Legislative Update

Stephen J. Acquario, Esq.
Patrick R. Cummings, Esq.

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2025 New York State Legislative Session Summary:

The Impact on New York's Counties

A Report on Bills the Legislature Passed

October 31, 2025

Hon. Philip R. Church, NYSAC President
Hon. Jason Garnar, NYSCEA President
Stephen J. Acquario, Esq., Executive Director

Table of Contents

Executive Summary *4*

2025 Legislative Session Overview: Non-Budget Legislation *5*

Agriculture **5**

Children with Special Needs **5**

Elections **5**

Environment & Energy **5**

General Government Operations **6**

Judiciary **7**

Local Government Finance **9**

Public Employee Relations & Labor **10**

Public & Mental Health **10**

Public Safety **12**

Social Services **12**

Transportation **13**

Veterans **13**

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Executive Summary

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)'s mission is to foster excellence in county government and unite the voice of New York's county leaders. Throughout the 2025 Legislative Session, NYSAC staff—working closely with our members—engaged with the State Legislature and Governor's Office to advocate for and against a wide range of legislative and budgetary proposals.

In total, the Legislature passed 856 bills through both houses, consistent with recent years.

This report highlights selected bills that passed both the Senate and Assembly in 2025 and may directly or indirectly impact counties if enacted. Each entry includes the bill number (linked to the bill text), a summary, and the bill's current status:

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

Additionally, the State Budget—a key vehicle for advancing state and county priorities—included several wins for counties, such as funding for essential services, infrastructure, election administration, public health, and renewable energy. A full summary of the county impact of the SFY 2025-26 State Budget is available at www.nysac.org/nysbudget.

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2025 Legislative Session Overview: Non-Budget Legislation

Legislation that Passed Both Houses of the State Legislature

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

Agriculture

Clarifies Definition of Surplus Agricultural Products - S.795 (Hinchey) / A.414 (Lupardo)
This legislation clarifies the definition of surplus agricultural products, including New York grown, produced or harvested milk products in the definition of surplus agricultural products, for the purpose of including them in the Nourish New York program.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2025

Includes Cannabis in the Definition of Crops, Livestock, and Livestock Products - S.780 (Hinchey) / A.417 (Lupardo)
This legislation amends and expands the definition of crops, livestock and livestock products in the Agriculture and Markets Law to include cannabis that is grown in accordance with the cannabis law.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 2 of the Laws of 2025

Children with Special Needs

Extends Authorizations for School Psychologists Providing Early Intervention Services - S.6619 (Mayer) / A.7325 (Paulin)
This legislation extends the authorization for school psychologists to perform early intervention (EI) services for children showing signs of developmental delays or disabilities.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Elections

Allows Poll Clerks to Work Half-Day Shifts - S.1842 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.6138 (Glick)
This legislation allows poll clerks to work half-day shifts on Election Day, bringing the time commitment in line with election inspectors, who are already allowed half-day shifts.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Environment & Energy

Prohibits the Use of Wastewater from Hydrofracking on Highways - S.2706B (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.4725B (Burdick)
This legislation prohibits the application of wastewater from hydrofracking on public roads for de-icing, dust suppression, or any other use.

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Status: Committed to Rules

New York Open Water Data Act - S.1211A (May) / A.5254A (Kelles)
This legislation directs various state agencies to identify key water resource data, develop common standards for data collection and dissemination, and make such data accessible to the public.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Battery Stewardship for E-Bikes and Scooters - S.73A (Kavanagh) / A.4641A (Glick)
This legislation adds batteries for bikes, scooters, and other e-mobility devices to the Rechargeable Battery Law to ensure these batteries are handled and disposed of safely.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Standardizes Wind and Solar Assessment – S.8012 (Harckham) / A.8332 (Lasher)
This legislation requires local assessors to assess wind and solar energy systems using a discounted cash flow approach developed by the NYS Department of Tax and Finance. The legislation stipulates that host community benefit payments and decommissioning costs be treated as expenses. Federal tax credits and renewable energy credits cannot be included as revenue streams.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Repeals the 100-Foot Rule for Natural Gas Hookups - S.8417 (Krueger) / A.8888 (Simon)
This legislation repeals the "100-foot rule", which requires ratepayers to subsidize the cost of utility companies supplying natural gas to new customers within 100 feet of an existing gas line. Ending the rule does not prevent new customers from hooking up to the gas system; however, the individual requesting new natural gas service for a home or commercial building would be responsible for the cost of the hookup.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Applies Prevailing Wage to Brownfield Projects – S.5379 (Harckham) / A.4914 (Bronson)
This legislation applies prevailing wage requirements to brownfield remediation work performed under private contract where the projects costs are more than $5 million and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds. The bill includes an exemption for affordable housing projects.
Status: Passed Both Houses

