment zones in the New York Metropolitain Area.

The Assembly modifies the Executive's proposal to ensure that the biggest emitters pay the highest fees and reject blanket department authority to establish new fees.

#### Office of Flood Controllii

The Senate adds \$600,000 to establish a new Office of Flood Control within DEC, similar to S.1413.

#### Climate Change Cost Recovery Program<sup>liv</sup>

The Senate advances language to establish a climate change cost recovery program to require fossil fuel companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to remit payments to the State based on their contributions. Proceeds would be used for climate change adaptation expenditures, similar to S.1219-A.

#### Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program<sup>lv</sup>

The Senate advances language to require DEC to establish a harmful algal bloom monitoring program; promulgate regulations for harmful algal bloom monitoring, prevention, and mitigation; and establish a grant program to fund projects to combat harmful algal blooms, similar to S.8356.

#### Private Water Utility Audits<sup>lvi</sup>

The Senate advances new language to require PSC and DEC to conduct regular audits of regulated private water utilities (S.1791).

#### Sales Tax Exemption for Energy Storage Systems<sup>lvii</sup>

The Assembly includes language to provide a sales tax exemption for the purchase and installation of residential and commercial energy storage systems used to provide heating, cooling, hot water, and electricity.

#### Municipal Stormwater Grant Program<sup>lviii</sup>

The Assembly modifies the Governor's proposal to provide \$30.6 million in State Operations funding for costs associated with the administration of the Environmental Bond Act by including appropriation language for the implementation of the municipal stormwater grant program.

#### Municipal Park Fundinglix

The Assembly provides \$100 million for grants for municipal parks, including \$50 million for projects in underserved communities.

#### Gaming

#### **Commercial Gaming Payment Reduction Offsets (CGPR)**

The Executive Budget proposal maintains the CGPR at \$17 million, the same appropriation as the SFY 24 Enacted Budget.

#### **VLT & Other Host Community Aid**

Aid to localities with video lottery terminals is funded at \$10.5 million, a slight increase from \$9.3 million appropriated in the prior year. State aid to Madison County for hosting a Native American gaming facility is level funded.

#### **Commercial and Tribal Compacts**

Total commercial gaming revenues for local aid are level funded at \$62 million. Tribal compact gaming revenues have increased slightly from \$175 million to \$200 million. The increase in appropriation does not guarantee an increased distribution. These funding levels often include additional room if funds become available. Currently the Seneca compact is up for renewal and renegotiation, while a portion of payments from the Akwesasne Mohawk compact have been withheld.

#### General Government

#### Expand and Improve the Local Government Efficiency Grant Programlx

The Local Government Efficiency Program provides technical assistance and grants for intermunicipal projects targeting shared opportunities, cost savings, and delivery of efficient, quality services. The Executive Budget increases the number of awards possible each year and the maximum award amounts.

Currently, planning grants may be a maximum of \$12,500 per municipality and \$100,000 total per grant. Beginning in FY 2025, the new maximum would be \$20,000 per municipality and \$120,000 total per grant. Implementation grant maximums would increase from \$200,000 per municipality and \$1 million total per grant to \$250,000 per municipality and \$1.25 million total per grant. Total annual funding to support planning and efficiency grants will double from \$4 million to \$8 million.

#### Warren County Contribution to CDTAlxi

The Executive Budget allows the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) to receive State assistance for transit services in Warren County, which requires a local match component.

This proposal would add Warren County to the list of counties required to contribute to CDTA. The local match percentage (2.21%) is based on services provided by Greater Glens Falls Transit in the current fiscal year.

#### Extend Videoconference Participation in Public Meetings lxii

The Executive Budget would extend for two years authorization for public bodies to conduct public meetings with some members and the public joining by videoconference.

The Executive Budget would remove the current sunset of July 1, 2024, and extend for an additional two years the current law authorizing public bodies to hold public meetings at which some members may join by videoconference from locations not accessible to the public in extraordinary circumstances, and for the public to view and, where applicable, participate in such meetings by videoconference.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Assembly accepts the Governor's proposal to extend the authorization for public bodies to conduct meetings remotely until July 1, 2026. The Senate modifies the Governor's proposal by including language to lower the in-person requirements for all advisory boards.

#### Reforming the In-Rem Tax Foreclosure Process<sup>lxiii</sup>

The Executive Budget reforms the State's property tax enforcement laws to bring them into compliance with a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, Tyler v. Hennepin County, Minnesota, 598 U.S. 631 (2023), by providing that when tax-delinquent property is sold, any excess proceeds be returned to the former owner or owners, and where appropriate, to lienors.

This bill would require any surplus resulting from tax foreclosure sales to be distributed to the former owners and lienors to whom the surplus rightfully belongs. Local governments would

still be made whole for the taxes they are owed, as well as interest and related expenses. Any third parties who have liens on the property would also be paid in the same order and to the same extent as they would in a mortgage foreclosure action, with any remaining proceeds from the sale then being returned to the former property owner.

The bill would take effect immediately. Tax districts would have six months from the effective date of the act to pay over any surplus attributable to sales of tax-foreclosed property that occurred between May 25, 2023, and the effective date of the act. For sales prior to May 25, 2023, the tax district would only be liable to pay surplus where an Article 78 proceeding to compel the payment of the surplus had been commenced within four months of the sale.

NYSAC worked closely with the executive throughout the summer and fall to more clearly define this process. A sincere thank you is owed to representatives from our counties who have participated in hundreds of hours of phone calls and meetings as well as drafting legislation.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Assembly rejects this proposal.

The Senate modifies the Governor's proposal as follows:

- Requires expanded exemption notice provisions under § 1198 notice all taxpayers of possible exemptions they may be eligible for,
- Requires Repayment Plans under § 1199 for delinquencies exceeding \$500 but less than \$30,000,
- Requires pre-foreclosure settlement conferences could be done in group settings or batches, possibly even virtual, but in-person option must be offered as well,
- Adds a new § 989 on tax liens sales procedures,
- Adds a new § 1185 (Homeowner Bill of Rights) includes 10 mandatory items such as,
  - o "...real property tax lien-related foreclosures to be judicial proceedings...",
  - Exemptions cannot be removed for nonpayment of property taxes.
  - o Installment arrangements for the purpose of paying taxes and delinquent taxes,
- Adds new § 1185-a, pre-foreclosure notices direct to HOPP, counseling, payment plan options, tax contact information, notices in multiple languages, etc.,
- Adds new § 1157 Assistance to vulnerable populations (as listed) each notice sent must include information about housing counseling agencies (and more),
- Sets new penalty interest rate minimums and maximums linked to the federal prime rate, with a floor 2% and ceiling of 16%, rates are set for three years and only are adjusted if the rate moves by more than 2% up or down, -- NOTE: in a normal economy this would generally range between 3%-6%.
- Amends § 972, adding a new subdivision 6, "...all local taxing jurisdictions shall offer an option for taxpayers to enter into installment plans which shall permit collection of taxes on at least a quarterly basis."

