2017 New York State Legislative Session Summary: The Impact on New York's Counties

An Interim Report
July 14, 2017

Hon. William E. Cherry, President
Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director
# Table of Contents

Letter from NYSAC President William E. Cherry ................................................................. 3  
2017 Legislative Session Overview ...................................................................................... 4  
Extraordinary Session Overview ....................................................................................... 4  
Highlighted State Budget Actions ...................................................................................... 6  
Non-Budget Legislative Action: Legislation that Passed Both Houses of the Legislature ....... 8  
  Constitutional Referendums ............................................................................................... 8  
  Aging ................................................................................................................................. 8  
  Agriculture ..................................................................................................................... 9  
  Economic Development & Tourism ................................................................................ 10  
  Elections ........................................................................................................................ 11  
  Energy ............................................................................................................................. 12  
  Environment .................................................................................................................. 12  
  Government Operations ................................................................................................. 13  
  Higher Education ........................................................................................................ 14  
  Judiciary ........................................................................................................................ 15  
  Labor and Workforce Training ...................................................................................... 15  
  Medicaid ........................................................................................................................ 15  
  Mental Health and Substance Abuse ............................................................................... 15  
  Preschool Special Education ....................................................................................... 16  
  Public Employee Relations ......................................................................................... 16  
  Public Health ............................................................................................................... 17  
  Public Safety ............................................................................................................... 19  
  Real Property .............................................................................................................. 21  
  Social Services ............................................................................................................. 23  
  Transportation ............................................................................................................. 24  
  Veterans ......................................................................................................................... 25  

© New York State Association of Counties
Dear County Official,

The mission of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is to represent, education, advocate for, and serve the 62 counties of New York State, including the City of New York. As part of our advocacy mission, the Association’s expert legislative staff works with the State Legislature and Governor. During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Association, together with its membership, succeeded on a number of legislative victories. Unfortunately, especially during the budget process, counties experienced a few setbacks as the State cost-shifted some of its responsibilities to local taxpayers.

In general, the 2017 State Legislative Session provided a significant impact on counties. The 2017-18 State Budget included provisions that shifted more of the costs of Foster Care to counties, expanded indigent legal defense services provided by counties, raised the age of criminal responsibility, and required counties to convene county-wide shared services panels designed to foster collaborations to reduce property taxes.

The State Budget also included new funding for counties in the form of increased transportation funding, targeted economic development aid, an expansive water quality initiative that will span several years and spend billions of dollars, and modernizing our 9-1-1 system financing options.

Outside of these budget actions, both houses of the State Legislature, comprised of the State Senate and State Assembly, also approved 602 matching pieces of legislation that have or will become law or be vetoed by Governor Andrew Cuomo before the end of 2017.

What follows is a snapshot of the bills that passed both the Senate and Assembly outside the budget process that will have a direct or indirect impact on county government operations. The bills listed below provide the bill number (with direct links to the bill text via an electronic document), a brief description of the intent of the legislation and where it is in the legislative process, including:

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

While the Legislature passed hundreds of individual bills, they are not all sent to the Governor at once. The Governor and Legislature work closely to ensure the Executive has sufficient time to review and understand each bill and then they establish a schedule for sending these bills to the Governor for his signature or veto.

If you have questions on any bill listed here (or any other bill), please contact NYSAC at (518) 465-1473.

Sincerely,

William E. Cherry,
President

© New York State Association of Counties
2017 Legislative Session Overview

Between January 1, 2017, and June 21, 2017, plus extraordinary session, the Legislature passed a total of 2,771 bills. The Senate passed 1,782 and the Assembly passed 989. Of these bills, 602 were approved by both houses, with 530 being approved in the last two weeks of the legislative session. The following report highlights key bills of importance to counties.

Extraordinary Session Overview

Regularly scheduled session ended with major legislation left undone including county home rule revenue bills, New York City home rule revenue items and mayoral control over the City’s schools. The Governor convened a narrowly focused extraordinary session to deal with New York City mayoral control of schools. The State Legislature disagreed with the Governor’s narrow approach and broadened the extraordinary session to include several other items. The final bill, A.40001 (Heastie) was signed into law as Chapter 61 of the Laws of 2017. A summary of key items in the final bill include:

- **County Home Rule Revenue Extenders (Sales, MRT, RETT, Occupancy)**
  Extends for three years the additional sales tax component for counties and cities; extends for three years (through 2020) various local occupancy, mortgage recording, and real estate transfer taxes.

- **New York City Home Rule Revenue Extenders & Legislation**
  Extends for three years, the business tax incentives for New York City and areas in Lower Manhattan; and extends for three years New York City's personal income, business and various sales tax rates.

  Extends mayoral control of the New York City School District for two years, until June 30, 2019.