General Government Operations

Modifies Municipality Website Requirements - S.783 (Skoufis) / A.3923 (Kassay)
This legislation eases the requirements for small municipalities to maintain a municipal website with a ".gov" domain name by allowing those with a population of less than 1,500 to host their official website on another municipality's ".gov" URL.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2025

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Requires Cybersecurity Incident Reporting - S.7672A (Martinez) / A.6769A (Jones)
This legislation requires municipalities and public authorities to report cybersecurity incidents and demands for random payments to the Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). It also requires state and local government employees who use technology as part of their official job duties to take an annual cybersecurity awareness training starting January 1, 2026. This training would be made available to local governments at no charge.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 177 of the Laws of 2025

Relates to FOIL Requests for Exempt Documents - S.67 (Skoufis) / A.6613 (McDonald)
This legislation provides that when part of a record is exempt from the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), agencies must still provide a redacted version of the record.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes Timeframes for Responding to FOIL Requests – S.2520-B (Skoufis) / A.3425-A (Raga)
This legislation establishes that agencies have 180 days to respond to FOIL requests made prior to 2027, 90 days for requests made in 2027, and 60 days for requests made in 2028 or beyond.
Status: Vetoed by the Governor, Veto Memo 29

Judiciary

Expands Damages for Wrongful Death Actions - S.4423 (Holyman-Sigal) / A.6063 (Lunsford)
This legislation permits surviving close family members of wrongful death victims to recover compensation for grief and anguish caused by the deceased person's death.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits Settlements Within 30 Days of an Accident – S.8185 (Salazar) / A.8706 (Walker)
This legislation prohibits any settlement or release of claims between an injured individual and an adverse party within 30 days following an accident. The bill aims to ensure that injury victims have sufficient time to seek legal or financial advice before entering into settlement agreements.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Prevents Court Denial of Class Action Suit Status Based on Involvement of Government Agencies - S.6975 (Gonzalez) / A.1550 (Solages)
This legislation prohibits courts from denying or withholding class action certification solely because a lawsuit involves governmental operations.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Creates New Judicial Districts - S.8418 (Gianaris) / A.8883 (Rivera)
This legislation expands the number of judicial districts from thirteen to fifteen and alters the composition of the fifth, seventh, and eighth judicial districts. It establishes separate judicial districts for Monroe County (seventh district), Erie County (eighth district), and Onondaga

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County (new fourteenth district). Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties are added to the fifth district. Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans, Steuben and Wyoming counties are moved to the new fifteenth district.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Raises Compensation for Temporary Interpreters - S.916 (Ryan) / A3669 (Conrad)
This legislation raises the per diem rate for temporary interpreters at town and village courts from $25 per day to $110 per day. If the compensation of the interpreter is greater than $110, the difference is to be paid by the town.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes the Right to Counsel in Certain Family Court Proceedings - S.8197 (Brisport)/A.8271 (Davila)
This legislation expands the right to assigned counsel for adults and children in certain family court proceedings, including child support, paternity, and parentage cases. The bill seeks to ensure broader access to legal representation for individuals who may not otherwise be able to afford it.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Increases Reimbursement Rate for Temporary Court Interpreters - S.916 (Ryan)/A.3669 (Conrad)
This legislation increases the minimum daily rate counties must reimburse towns and villages to temporary court interpreters from $25 to $110 per day. The bill is intended to improve access to interpreter services in local courts by updating compensation rates that have not been adjusted in decades.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Allows Inter-County Transfer to Mental Health Court - S.8312 (Hinchey) / A.7563 (McDonald)
To increase access to mental health treatment, this legislation allows criminal cases to be transferred to an adjoining county with a mental health court when the county where the case is brought does not have a mental health court within the county. Consent of the district attorneys of both counties is required.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes the Right to Counsel in Certain Family Court Proceedings – S.8197 (Brisport)/A.8271 (Davila)
This legislation expands the right to counsel in certain family court proceedings, including child support, paternity, and parentage cases.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Non-Felony Defendants Found Unfit for Trial – S.1744 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.2440-A (Simone)
This legislation requires that non-felony defendants found unfit to proceed to trial due to mental disease or defect be referred to a Single Point of Access (SPOA) for appropriate treatment services.