Sunset State Matching Funds for the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) to provide a process whereby each county was mandated to develop, approve, and submit to the state a plan for new shared services that, once implemented, achieves demonstrable taxpayer savings. The Executive Budget ensures that matching fund applications for projects already implemented will be supported. After that, the ability to receive matching funds will sunset. This is expected to save New York State \$11 million FY 2025 and \$20 million annually thereafter.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies this proposal to ensure that projects implemented before March 31, 2025 remain eligible for matching funds. The Assembly also includes language that ensures State matching funds are made available for plans approved and submitted as of January 31, 2024.

#### County Partnership Grants Program<sup>lxv</sup>

The Executive Budget proposes to create a \$250 million grant program to fund shared expenses and promote collaboration between New York State and counties. Grant funding totaling \$135 million will be available to counties outside of New York City for public safety communication infrastructure upgrades and enhancements (\$85 million), however, \$10 million has been reallocated from the statewide public safety communications account, where the Governor reduced a \$20 million allocation to \$10 million. The second half of the county partnership grants program includes \$50 million for site development and related costs for county infrastructure projects.

#### Investments in Cybersecurity<sup>lxvi</sup>

The Executive Budget adds \$32.9 million in funding to address the state's Cyber Risk Remediation Program, which is being carried out by the Office of Information Technology Services, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the State Police. This year's funding proposal will support the continued build-out of the New York Security Operations Center (NYSOC), expanding shared service cyber efforts to the two largest municipalities within each county, and expanding state-funded cyber protection tools to include Attack Surface Management (ASM). ASM tools help identify internet-facing computers and analyze their vulnerability to being breached. The state currently funds an end-point detection and response tool for more than 50 participating counties.

#### Allow Movie Theatres to Sell Liquor lxvii

The Senate advances language to allow move theaters to be licensed to sell liquor (S.7389).

#### ConnectALL Program Amendment<sup>lxviii</sup>

The Assembly amends the ConnectALL municipal assistance program to stipulate that grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects be provided only to unserved and underserved locations.

#### **Housing Assistance**

#### Increase the Housing Supply<sup>lxix</sup>

The FY 2025 Executive Budget takes the next steps to add housing, remove barriers to development, and encourage local governments to pursue smart, sustainable growth strategies.

- Develop Housing on State Property
- Prioritize State Funding to Pro-Housing Certified Communities
- Provide NYC with Tools like 421-a Extension

#### Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites for Housing (NY RUSH) Initiative<sup>lxx</sup>

The Executive Budget includes \$250 million in capital funding for the implementation of NY RUSH, which will provide \$500 million over two years to assist state agencies in repurposing existing State sites and properties for use as housing.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate eliminates this appropriation to use the funding to support an alternative housing proposal. The Assembly modifies the Governor's proposal to require that projects be approved by the Legislature.

#### Combat Housing Discrimination<sup>lxxi</sup>

The Executive Budget would prohibit insurance companies from increasing rates or denying coverage to a policy holder due to their ownership of affordable housing.

The Senate rejects this proposal.

#### Authorize NYC to Allow for Denser Residential Development lxxii

The Executive Budget would authorize the City of New York and the New York State Urban Development Corporation to allow denser residential development, which would allow for more housing to be built.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive's proposal to remove the 12.0 Floor Area Ratio requirement from the Multiple Dwelling Law for developments in New York City subject to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing or equivalent affordability requirements and that are constructed outside of historic districts.

The Assembly rejects this proposal.

#### Authorize Tax Incentives for Affordable Housing in NYClxxiii

The Executive Budget proposes to establish the Affordable Housing from Commercial Conversion Tax Incentive Benefits program in New York City to incentivize the inclusion of affordable rental units in multiple dwellings converted from commercial, manufacturing, or other non-residential buildings.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive's proposal to require a greater number of affordable units per project and to specify the benefit amount and duration. The Assembly intentionally omits this proposal.

#### Enable NYC to Legalize Pre-Existing Basement and Cellar Dwelling Unitslxxiv

The Executive Budget includes legislation to provide the City of New York with the authority to enact a local law allowing for the conversion of inhabited and other currently existing basement or cellar dwelling units to legal dwelling units.

The Senate and Assembly reject this proposal.

#### Extend the Deadline for Vested Projects in Real Property Tax Law 421-alxxv

The Executive Budget proposes to extend the deadline to complete a vested Real Property Tax Law 421-a project in New York City, which would help to ensure the completion of thousands of units of housing that are currently at risk of not being built.

The Senate and Assembly reject this proposal.

#### New Tax Abatement for Rental Housing Construction in NYClxxvi

The Executive Budget includes legislation to create the Affordable Neighborhoods for New Yorkers Tax Incentive program to incentivize the development of housing that includes affordable units in New York City. Recipients would receive a full property tax exemption during the construction for up to three years, and homeownership developments would then receive 40 years of full exemption. Rental units would receive 25 years of full exemption after the construction period, followed by 10 more years with the exemption percentage pegged to the percentage of units in the building that are affordable units.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate rejects this proposal with an intention to address projects as part of a comprehensive housing package that includes tenant protections. The Assembly also rejects this proposal.

#### **Additional Senate Changes**

The Senate increases funding by \$1.6 billion for a variety of housing initiatives that includes adding \$345.3 million for programs and \$1.3 billion in capital as follows:

- Restores \$50 million for Land Banks and Land Trusts
- Restores \$40 million for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)
- Restores \$1 million for Senate Legislative Priorities and adds \$1 million for a total of \$2 million
- \$250 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP)

#### Capital programs:

- \$185 million for New York City based program (\$135M for NYC Housing Authority, \$50 million for Mitchell-Llama)
- \$140 million for Public Housing Authorities outside the City of New York

- \$40 million for the construction of one-to-two family small infill homes in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester (a version of S.8585-A)
- \$40 million to provide grants for owners of less than five units to bring dilapidated apartments up to code as affordable rentals throughout the State outside of New York City (a version of S.8591)
- \$40 million to offer grants to repair vacant rent-stabilized apartments in New York City, as well as Nassau, Westchester, and Rockland counties
- \$25 million for USDA 515 Rental Properties Preservation
- \$15 million for Farm Worker Housing Revolving Loan Program

#### <u>Additional Assembly Changes</u>

The Assembly includes legislation to create a Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), funded at \$250 million, for eligible individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.\(^{\text{lxxvii}}\) They also propose language to require the Commissioner of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal to develop and administer a new statewide limited equity cooperative program to provide affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and middle-income families.\(^{\text{lxxviii}}\)

#### Capital programs:

- The Assembly provides \$250 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP)
- The Assembly restores \$40 million for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)
- The Assembly restores \$25 million for the First Time Homeowner Assistance Program
- The Assembly restores \$10 million for Land Banks.