  Allow certain uniformed members of public retirement systems who are subject to the provisions of Article 14 of the Retirement and Social Security Law to be eligible to file for an accidental disability benefit regardless of whether he or she is eligible for a normal service retirement benefit. The bill would also allow retirees who are receiving an accidental disability pension to continue to do so despite being disapproved from receiving a federal social security disability pension.

- **Vernon Downs Assistance**
  Modifies the distribution of funds for Vernon Downs racetrack to allow for future financial stability. Requires certain minimum staffing requirement to maintain the assistance.

- **Flood and Storm Recovery**
  Makes various changes to the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Seaway Flood Relief and Recovery Grant Program, as proposed in Legislative Bills S.6783 and A.8013-A. Specifically, the law modifies grant award amounts, eligibility criteria, and administering State Agencies and Authorities. The law also modifies the process for interagency collaborations to more closely

© New York State Association of Counties
reflect the process currently prescribed in the Executive Law. It provides a total of $58.5 million in funding from a variety of sources for grant assistance to homeowners, small businesses and others, as well as providing personal income tax relief under certain circumstances.

Increases the appropriation in the State and Municipal Facilities Program by $13.5 million and makes technical changes to the program to allow a portion of the funds appropriated to be utilized for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Seaway Flood Relief and Recovery Grant Program and to provide up to $10 million to municipalities in Monroe (storms in March 2017 – no more than $2 million); and for Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties that sustained damage caused by severe storms and flooding in July 2015 (no less than $6.8 million).

- **Adirondack Park and Catskill Park Land Bank**
  Establishes not more than 250 acres of land to be added to the Health and Safety Land Account and authorize municipalities in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, when necessary for public health or safety, to access the land account for road improvements and water well projects. This bill creates an application process for projects seeking to utilize the Health and Safety Land Account, which is subject to an amendment to the State Constitution.

- **Renames Bridges and Parks**
  - Renames the Riverbank state park as Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr. State Park;
  - Renames the National Purple Heart Hall to Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. National Purple Hart Hall;
  - Renames a portion of the State Route 300 to Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. Highway; and
  - Renames the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

**Fiscal Impact of Extraordinary Session**
The bill will preserve approximately $1.9 billion of revenue per year for counties and cities across the state. It will also preserve approximately $7.9 billion in revenues for New York City on a full fiscal-year basis, while it will also allow for a total of approximately $147 million in business tax incentives for New York City. The bill will increase pension costs to the State and to participating employers in the New York State Local Police and Fire Retirement System that would be negligible. Pension costs to the City of New York would be $8.9 million in 2018.
Highlighted State Budget Actions

9-1-1 Surcharge on Prepaid Devices
The enacted budget authorizes a public safety surcharge collection on prepaid devices. This legislation requires sellers to collect a surcharge on the sale of each prepaid wireless communications service or device sold within the state. The state is authorized to collect $.90 on each transaction. In addition, each county has the authorization to impose a $.30 local surcharge on prepaid wireless devices. All counties must act through their local legislative body to adopt a local law, ordinance or resolution. These can be effective for purchases made beginning December 1, 2017 if the locality passes a local law or resolution and provides appropriate notice to Taxation and Finance of a change in the local sales tax law.

The Heroin & Opioid Abuse Crisis
The enacted budget includes an all funds appropriation of $121 million for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. The budget also provides for $504 million in aid to localities through OASAS. Lastly, the enacted budget includes $68 million in funding for capital projects through OASAS with an additional $10 million for acquisition or property, design, construction and/or rehabilitation of facilities to expand substance abuse support and services, including heroin & opiate use and addiction disorders treatment, recovery and preventative services.

Power Generation Plant Closing Fiscal Assistance to Local Governments
Last year $30 million was appropriated to provide fiscal assistance to municipalities negatively impacted by the closing of power plants that created large revenue losses for them because of lost property taxes. The program was expanded in this budget by adding an additional $15 million in 2020 and beyond for a total of $45 million, and extends the number of years that assistance is available from 5 to 7 years.

Ride-Sharing
The Enacted Budget authorizes Transportation Network Companies (TNC) to operate across New York and creates uniform licensing standards. The Department of Motor Vehicles will have broad oversight of rideshare companies, such as Uber and Lyft, and will ensure compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations required as part of a TNC’s operational license. Counties and cities with at least 100,000 people will have the option to disallow ride-sharing in their communities. Riders will be charged a 4 percent state assessment fee on each trip, as well as a 2.5 percent surcharge to cover worker’s compensation costs for drivers. The revenue from the state assessment fee will go into the state’s general fund.