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Status: Passed Both Houses

Local Government Finance

Authorizes Additional Property Tax Relief for Low-Income Seniors - S.5175A (Comrie) / A.3698A (Weprin)
This legislation allows local governments to offer a real property tax exemption of up to 65% to seniors with incomes below the maximum income eligibility level set by such locality. The bill intends to provide low-income seniors with a greater level of relief than can presently be offered through the existing structure of the Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption Program.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Extends Open Auction Bond Sale Pilot Program - S.8316 (Martinez) / A.8277 (Jones)
This legislation extends the electric open auction bond sale program, which gives municipalities the ability to sell bonds in an electronic auction format, for an additional two years.
Status: Signed By the Governor, Chapter 240 of the Laws of 2025

Allows Installment Plans for Some Taxes - S.741 (Webb) / A.415 (Shimsky)
Current law mandates that, if a property owner elects to pay real property and school district taxes in installments, the statement of taxes must include the due dates for these payments without interest or penalties. This legislation is a negotiated change to the underlying chapter to ensure all taxing jurisdictions that offer installment payments are captured in the law and to reduce the administrative burden on local governments.
Status: Signed By the Governor, Chapter 73 of the Laws of 2025

Regulating Short-Term Rentals - S.820 (Hinchey) / A.5686 (Romero)
This legislation is a chapter amendment to S.885-C/A.4130-C (2024), which was enacted to regulate the short-term rental industry. It authorizes counties to create a countywide short-term rental registry (at local option) and collect occupancy taxes on short-term rental units. For more information, please visit www.nysac.org/issues/short-term-rentals.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 99 of the Laws of 2025

Extends the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption – S.8409 (Martinez)/A.8657 (Otis)
In 2022, New York State established a statewide real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers that was intended to replace local bills authorizing this exemption. This legislation extends the local bills, which were set to expire in 2025, until 2028 to allow municipalities that have not adopted a local law to replace them under RPTL § 466-a.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 244 of the Laws of 2025

Creates Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers – S.688-A (Martinez)/A.5619-A (Stern)
This legislation allows surviving spouses of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty to continue receiving preexisting property tax exemptions and

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allows municipalities to increase the exemption for surviving spouses up to 50% of the assessed value.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Expands the Redevelopment Inhibited Property Tax Exemption – S.7285 (Ryan S)/A.6770 (Griffin)
This legislation makes the Redevelopment Inhibited Property Tax Exemption available statewide to provide for the development of vacant properties into housing.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 434 of the Laws of 2025

Authorizes Property Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing Transfers - S.1718-B (Hinchey) / A.355-C (Barrett)
This legislation creates an opt-in property tax exemption for residential properties transferred by governmental entities, nonprofit housing organizations, land banks, or community land trusts to qualified low-income households (those earning up to 80% of the area median income). Local governments may adopt a local law or resolution to provide a partial exemption of 25% to 75% of the assessed value. The exemption is discontinued if the property ceases to be used as a primary residence, stops being used for residential purposes, or is transferred to someone other than qualifying heirs. The measure aims to increase homeownership affordability for low-income households by reducing the property tax burden.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 432 of the Laws of 2025

Public Employee Relations & Labor

Amends Layoff Rights for Public Employees - S.12 (Jackson) / A.779 (Pheffer-Amato)
This legislation clarifies that the layoff rights under Civil Service Law § 80 do not supersede collective bargaining agreements that provide layoff rights beyond what is authorized in § 80, effectively ensuring that the state law is the floor and not the ceiling.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 361 of the Laws of 2025

Requires Municipal Employment Posting - S.7237A (May) / A.8023 (Kassay)
This legislation requires the NYS Department of Civil Service to allow local governments to post municipal employment opportunities on the State Jobs Website.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Public & Mental Health

Allows Terminally Ill Adults to Request and Use Medical Aid in Dying - S.138 (Holyman-Sigal) / A.0136 (Paulin)
This legislation allows mentally competent, terminally ill patients to request self-administered medication for the purpose of hastening their death, provided certain conditions are met. It also provides protections and immunities to healthcare providers.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Permits Local Health Officials to Request Autopsy and Toxicology Reports - S.7818 (Baskin) / A.7411 (Jones)
This legislation allows local health officials to request copies of reports and records relating to a death in their county, including autopsy and toxicology reports. Currently, local health officials

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are not authorized to request and receive these reports, which impedes public health responses to overdose deaths.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Updates Mental Health Terminology - S.8210A (Brouk) / A.4762B (Chandler-Waterman)
This legislation requires documents used by state agencies, public authorities, and municipalities to replace the term "emotionally disturbed person" with the term "person experiencing an emotional crisis."
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 414 of the Laws of 2025