#### **Human Services**

#### Addressing The Asylum Seeker Crisis lxxix

The FY 2024 Financial Plan included \$1.9 billion to support the migrant crisis, including the cost of shelter, social services, and resettlement.

As the migrant crisis continues, the FY 2025 Executive Budget extends an additional \$2.4 billion to support efforts in New York City and elsewhere in the State to safely manage the influx with the appropriate humanitarian response.

#### Office for Children Services

#### **Senate Changes**

The Senate modifies the Executive All Funds recommendation of \$4.9 billion by adding \$297 million for a total of \$5.3 billion for a variety of programs including:

- \$44 million for targeted increases for youth programs including Youth Sports Grant Program, Child Advocacy Centers, Youth Development Program and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Fostering Youth Success Alliance;
- \$33 million for a variety of legislative adds;
- \$220 million for childcare to establishment a permanent Workforce Retention Grant program

• Increases the state match for child welfare services from 62 percent to 65 percent, but does not increase the total appropriation presented in the Governor' budget.

The Senate amends Article VII bills to:

- NEW PART FF establish differential payment rates from ten to fifteen percent for childcare providers who provide care to children experiencing homelessness, who provide care during nontraditional hours, or who provide care in circumstances deemed appropriate by the local district (amended version of S.4079).
- NEW PART DD -- amends the requirements related to the eligibility of childcare assistance to provide that applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for childcare assistance via the block grant for childcare shall be eligible for a full-time childcare slot regardless of the hours the child's caretaker is working or the reason the caretaker requires childcare (S.8152).

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly includes \$43.1 million to restore the State's child welfare reimbursement from 62 percent to 65 percent.

Adds \$220 million for over the Executive proposal, for Child Care Provider Wage Enhancements.

Restores \$28.6 million to reject the Executive proposal to eliminate the state share for Committee on Special Education placements outside of New York City.

The Assembly proposes new administrative requirement for local social services districts to

- Require local social services districts to provide child care assistance for additional or different hours than a parent or caretaker spends at work, training, or educational activity.
- Require local social services districts to establish differential payment rates for child care services at fifteen percent higher than the actual cost of care or the market rate, whichever is less, when care is provided during non-traditional hours or for children experiencing homelessness.

#### Office for Temporary Disability Assistance

#### **Senate Changes**

The Senate modifies the Executive All Funds recommendation of \$9.5 billion, and adds \$260.3 million for a total of \$9.6 billion as follows:

- Restores \$18 million, mainly for Refugee Resettlement Program and TANF for ATTAIN
- Adds \$192 million for:
  - o \$50 million in TANF for increased public assistance access and support for individuals at risk of eviction
  - \$50 million to establish the NYS SNAP Minimum-Benefits program, ensuring families receive a minimum benefit of \$50 per month
  - o \$32 million in additional support for STEPH/NYSSHP/OSAH programs to increase reimbursement rates, for a total of \$85.9 million

- \$20 million for Legal Service Representation for Evictions in New York City
- o \$12 million for the Mothers and Infants Lasting Change Allowance
- \$10 million for Legal Services NYCs Eviction Prevention and Housing Stability Program
- o \$10 million in additional support to consolidate the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), for a total of \$60.4 million
- o \$8.9 million for Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Eviction Prevention
- \$5 million in additional support for Legal Service Representation for Evictions outside NYC, for a total of \$40 million
- \$20 million for a statewide thirty percent cap on rent contributions for HIVpositive individuals, for part CC of ELFA
- \$11.5 million for an allowance for the cost of diapers for part BB of ELFA
- \$8.6 million to support legislative initiatives

#### Other Senate initiatives include:

- advancing language to require all local social services districts in New York State to provide a 30 percent rental contribution cap for all individuals that are HIV-positive and living on public assistance (S.183).
- language to increase the income threshold to 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for the one-time, six-month earned income disregard for public assistance recipients who enter a job after completing an employment training program (amended version of S.8374).
- requiring temporary housing facilities offer high speed broadband internet and WiFi access to all residents (S.4561-A).

#### **Assembly Changes**

- Adds \$145 million to establish a new Supplemental Basic Grant allowance for basic needs, for families and individuals receiving public assistance. This would include covering the local shares of Safety Net costs for this increase through County Fiscal Year 2024. lxxx
- Advances Article VII l legislation and a \$200 million appropriation to establish the
  Increasing Nutrition Support for Prenatal and Infant Residency (INSPIRE) program, to
  provide cash assistance to low-income households during the last three months of
  pregnancy and though the first years of a child's life. lxxxi
- Establishes differential payment rates for child care services provided by licensed, registered, or enrolled child care providers. lxxxii
- Provides \$250,000 for a Child Care Cost of Estimate Model Study to determine the actual cost of providing child care;

#### **Judiciary and Court Related Matters**

#### Provide a Market Rate of Interest on Court Judgments lxxxiii

The Executive Budget proposes a variable market-based interest rate on court judgments paid by public and private entities, which will provide relief for local governments and lower state taxpayer costs. The market-based interest would be the weekly average one-year constant maturity treasury yield, which is the same rate utilized by the Federal court system.

Currently, the interest rate on judgments is established at a fixed rate of as much as 9 percent annually. A prevailing market rate will help ensure that neither side in a lawsuit will be disadvantaged by an interest rate that is above or below what otherwise could be earned while cases are being adjudicated.

The Assembly rejects this proposal.

## Constitutional Amendment to Remove Maximum Number of Supreme Court Justices<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

The Executive Budget proposes to amend the New York State Constitution to remove the existing provision providing for a maximum number of supreme court justices in each judicial district.

This concurrent resolution would remove the language in Article VI, Section 6, paragraph D of the New York State Constitution limiting the maximum number of Supreme Court justices in each judicial district to one per 50,000 residents or fraction over 30,000 residents. This proposal would grant the State Legislature the authority to expand the number of Supreme Court justices in each county.

Because this proposal is seeking to change the State Constitution, it must be passed by the Legislature over two successive legislative sessions and approved in a statewide referendum. The earliest this amendment could be on the ballot would be in the General Election in 2025.

If passed, this proposal may lead to significant capital cost increases for counties, as we are required under state law to provide justice chambers and court facility improvements.

#### Judicial Protection 1

The Executive Budget proposes to protect judges and court personnel from the public disclosure of personal information. This would establish a process for New York State judges and federal judges in in the state, as well as certain court personnel and their immediate families to request the removal of their personal information from public disclosure, including but not limited access to public records with such information and/or internet postings. Recipients of such requests would be required to comply and be subject to a civil fine if they fail to do so.