Road and Bridge Funding and Airport Grants
The enacted budget provides $438 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Program (CHIPS) and $39 million for Marchiselli funding. This level is consistent with last year’s budget. An additional $50 million is added for BRIDGE NY, which is part of the $130M appropriation under NY Works. This includes $20 million for culverts, and DOT has agreed to lower the minimum award for culverts from $100,000 to $50,000. The budget includes a one-time appropriation of $65 million to municipalities to address extreme winter conditions and repairs. This funding will be provided through the CHIPS formula. The budget provides an additional $10 million increase in funding for public and private airports throughout the state.
Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017
The enacted budget includes a variation of what the Governor initially introduced. The Act is funded at $2.5 billion and will be allocated as follows:

There are six main types of projects eligible under the Clean Water Infrastructure Act:
1) Land Acquisition Projects ($110 M)
2) Lead Service Line Replacement Grant Program ($20 M)
3) Cleanup & Abatement of Solid Waste Sites/Drinking Water Contamination ($20 M)
4) New York State Regional Water Infrastructure Projects ($10 M)
5) Water Infrastructure Emergency Financial Assistance ($10 M)
6) Septic System Replacement Fund ($75 M)

Foster Care Cuts
The enacted budget includes a $39 million funding cut in foster care reimbursement to counties ($19.3 million) and New York City achieved by changing the state matching formula rate to cover foster care costs.

Indigent Defense
The enacted budget modifies Indigent Legal Defense Services by extending the provisions of the Hurrell-Harring settlement to the 52 counties and New York City, which were not part of the legal agreement. This expansion of indigent defense service includes public defender case cap loads and a requirement for county to provide counsel coverage for first off-hour arraignments. Under this plan, counties must front the expanded indigent defense service costs, and seek reimbursement for the costs deemed necessary by the State Division of Budget. The law makes clear that in no event shall a county and City of New York be obligated to undertake any steps to implement these expanded services until funds have been appropriated by the state for such purpose.

Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility
The Enacted Budget includes legislation for Raising the Age for Criminal Responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age and requires counties and the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to establish services necessary. The new measures will be phased in over time, raising the age of juvenile delinquency from age 16- to 17-years-old beginning on October 1, 2018, and subsequently raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18-years-old on October 1, 2019.

The legislation establishes a youth part in Superior Court for “adolescent offenders” who are charges with felony offenses
- Cases in youth part will be heard by a Family Court Judge and governed by the Criminal Procedure Law
- Nonviolent felonies will be removed/transferred to Family Court unless the circumstances warrant retaining the case in the youth part
- Violent felonies can only be removed to Family Court if there was not significant injury to another person, no weapon was involved and it is not a sex offender

Reimbursement will be provided to counties and New York City for the added costs resulting from raising the age of criminal responsibility unless the most recently adopted county budget exceeded the allowable tax levy limit as prescribed in the general municipal law.
Mandated Shared Services Initiatives/Local Government Finance

The State Budget requires county leaders to create shared services panels consisting of the chief executive officer from each municipality in the county. The county wide property tax savings plan MUST contain new recurring property tax savings through elimination of duplicative services, shared services, energy and insurance purchasing cooperatives, reduction in back office overhead and or better coordination of services. These plans must be submitted to the county legislative body no later than August 1st.

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

NYSAC has identified the following pieces of legislation, categorized by issue area, that have or may have an impact on our county governments. These are bills that have passed both the State Senate and State Assembly. Some have already been signed into the Laws of 2015 and others await delivery to and consideration by Governor Cuomo. We will update the status of these measures periodically as they move through the lawmaking process.

Constitutional Referendums
Removal of taxpayer funded pensions in certain cases
S.218 (Croci) / A1749 (Buchwald)
The bill would allow voters to decide on a constitutional amendment to allow the removal of taxpayer-funded pensions from corrupt public officials.
Status: Passed both houses—Statewide Referendum in November 2017

Amends the environmental conservation law and the state finance law, in relation to the forest preserve health and safety land account and public utility improvements
A.40001 (Heastie)
Part L of this legislation includes bill language to establish an Adirondack and Catskill Parks land bank to address public health and safety concerns within the parks.
Status: Chapter 61 of the Laws of 2017 - Statewide Referendum in November 2017

Aging

Guidelines for the identification and reporting of suspected maltreatment in healthcare settings
S.6676 (Serino) / A.8258A (Lupardo)
This legislation amends the elder law, in relation to developing guidelines for identifying and reporting elder abuse in healthcare settings. The legislation directs the Office for the Aging, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Office of Children and Family Services to develop guidelines to assist healthcare providers and others in healthcare settings to identify suspected self-neglect, abuse and maltreatment of individuals aged 60 years or older. The guidelines will include common signs and symptoms, screening tools, and questions that can be used during visits for detection, training materials for distribution to health care providers and others in healthcare settings, and information regarding options for reporting suspected cases of self-neglect or abuse and maltreatment and available resources for older adult victims.
Status: Passed both houses
Coordination of aging programs
**A.6976 (Barron) / S.2847 (Parker)**
Establishes an interagency council for the purpose of coordinated planning on issues related to older adults. The council shall assess current programs and services across multiple agencies and shall consider current and projected needs.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Developing community-based aging programs
**A.7796 (Lupardo) / S.6681 (Valesky)**
Directs the office for the aging to develop materials and guidelines for the development of community-based programs to encourage the development of activities and programs that support older adults within communities.
**Status: Passed both houses**