Expands Non-Medical In-Home Services - S.7077 (Cleare) / A.7907 (Seawright)
This legislation amends Elder Law to authorize counties to provide essential non-medical in-home services, non-institutional respite services, case management services, and ancillary services without a prescription or physician's order. This change aims to streamline the delivery of critical services to functionally impaired elderly individuals, enabling them to remain in their homes.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Public Notice for Hospital Closures - S.1226 (Rivera) / A.6004 (Simon)
This legislation requires public notice and public engagement when a general hospital seeks to close entirely or close a unit that provides emergency, maternity, mental health, or substance use care.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits Medicaid Prior Authorization for HIV Medication - S.5534 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.26 (Rosenthal)
This legislation prohibits Medicaid from requiring prior authorization for HIV treatment and prevention medications.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Establishes Recovery Ready Workplaces - S.3740A (Fernandez) / A.521 (Steck)
This legislation establishes the Recovery-Ready Workplace Program, which will allow employers to obtain certification as a Recovery Ready Workplace to ensure safe and healthy workplaces for those in recovery.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Coroners to Complete Mandatory Education Requirements - S.3637 (Ortt) / A.4014 (McDonald)
This legislation requires all county coroners and coroner deputies to complete a state-approved course in medical-legal investigation. The cost is the responsibility of the coroner or coroner's deputy but may be reimbursed by the county at the county's discretion.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Relates to Opioid Settlement Agreements – A.8459 (Solages) / S.6757 (Fernandez)
This legislation clarifies that the opioid settlement agreement must include settlements related to any entities involved in the prescription drug marketing, supply, and payment chain that may have contributed to the opioid epidemic through their illegal conduct.

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Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 425 of the Laws of 2025

Public Safety

Removes EMS From the Property Tax Cap - S.1515 (May) / A.2177 (Lupardo)
This legislation exempts Emergency Medical Services (EMS) expenditures from the real property tax cap to allow local governments to expand and better support local EMS services.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Directs Counties to Develop EMS Plans - S.7501-A (Mayer) / A.8086-A (Otis)
This legislation directs counties, in coordination with their municipalities and regional emergency medical services council, to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan for providing coordinated and reliable EMS within the county. Counties would be required to submit such a plan to NYSDOH and SEMSCO within six months of the bill's enactment; however, there is no requirement to implement the plan.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Allows Sheriffs Additional Hiring Discretion - S.946 (Jackson) / A.3295 (Pheffer-Amato)
This legislation empowers sheriffs and police chiefs to remove candidates who fail their psychological screening from the eligible list.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Prohibits the Prevention of Entry of Peer Support Advocates - S.1806A (Fernandez) / A.4159A (Jackson)
This legislation prohibits correctional facilities from preventing peer support advocates from entry based solely on their previous criminal history.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 449 of the Laws of 2025

Requires Comprehensive Camera Coverage in Correctional Facilities– S.8415 (Salazar) / A.8871 (Dilan)
Among other provisions, this omnibus corrections reform bill requires comprehensive camera coverage in correctional facilities and stipulates that video footage related to the death of incarcerated individuals involving correction officers be disclosed within 72 hours of incident.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Social Services

Requires the Office of Children and Family Services to Provide Luggage for Youth in Foster Care - S.3781 (Brisport) / A.5434 (Hevesi)
This legislation requires the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to provide luggage to youth in foster care.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Allows Coursework to Count as Employment Activity for Public Assistance - S.4257A (Parker) / A.4502B (Cunningham)

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This legislation allows recipients of public assistance who are subject to work requirements to pursue a college education by allowing college coursework to be credited as a work activity.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Creates Mandatory Waiting Lists for Subsidized Daycare - S.1926 (Persaud) / A.7145 (Walker)
This legislation requires all local districts to maintain waiting lists of eligible families who have applied for childcare assistance and report this data to OCFS annually beginning in October 2027. OCFS is then required to compile this information into a comprehensive report for the Governor and Legislature.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Requires Reporting on Elder Care Unmet Needs - S.6035 (Parker) / A.384 (Eichenstein)
This legislation requires area agencies on aging, including those in New York City, to collect and report to the NYS Office for the Aging the unmet need for each program or service they offer.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Transportation

Exempts Emergency Services Vehicles from Thruway Tolls - S.031 (Comrie) / A.031 (Eachus)
This legislation requires the Thruway Authority to issue emergency services permits to ambulance and fire vehicles, which would exempt them from paying tolls while engaged in an emergency operation.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Veterans