"Personal information" shall include the following for an eligible individual:

(i) home address, including primary residence and secondary residences; (ii) unlisted telephone number; (iii) personal cell phone number; (iv) personal email address; (v) social security number; (vi) driver license number; (vii) license plate number; (viii) marital status and identity of any present and former spouse; (ix) identity of children under the age of twenty-six; (x) name and address of a school or day care facility attended by an immediate family member;

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ppgg Part F

(xi) bank account number; (xii) credit or debit card number; (xiii) personal identification number (PIN); (xiv) automated or electronic signature; (xv) unique biometric data; and (xvi) account passwords.

Additionally, the bill would enhance criminal liability for assaulting, stalking or harassing a judge.

#### Office of Indigent Legal Services & Legal Defense

The Executive Budget includes \$451.47 million in Local Aid appropriations for ILS Distributions and Grants, implementation of the *Hurrell-Harring* settlement, extension of *Hurrell-Harring* reforms statewide, improved quality 18-B Family Court representation, and reimbursement to counties for increased statutory assigned counsel rates that would be allocated as follows:

- *ILS Distributions and Grants:* \$81 million to finance ILS distributions and grants. This funding amount will continue current funding levels for ILS programs, but does not include the 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that ILS sought in its FY 2024-25 budget request. The Senate and Assembly accept this proposal.
- *Implementation of* Hurrell-Harring *Settlement:* \$23.97 million to finance implementation of the *Hurrell-Harring* settlement programs (counsel at arraignment, caseload relief, and quality improvement). This funding is an increase of \$160,000 above FY 2023-24 funding levels, reflecting additional costs agreed to by the *Hurrell-Harring* parties for Schuyler County. This appropriation does not include the 3 percent COLA that ILS sought in its FY 2024-25 budget request. The Senate and Assembly accept this proposal.
- Extension of Hurrell-Harring Reforms Statewide: \textsum \textsu
- Article 18-B Family Court Representation Parental Defense: \( \) \( \) \( \) million is allocated to improve the quality of representation to persons who, under County Law Article 18-B, are entitled to assigned counsel in Family Court matters. This funding is a \$10 million reduction compared to the enacted FY 2023-24 budget, and is less than the \$50 million ILS sought in its FY 2024-25 budget request. \( \) \( \) The Assembly accepts this proposal, and the Senate appropriates \$50 million for the same purpose.
- *ACP Rate Increase*: lxxxix \$92 million is allocated to reimburse 50 percent of eligible expenditures that counties and NYC incur as a result of the increased statutory rate for County Law Article 18-B assigned counsel. This funding will continue FY 2023-24 levels and is to be disbursed upon submission of a certification submitted to ILS on a quarterly basis. The Assembly accepts this proposal. The Senate appropriates \$98 million for the same purpose, with the funding appropriated from the Indigent Legal Services Fund, and introduces Article VII legislation to increase statutory the assigned counsel rate to

\$164/hour for all cases other than misdemeanors. The Aricle VII legislation also establishes an annual automatic rate adjustment and takes effect April 1, 2025.xc

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

#### Challenging Wrongful Convictions Actxci

The Senate advances language to expand the grounds under which a motion to vacate judgment may be filed (S.7548).

#### Camera in Courtroomsxcii

The Senate advances language to lift the ban on cameras in courtrooms but does not mandate that cameras be installed in every OCA, town, and village courtroom.

#### Eliminating Court Surcharges for Misdemeanors & Violationsxciii

The Senate amends § 60.35 of the Criminal Procedure Law to prohibit mandatory surcharges from being levied upon a conviction for a misdemeanor or violation. The legislation also provides courts with discretion to reduce or waive any fine or fee imposed upon a person entitled to representation under Article 18-B of the County Law or in the interest of justice. Additionally, it eliminates mandatory surcharges in several sections of the Vehicle & Traffic Law.

#### Office of Civil Representationxciv

The Assembly includes a \$10 million appropriation to establish a new Office of Civil Representation. The office would be established January 1, 2025 and provide eviction prevention legal services statewide for legal assistance in eviction proceedings, including supplementing the New York City program.

#### Loan Forgiveness Program<sup>xcv</sup>

The Assembly proposes a loan forgiveness program for district attorneys and indigent legal services attorneys, supported by a \$4 million appropriation.

#### Medicaid & Health Care

#### Medicaid

New York has long been recognized as having one of the most generous and expensive Medicaid programs in the country, in terms of covered service and eligibility. New York is first in per capita spending at nearly twice the national average, with 7.6 million covered by Medicaid – 39 percent of the state's population. When combined with other public health insurance programs such as Child Health Plus (CHP) and the Essential Plan, New York covers a greater percent of its population with publicly funded programs than any other state in the nation. xcvi

All funds spending, including local shares, for Medicaid will exceed \$100 billion in SFY 2025. State share funding will increase to \$30.9 billion (10.9 percent) which includes savings of \$1.2 billion that will need to be realized during the coming year. From SFY 2022 through the end of SFY 2025 state share funding for Medicaid will have increased by nearly 60 percent, based on updated projections by DOB.

#### **Projected State Share Medicaid Growth Trends** (\$ in Billions) **Total SFY 2021 SFY 2022 SFY 2023 SFY 2024 SFY 2025** Change **Program** \$7.5 \$19.6 \$25.3 \$22.0 \$26.3 \$27.1 DOH-Medicaid 38.1% Jan. 2023 est. 12.0% 15.1% 3.9% 3.1% \$11.3 \$19.6 \$25.3 \$27.4 **DOH-Medicaid** \$22.0 \$30.9 12.0% 15.1% 8.2% 12.8% 57.3% Jan. 2024 est.

As noted, Medicaid state share costs will grow by nearly 60 percent in the four years ending with SFY 2025 based on the introduced budget. Growth projections from last year assumed much lower trends, and the latest projections show that last year's annual growth estimates more than doubled for SFY 2024 and will quadruple for SFY 2025.

The recent federal approval of New York's New York Health Equity Reform (NYHER): Medicaid Redesign Team 1115 Waiver, requires the state to spend an additional \$1.7 billion in state share over the three years of the waiver to leverage \$6 billion in temporary federal aid to support expanded Medicaid program costs.

With the growth trends already above recent projections and federal waiver aid designed to be temporary, more pressure will be placed on state share spending when this waiver expires in a few years. The Budget Director noted in his press availability that current spending trends in Medicaid are unsustainable and more needs to be done to control costs.

The Executive Budget baseline assumes a \$735 million deficit in Medicaid for SFY 2025 as its starting point and adds new spending (through the approved federal waiver and other initiatives proposed by the Governor) of \$495 million. To reach balance for the fiscal year, the Executive budget proposes to reduce Medicaid costs by \$1.2 billion (\$400 million of these savings have yet to be identified). The cost savings measures grow to \$1.8 billion in SFY 2026, but still leaves a deficit of \$1 billion in SFY 2026.

Below is a summary chart that highlights the major items impacting Medicaid costs and savings in SFY 2025 and SFY 2026 based on estimates provided in budget materials.

### **Summary - FY 2025 Executive Budget Medicaid Scorecard**

State Share - \$ in Millions	Eff. Date	Type of Change	SFY 2025	SFY 2026
Global Cap Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit	EII. Date	Change	\$590.7	\$2,039.8
Global Cap Forecast (Surplus) / Delicit			<b>γ330.</b> /	72,033.0
Signed Legislation			\$5.6	\$25.7
S1466 - Ambulance Bill	1/1/2025	Art VII	\$2.5	\$10.0
S1196A - Biomarker Coverage	1/1/2025	Art VII	\$3.1	\$15.7
Base Revisions			(\$698.0)	\$356.0
Medicaid Enrollment Above Financial Plan Projections	1/1/2024	Admin.	\$402.0	\$356.0
Delayed Recoupment of Distressed Provider Advances	1/1/2024	Admin.	(\$1,100.0)	\$0.0
Financial Plan Support	1/1/2024	Admin.	\$1,100.0	\$0.0
Global Cap Index Update	1/1/2024	Admin.	(\$263.1)	(\$157.8)
Executive Budget Base (Surplus) / Deficit			\$735.2	\$2,263.7
Budget Actions			(\$1,230.5)	(\$1,808.7)
Hospitals - Reduce capital rate add-on		Various	(\$21.3)	(\$42.5)
<b>Nursing Homes</b> - Reduce capital add-on by 10%, VAPAP Reduction		Various	(\$103.5)	(\$103.5)
Other Long Term Care Actions - Eliminate wage parity undisclosed (\$200M)	(\$400M),	Various	(\$455.2)	(\$682.6)
<b>Managed Care Actions</b> - Remove 1% ATB Increase (\$200 MMC Quality Pool (\$60M)	OM), End	Various	(\$271.9)	(\$426.9)
Pharmacy - Reduce coverage of OTC meds (\$32M), end p prevails (\$20M)	prescriber	Various	(\$37.4)	(\$87.0)
Other Actions - Unallocated (\$200M), Increase Audit Tar (\$100M), OHIP reductions (\$25M)	rgets	Various	(\$341.2)	(\$466.2)
Total Global Cap (Surplus) / Deficit			(\$495.3)	\$455.0

1115 Waiver / State of the State Investments		<u>\$495.3</u>	<u>\$547.7</u>
<b>1115 Waiver</b> - Hospital Aid (\$550M gross), patient centered medical homes (\$74M), add'l state match (\$117M)		\$451.1	\$473.8
SOTS Additions		<u>\$44.2</u>	<u>\$73.9</u>
Increase Children's Access to Healthcare	Various	\$13.7	\$21.8
Expand Access to Primary Care	Various	\$19.9	\$38.3
Other SOTS	Various	\$2.6	\$5.8
Other Mental Health SOTS (Medicaid Impacts)	Various	\$8.0	\$8.0
TOTAL <mark>(Surplus)</mark> / Deficit		\$0.0	\$1,002.7

#### Senate Changes

The Senate reverses many of the Governor's proposed cost containment actions and adds \$5.3 billion in additional spending above the Governor's proposal including \$3.5 billion in new Medicaid spending for programs and to restore proposed cuts, and \$1.8 billion in capital funding:

- The Senate adds \$1.6 billion for Article VII Proposal, providing Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Increases, including;
  - o Three percent Across-The-Board (ATB) rate increase,
  - An additional 6.5 percent for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Providers (ALP), and Hospice services,
  - o 10 percent rate increase for Inpatient & Outpatient Hospital services, and
  - 9.5 percent rate increase for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Providers (ALP), and Hospice services.
- \$600 million for funding for Financially Distressed Hospitals
- \$753 million to support budget reductions in the Medicaid assistance program. This includes the restoration of Managed Long-Term Care and Mainstream Managed care Quality pools, Nursing Home Vital Access Provider, Health Homes, Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plans and Office of Health Insurance Programs administrative cuts
- adds \$212 million to support intentionally omitting Article VII HMH Part H, Medicaid Managed Care reforms.
- adds \$200.4 million to support intentionally omitting Article VII HMH Part G, wage parity for personal assistants in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP)
- \$1.5 billion in capital funding for a Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program
- \$300 million to support SUNY Downstate transition

The Senate also proposes to repeal the Global Medicaid Cap.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly establishes a tax on Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to generate additional revenue that could be used for investments in the Medicaid program.

- The MCO tax generates \$4 billion in receipts from Managed Care plans. This revenue is be used by the State to repay the tax obligation for each plan through their capitated rates. This repayment generates an additional \$4 billion in federal funding to then be used by the State as the non-federal share of investments in the Medicaid program (requires federal approval).
  - o The Assembly reinvests \$3.1 billion into Medicaid programs, including:
    - \$930 million to increase Medicaid rates across the board by three percent;
    - \$407 million to increase hospital rates by 7.5 percent;
    - \$500 million to create a new Hospital Directed Payment Template (DPT) program;
    - \$205 million to increase nursing home rates by 7.5 percent;
    - \$13.5 million to increase Assisted Living Program rates by 7.5 percent;
    - \$30 million for Certified Home Health Agencies;
    - \$28.5 million to alleviate State Office for the Aging (SOFA) waitlists; and
  - \$949 million to restore unallocated Medicaid reductions, as well as other reductions outlined in the Executive Budget. \$938 million in unallocated funding derived from the MCO tax would be reserved for future investments in the Medicaid program.

#### Other Medicaid initiatives include:

- The Assembly provides \$200.4 million to restore CDPAP wage parity.
- The Assembly rejects the Executive proposed unallocated long term care savings and CDPAP rate reduction with \$200 million in savings achieved by alleviating State Office for Aging waitlists.

### Mental Health

#### Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Trainingxcvii

The Executive Budget includes \$187,000 to expand CIT Training, which promotes better outcomes when law enforcement responds to individuals with acute mental health needs.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate accepts this proposal. The Assembly provides \$2 million for Crisis Intervention Teams.

#### Increase Penalties for Insurersxcviii

The Executive Budget includes legislation to increase penalties on insurers that fail to ensure equal access to mental health and substance use disorder services.

#### Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Actxcix

The Executive Budget includes legislation to prohibit social media platforms from providing an addictive feed to children younger than age 18 and require such platforms to obtain parental consent before permitting notifications to children between 12am and 6am. Additionally, platforms would be required to provide options for parents to limit their child's access to addictive social media to a length of time per day.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate rejects this proposal without prejudice and asserts that it strongly supports the need to add greater protections for minors against addictive social media platforms and intends to address this issue outside of the budget process.

The Assembly also rejects this proposal.

#### Youth Telehealth Mental Health Services Program<sup>c</sup>

The Senate advances new language to create a youth telehealth mental health services program (S.8146).