Requires Notification of County Veterans' Service Agencies Upon Veteran Return - S.5397A (Scarcella-Spanton) / A.4649A (Rajkumar)
This legislation requires the NYS Department of Veterans' Services to provide a copy of a veteran's DD-214 form to the county veterans' service agency where the veteran resides upon their release from active military, naval, air, or space service to facilitate a better connection between veterans and available services.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Expands Definition of Veteran - S.5246 (Skoufis) / A.6264 (Stern)
This legislation expands the state definition of "veteran" to include members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps and the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, entitling them to veterans' benefits.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Exemption for Service-Disabled Veterans – S.1183 (Addabbo)/A.74 (Pheffer Amato)

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This legislation authorizes local governments and school districts to provide a real property tax exemption to veterans with a 100% service-connected disability.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Authorizes Exemption for Active-Duty Combat – S.2068-A (Scarcella-Spanton)/A.6579 (Stern)
This legislation allows local governments to provide a real property tax exemption of up to 25% to certain active military service members.
Status: Passed Both Houses

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Notable Legislation that Did Not Pass Both Houses of the Legislature

Elections

Requires Elections for Certain Officials Occur on Even-Numbered Years – S.5711 (Skoufis) / A.5036 (Jacobson)
This legislation proposes a constitutional amendment requiring elections for certain county officials—including sheriffs, clerks, and district attorneys—to be held in even-numbered years. As a constitutional amendment, it must be passed by two consecutive legislatures and approved by voters in a statewide referendum.
Status: Senate Rules/Assembly Judiciary

Increases Compensation for Election Inspectors and Coordinators – S.559 (Krueger) / A.1993 (Colton)
This legislation would increase the minimum pay rate for election inspectors from $130 to $300 and increase the pay for election inspectors and poll clerks for required training from $25 to $50 per meeting.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Ways and Means

Environment

Creates EPR Program for Packaging – S.1464 (Harckham) / A.1749 (Glick)
This legislation would create an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for packaging materials, requiring producers to be financially responsible for the collection, recycling, or disposal of packaging waste. The program aims to reduce costs for local governments and increase recycling rates.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Third Reading

Establishes a Moratorium on the Sale and Use of Biosolids – A.6192-D (Kelles) / S.5759-C (Harckham)
This legislation would establish a 5-year moratorium on the sale, purchase, and use of treated sewage sludge while the state studies their potential health and environmental impacts.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Third Reading

Bans PFAS in Consumer Products – S.187-A (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.7738 (Glick)
This legislation would ban the sale of products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals," in various consumer goods, including cleaning products, cookware, rugs, and textiles.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Referred to Codes

Establishes a Mattress Collection Program – S.1463 (Kavanagh) / A.1209 (Paulin)
This legislation would establish a statewide mattress recycling and stewardship program to reduce landfill waste and promote environmentally sound disposal practices.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Referred to Codes

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General Government

Raises Retiree Earnings Cap for Public Employees – S.6956-B (Ryan C) / A.8720-A (Stirpe)
This legislation would increase the earnings cap for public retirees who return to public service from $35,000 to $50,000, enabling experienced workers to re-enter the workforce without risking their retirement benefits.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Governmental Employees

Relates to Attorney Fees in FOIL Litigation – S.1418-A (Liu) / A.950-A (Steck)
This legislation requires courts to award reasonable attorneys' fees to successful petitioners in Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) proceedings.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Governmental Operations

Requires Development of Government Transparency App and Website – S.3889 (Gonzalez) / A.569 (Epstein)
This legislation would require the creation and maintenance of a mobile application and website with information on every public meeting held by a state or local public body.
Status: Senate Rules/Assembly Governmental Operations

Mental Health

Reforms Competency Restoration Process – S.1004-A (Brouk) / A.5567-A (Simon)
This legislation would reform the process for restoring individuals to competency in the criminal justice system.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Codes

Social Services

Improves Early Intervention Service Delivery – S.1222-A (Rivera) / A.283-A (Paulin)
This legislation seeks to streamline and improve the delivery of Early Intervention (EI) services by reducing administrative burdens, improving access to services, and promoting timely reimbursements to providers. The legislation is part of a multi-year effort to strengthen the state's EI program for children with developmental delays.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Ways and Means

Expands Early Intervention Eligibility for Children with Lead Exposure – S.5538 (Baskin) / A.6537 (McMahon)
This legislation would make children with elevated blood lead levels automatically eligible for Early Intervention services.
Status: Passed Senate/Assembly Health

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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

515 Broadway

Albany, NY 12207

518-465-1473

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