### First Responder Peer Support Programci

The Assembly includes the First Responder Peer Support Program Act. This legislation would require OMH to establish a statewide grant program to develop peer-to-peer mental health programs for first responders, including firefighters, police officers, 911 operators, emergency dispatchers, and emergency medical services personnel.

### Daniel's Law Task Force Pilot Programcii

The Assembly advances legislation to direct OMH to convene the Daniel's Law Task Force to implement mental health crisis response and diversion for mental health, alcohol use, and substance use crises. They also include \$2 million for the task force to establish one or more pilot programs to support community-led and public health responses for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

### Personnel, Labor, Civil Service & Public Pensions

#### Establish Paid Prenatal Leaveciii

The Executive Budget proposes to allow eligible pregnant employees to take up to 40 additional hours of leave for prenatal medical appointments in addition to New York's current 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave. Leave for prenatal visits could be taken in hourly increments.

#### Senate Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to change the leave provided from paid family leave to personal leave due.

#### Additional Senate & Assembly Changes

#### **Tier 6 Pension Reforms**

The Senate proposes to:

- reduce the final average salary calculation window for Tier 6 members from five to three years (S.8490)
- extend the provision to exclude overtime from Tier 6 pension contribution calculations to March 31, 2026. This provision is scheduled to sunset on March 31, 2024
- allow Tier 6 peace and court officers employed by the court system to retire after thirty years of service at age fifty-five without seeing a reduction in benefits, and to reduce the normal retirement age for this class of employees from sixty-three to sixty-two and lessen the reductions in benefits for those who retire prior to normal retirement age (S.5653 2023)
- Add \$57 million in General State Charges to cover increased state costs for the proposed Tier 6 changes.
- Increase the retiree earnings limit from \$35,000 to \$50,000.civ

The Assembly also notes its commitment to improving benefits provided under tier 6, such as those in A.9133 (Pheffer Amato) which would change the final average salary calculation for tier 6 members from the final 5 years to the final 3 years.

Other Assembly proposed pension-related changes include:

Allowing members of the Voluntary Defined Contribution Program (VDC) to terminate
their membership in such program and enroll in the New York State and Local
Employees' Retirement System or the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, and
receive credit in the retirement system for their service while a member of the VDC.cv

## Public Health & Nursing Homes

## Core Public Health Funding<sup>cvi</sup>

The Executive Budget includes \$230 million in Article Six funding for local health departments to provide core public health services, consistent with the total appropriation in last year's enacted budget. However, the Governor proposes to cut funding in several key areas, including rabies services (cut from \$1.46 million in SFY 2023-24 to \$0 in SFY 2024-25) and tobacco use prevention and control (cut from \$40.64 million to \$33.14 million).

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate adds \$14.4 million to support the restoration of non-core public health programs eliminated by the Governor.

The Assembly provides \$13 million to restore various public health programs, including restoring funding for rabies services to \$1.46 million. The Assembly also provides \$7.5 million to restore funding for the tobacco control program.

#### Opioid Settlement Fund Investments<sup>cvii</sup>

By the end of SFY 2025, over \$480 million in opioid settlement agreement payments will be deposited in the State's Opioid Settlement Fund to support addiction programing and services. The state and municipalities expect to receive more than \$2 billion through these agreements by 2040. The Executive Budget includes \$63.7 million in the Opioid Settlement Fund Account for SFY 2025, with \$17 million reserved for municipalities.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate adds \$45 million to support the Opioid Settlement Fund with appropriation language to support programs recommended by the Opioid Advisory Board. The Assembly accepts the Governor's appropriation.

#### Opioids and Overdose Preventioncviii

The Executive Budget would increase Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) data retention periods and allow enhanced data sharing to combat the opioid crisis. It also makes statutory changes necessary to update the state schedule of controlled substances and permits healthcare providers in emergency rooms to dispense up to a three-day supply of buprenorphine.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive's by accepting the provision exempting practitioners from verifying certain registries before prescribing or ordering a controlled substance for use at certain facilities; allowing disclosure of patient identifying information to certain programs within the DOH and local health departments for public health research, surveillance, or education and retaining such information for a number of years; allowing providers to initiate maintenance treatment by dispensing a certain supply of Buprenorphine in accordance with federal law while arranging a referral to an authorized maintenance program; repealing the requirement for a practitioner to submit a confidential report to DOH regarding a patient's potential drug or alcohol use; and rejecting the inclusion of several controlled substances to the State's Controlled Substances Schedule.

The Assembly rejects the Governor's proposal.

### Insulin Cost Sharing<sup>cix</sup>

The Executive Budget includes legislation to ensure that insulin drugs are not subject to a deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or any other cost sharing requirement.

#### Expand the Scope of Practice for Certain Medical Professionals<sup>cx</sup>

The Executive Budget proposes to allow licensed physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to assign and supervise medical assistants' tasks related to immunizations. It would also expand the scope of practice for dentists, allowing them to administer specified vaccines and tests for COVID-19, influenza, HPV, or others as related to a declared public health emergency.

The Senate and Assembly reject this proposal.

#### Joint Interstate Compacts for Medical Professionals exi

The Executive Budget would allow New York State to enter into two separate interstate licensure compacts for medical professionals to make New York more attractive for physicians, RNs, and LPNs and add mobility to the professions in order to attract and retain workers.

The Senate and Assembly reject this proposal.

#### End Preventable Epidemicscxii

The Executive Budget amends several sections of law to reduce the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Syphilis. This includes allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines and preventive medications and authorizing registered nurses to collect specimens for testing based on a standing order.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to end preventable epidemics by accepting the clarification of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) notice of testing requirements, requiring clinical laboratories to report to DOH both positive and negative results for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and Syphilis, allowing licensed pharmacists to dispense HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis through a non-patient specific order, allowing licensed pharmacists to administer the Monkeypox vaccine through a non-patient specific order, accepting the repeal of the criminalization of sexual activity by an individual who knowingly has a sexually transmitted infection and has sexual intercourse with another person, and advancing certain provisions found within S.3467-A regarding authorizing pharmacists to perform HIV tests.

The Assembly rejects the Executive proposal to require every physician to submit negative HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and syphilis tests to DOH; rejects the Executive proposal to allow notice of HIV tests orally, electronically, or by prominent signage; rejects the Executive proposal to allow pharmacists to dispense HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and administer mpox vaccinations; and rejects the Executive proposal to repeal misdemeanor charges related to venereal disease.

#### **Emergency Medical Services Reforms**<sup>cxiii</sup>

The Budget makes a series of investments to strengthen and stabilize the state's healthcare delivery system. These include:

- Streamlining the certificate of need (CON) process,
- Creation of five "Emergency Medical Service (EMS) zones" across the state, overseen by the newly established EMS statewide Task Force to augment the EMS workforce,

- Establishing a Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care program, to expand care in rural areas and reduce preventable emergency department visits, and
- Allowing general hospitals to provide care in a patient's home without obtaining a license as a home care agency, and allowing emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to provide non-emergent care in the community. Participating hospitals would be required to submit operating cost data to the Department of Health annually.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate rejects the Governor's proposal, and instead advances S.4020-C, to declare general ambulance services as an essential service, establish special districts for the financing and operation of general ambulance services, and provide for a statewide comprehensive emergency medical system plan.

The Assembly rejects the Governor's proposal.

#### Make the Opioid Stewardship Fund Permanent<sup>cxiv</sup>

This Executive Budget would make the Opioid Stewardship Fund permanent in the State Finance Law. The law authorizing the establishment of the Opioid Stewardship Fund is set to expire on June 30, 2024.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate proposes to make the Opioid Stewardship Fund extender permanent. The Assembly rejects the Governor's proposal.

#### Sunset the State's COVID-19 Sick Leave Lawcxv

The Executive Budget proposes to sunset the COVID-19 Sick Leave Law, which required employers to provide sick leave benefits, paid family leave, and disability benefits to employees subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation for COVID-19. The law would sunset on July 31, 2024.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to sunset the State's COVID-19 Sick Leave Law on July 31, 2024, by continuing such benefits for employees that work in facilities licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law.

The Assembly rejects the Governor's proposal.

#### Combat Unlicensed Sales of Cannabis.cxvi

The Executive Budget includes Article VII legislation to strengthen the authority of the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to expedite the closure of unlicensed businesses selling cannabis illegally. The legislation also authorizes localities to adopt their own laws to establish a process for the locality to execute closure orders, seize and destroy illicit cannabis, and to establish their own civil penalties against the illicit operators. Localities that adopt a local law or ordinance would be required to establish a local registry with all licensees in their municipality. Localities could receive penalty revenue from any legal actions they take related to unlicensed activity.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate adds language that would strengthen the ability of enforcement agencies to take actions against property owners allowing illicit cannabis stores on their property, make it easier for local governments to use the process to seek closing orders against illicit stores in courts, expand the hours administrative inspections can happen, and give localities the ability to create their own administrative cannabis enforcement local laws. They also add \$5 million to Aid to Localities for cannabis youth education programs and services.

The Assembly does not include the Executive proposal to provide the Office of Cannabis Management with new enforcement authority, noting that they will continue to explore avenues to achieve an equitable and competitive legal adult use cannabis market that protects consumers.

#### Expand Telehealth Services cxvii

The Assembly includes a proposal that would guarantee full Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services delivered by federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) regardless of the location of the professional or patient, or the modality of the service.

### **Public Safety**

#### Combat Retail Theftexviiion

The Executive Budget includes \$10 million in funding for DAs to prosecute property crime cases and \$5 million in additional state funding to build the capacity of local law enforcement efforts to combat retail theft.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate's budget consolidates the Executive's prosecutorial services grants into a \$150 million lump-sum appropriation for district attorneys to support discovery related costs, retail theft, and general prosecutorial services. They also consolidate \$40 million in state and local law enforcement grants to support extreme risk protection orders, retail theft, and other public safety programs.

Additionally, the Senate advances language to establish a retail crime task force. The task force would be authorized to support and assist localities with retail theft incidents, if requested, create a centralized information sharing system to share real-time intelligence/data on retail crime, and investigate large scale organized retail theft occurring between two or more counties. CXIX

### State Correctional Facility Closures<sup>cxx</sup>

The Executive Budget authorizes the closure of up to five state correctional facilities with 90-day notice. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's (DOCCS) incarcerated individual population continues to decline and is currently at approximately 32,500 incarcerated individuals, down from a high of approximately 72,000 in 1999.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate modifies the proposal to require a 180-day notice of closure. The Assembly rejects the Governor's proposal.

#### Raise the Agecxxi

The Executive Budget includes another new appropriation of \$250 million in SFY 25 to provide counties with funding to comply with the Raise the Age law. In addition, the budget reappropriates another \$842 million in unspent funds dating back to the SFY 18 Enacted Budget.

#### **Assembly Changes**

The Assembly modifies the Raise the Age appropriation to ensure all localities can receive state reimbursement under this program and carves out \$50 million of the total appropriated funds to be used for community based prevention, early intervention, and alternatives to detention.

#### **Expanding RTA Funding to NYC**exxii

The Senate advances language to amend the state finance law regarding access to funding for RTA programming to NYC.

#### **Restructuring Prosecutorial Services Grants for DA's**

The Senate repurposes \$150 million in various Prosecutorial Services grants for District Attorneys. The Senate consolidates these grants into one appropriation to improve the grant contract process, ensuring funding is allocated appropriately and provided in a more timely manner.

#### This includes the following:

- \$150 million for Prosecutorial Services grants for District Attorneys to support Discovery related costs, Retail Theft, and general prosecutorial services.
- Funding awards will be developed in consultation with local District Attorneys.
- The Division of Criminal Justice Services will be required to submit an annual spending report to the Legislature and public regarding the use of funding and effectiveness of these grants.

## Transportation

### Local Highways and Bridges<sup>cxxiii</sup>

The Executive Budget continues funding local highway and bridge projects. Funding for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and the Marchiselli program is maintained at the planned level of \$577.8 million. The budget provides the third year of an annual \$100 million for the local Pave Our Potholes program, \$150 million in highway aid through the PAVE NY program, and \$200 million to fund local projects from the BRIDGE NY program. The Extreme Winter Recovery and State Touring Route programs are funded at \$100 million each.

#### Senate & Assembly Changes

The Senate increases road funding by providing:

- \$160 million in additional support for the Consolidated Local Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), for a total of \$698.1 million
- \$90 million in additional support for State Touring Routes (STR), for a total of \$190 million.
- \$50 million in additional support for Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR), for a total of \$150 million.
- \$27.5 million in additional support for the Aviation Capital Grant Program, for a total of \$40 million.

The Assembly provides \$1.5 billion for local capital aid, an increase of \$250 million over the Executive proposal, including:

- \$598.1 million for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs), a restoration of \$60 million;
- \$210 million for the Pave NY program, an increase of \$60 million over the Executive proposal;
- \$150 million for Extreme Winter Recovery, an increase of \$50 million over the Executive proposal; and
- \$180 million for the State Touring Route program, an increase of \$80 million over the Executive proposal, including a restoration of \$40 million.

#### MTA Fare-Free Bus Pilot Programcxxiv

The Assembly advances legislation to direct the MTA to implement a fare-free bus pilot program in the City of New York.

### **Veterans**

### Joseph P. Dwyer Funds<sup>cxxv</sup>

The Executive Budget includes \$8.023 million for Joseph P. Dwyer funds, an increase from \$7.715 million in the SFY 24 Enacted Budget.

Joseph P. Dwyer Grant Allocations (SFY 24)		
Albany County	\$109,200	
Allegany County	\$104,000	
Broome County	\$192,400	
Cattaraugus County	\$192,400	
Cayuga County	\$104,000	
Chautauqua County	\$192,400	
Chemung County	\$104,000	
Chenango County	\$104,000	
Clinton County	\$54,600	
Columbia County	\$104,000	

Cortland County	\$104,000
Delaware County	\$104,000
Dutchess County	\$192,400
Erie County	\$192,400
Essex County	\$104,000
Fulton County	\$104,000
Genesee County	\$83,200
Greene County	\$104,000
Hamilton County	\$104,000
Herkimer County	\$104,000
Jefferson County	\$192,400
Lewis County	\$104,000
Livingston County	\$104,000
Madison County	\$104,000
Monroe County	\$192,400
Montgomery County	\$104,000
Nassau County	\$192,400
Niagara County	\$192,400
Oneida County	\$109,200
Onondaga County	\$192,400
Ontario County	\$104,000
Orange County	\$192,400
Orleans County	\$54,600
Oswego County	\$104,000
Otsego County	\$104,000
Putnam County	\$192,400
Rensselaer County	\$192,400
Rockland County	\$192,400
Saratoga County	\$192,400
Schenectady County	\$109,200
Schoharie County	\$104,000
Schuyler County	\$104,000
Seneca County	\$104,000
St. Lawrence County	\$104,000
Steuben County	\$104,000
Suffolk County	\$192,400
Sullivan County	\$192,400
Tioga County	\$104,000
Tompkins County	\$104,000
Ulster County	\$192,400
Warren and Washington Counties	\$192,400

Wayne County	\$104,000
Westchester County	\$192,400
Wyoming County	\$54,600
Yates County	\$104,000
University at Albany School of Social Welfare	\$218,400
NYC	\$416,000

# **Budget References**

```
Part K, REV Article VII
ii REV, Part Y
iii REV, Part Z
iv REV, Part AA
v REV, Part T
vi Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 96
vii Briefing Book, page 36; REV, Part L
viii REV, Part M
ix REV, Part CC
* Budget Briefing Book, p 16.
xi Budget Briefing Book, p 17.
xii Budget Briefing Book p 20.
xiii Budget Brieifing Book, p 21.
xiv ELFA, Part FF
xv Aid to Localities, Ag & Markets (11498)
xvi Briefing Book, page 61; Capital Projects, Ag & Markets (60BD2409)
xvii TED. Part UU
xviii TED, Part HHH; Aid to Localities (11498)
xix PPGG, Part EE
** Budget Briefing Book, pp. 78 & 81.
xxi ELFA, Part V
xxii ELFA, Part X
xxiii Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 55
xxiv Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 75
xxv Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 75
xxvi Part C, HMH Article VII
xxvii Governor Hochul's SOTS
xxviii Briefing Book, page 49; Capital Projects, UDC (47009)
xxix ELFA, Part II
xxx Briefing Book, page 49; Capital Projects, DOS (51275)
xxxi Briefing Book, page 49; Aid to Localities, ESD (21417)
xxxiii Briefing Book, page 49; Capital Projects (91442409)
xxxiii Briefing Book, page 49; Capital Projects, ESD (91172409)
xxxiv Briefing Book, page 49; Capital Projects, UDC (85513)
xxxv Capital Projects, UDC (91162409)
xxxvi TED, Part PP
xxxvii TED, Part PP
xxxviii Aid to Localities, Pg. 292
xxxix Capital Projects, pg. 123
xl Briefing Book, page 61; Capital Projects, DEC (25722)
xii Briefing Book, page 61; Capital Projects, DEC, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION (CCP) (30455)
xlii Briefing book, page 61; Capital Projects, DEC (24702)
xliii Briefing Book, page 61; Capital Projects, Parks
xliv Briefing Book, page 61; Aid to Localities, DPS
xlv TED, Part QQ
xlvi TED, Part M
xlvii TED. Part O
xlviii TED, Part P
```

```
xlix TED, Part S
<sup>1</sup>TED, Part U
II TED, Part GG
lii TED, Part T
liii State Ops
liv TED, Part SS
<sup>Iv</sup> TED, Part XX
lvi TED, Part CCC
Ivii REV, Part BB
Iviii State Ops, DEC
lix Capital Projects
1x Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 97 + Part W, PPGG Article VII
lxi Part E. TEDE Article VII
lxii Part KK, TEDE Article VII
lxiii Part N, REV Article VII
lxivlxiv Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 98 + Part U, PPGG Article VII
lxv Briefing Book, page 98 + Capital Projects Pg. 908 + Aid to Localities pg. 767
lxvi Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 122
Ixvii PPGG, Part DD
Ixviii PPGG, Part FF
lxix Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 86
lxx Briefing Book, page 49
<sup>lxxi</sup> TED, Part FF
Ixxii ELFA, Part Q
Ixxiii ELFA, Part R
Ixxiv ELFA, Part S
Ixxv ELFA, Part T
Ixxvi ELFA, Part U
Ixxvii ELFA, Part DD
Ixxviii ELFA, Part BB
lxxix Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 85
IXXX ELFA, Part YY
Ixxxi ELFA, Part JJ
Ixxxii ELFA, Part CC
lxxxiii Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 119 + Part R, PPGG Article VII
lxxxiv Const. Amendment Proposal 1/1
lxxxv Pg. 803, Aid to Localities
lxxxvi Pg. 802, Aid to Localities
lxxxvii Pg. 802, Aid to Localities
lxxxviii Pg. 801, Aid to Localities
lxxxix Pg. 801, Aid to Localities
xc PPGG, Part EEE
xci PPGG, Part BBB
xcii PPGG, Part CCC
xciii PPGG, Part HHH
xciv ELFA, Part LL
xcv ELFA, Part OO
xcvi Budget Briefing Book, p 18.
xcvii Briefing Book, page 104; Aid to Localities, OMH (36941)
xcviii TED, Part HH
```

xcix PPGG, Part O <sup>c</sup> HMH, Part SS ci HMH, Part LL cii HMH, Part MM ciii PPGG, Part M civ Part PP, S.8305-B cv PPGG, Part EE cvi Aid to Localities, DOH (26815), rabies (29973), tobacco (29549) cvii Briefing Book, page 106; Aid to Localities, DOH (11809) cviii Briefing Book, page 69; HMH Part U cix TED, Part EE cx HMH, Part Q cxi HMH, Part R cxii HMH, Part T cxiii Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 73 + Part V, HMH Article VII cxiv HMH, Part X cxv Part M, S.8306-B (HMH) cxvi PPGG, Part G cxvii HMH, Part JJ cxviii Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 111 cxix PPGG, Part XX cxx Part D, PPGG Article VII cxxi Page 1044, Aid to Localities cxxii Part UU, S.8306-B cxxiii Budget Briefing Book, Pg. 128 + Capital Projects Pg. 677, 678 cxxiv TED, Part OO cxxv Page 861, Aid to Localities