**Agriculture**

Requires examination of rescued companion animals
**A.1839-B (Rosenthal) / S.4570-A (Tedisco)**
This bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to standardize the microchips used to retrieve lost pets. Organizations that receive a rescued, seized, captured, or impounded companion animal are now required to examine the animal within 24 hours of intake for identifying marks, tags, or microchips and make a reasonable effort to contact the owner should they discover an animal is thought to be missing or stolen.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Prohibits the use of elephants in entertainment acts
**S.2098-B (Murphy) / A.464-B (Paulin)**
This bill enacts the “Elephant Protection Act,” which is meant to protect the welfare of elephants by removing them from all circuses and entertainment performances.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Access to viable farmland land for new and beginning farmers
**S.4900 (Ritchie) / A.5060 (Magee)**
This bill requires the Commissioner of the Office of General Services to work with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to develop an inventory of state-owned real property that may be viable for farming. It is meant to recruit new farmers to replace those that are retiring, as the average age of farmers in the United States has risen to 56.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

New guidelines to encourage schools to donate food
**S.5664-B (Klein) / A.2409-B (Ortiz)**
This bill is meant to encourage school districts and colleges/universities to donate unused foods from their school meal programs to charitable organizations by authorizing the Commissioner of Education to develop voluntary guidelines for donation. This bill does not impose a mandate on schools; rather, it allows for schools to be notified of the opportunity to donate and receive information and technical assistance if they decide to do so.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**
Economic Development & Tourism

Includes employee-owned enterprises in employer skill training grant programs
S.6794 (Bailey) / A.8516 (Gjonaj)
This bill amends the Education Law to include worker cooperatives in employer skill training grant programs. These programs provide retraining and upgrading to help businesses improve technology and efficiency to meet market needs.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Extends temporary retail permits issued by the state liquor authority
A.4889 (Schimminger) / S.5138 Murphy
This bill would extend by one year the sunset for the provision in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law that allows the State Liquor Authority to issue temporary permits to certain retail applicants while they await a full review of their license applications. The extender was set to expire on October 12, 2017 and has been extended to October 12, 2018.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Expanding products sold by farm cideries
A.4972-A (Magee) / S.1078-A Valesky
This legislation amends the alcoholic beverage control law, in relation to promoting economic development by expanding products sold by farm cideries and authorizing such cideries to sell cider to other licensees for resale. The purpose of this legislation is to promote the agricultural economy of New York State by expanding, to a limited extent, the licensees and parties that a farm cidery may sell its products to and the products manufactured by other farm cideries and that produce New York State labeled cider.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Enforcement of snowmobiles
A.1584-C (Woerner) / S.4542-B (Little)
This legislation amends the parks, recreation and historic preservation law and the vehicle and traffic law. The definition of snowmobile is changed to a self-propelled vehicle equipped with a motor that was originally manufactured and designed for travel on snow and ice. In addition, this legislation increases the penalties for operating an unregistered snowmobile, failure to renew a registration, and for a violation regarding the improper display of snowmobile registration numbers. Half of one percent of the fines to be allocated for snowmobile trail development.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Senior tourism program
A.8161-A (Lupardo) / S.6694 (Funke)
This legislation amends the economic development law, in relation to developing a senior tourism program and creates the "New York Senior Tourism" program. The program will be operated with the commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the director of the Office for the Aging and the applicable local government officials developing and implementing a program that identifies senior-friendly tourism attractions in each of the state’s tourism regions. In identifying specific tourism attractions to be included in the program, consideration shall be given to attractions that can be linked to surrounding artistic, cultural, historical, and entertainment attractions or other tourism destinations.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

© New York State Association of Counties
Tastings of and selling New York state labelled beer
S.2481 (Amedore) / A.2994 (Fahy)
This legislation amends the alcoholic beverage control law, in relation to the tastings of and selling at retail for consumption on or off the premises of certain beverages. Class D distilleries will be allowed to conduct the tastings of and sale at retail for consumption on premises, this includes: New York State labelled beer manufactured by a licensed brewer or farm brewery, New York State labelled cider manufactured by a licensed brewer, farm brewery, farm winery, cider producer or farm cidery, and New York State labelled wine manufactured by a licensed winery or farm winery. This legislation will allow for cross-promotion opportunities by farm distiller licensees.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Local governments and small businesses regulations
S.5719 (Jacobs) / A.7125 (Simotas)
This legislation amends the state administrative procedure act, in relation to the time needed by small businesses and local governments to comply with new regulations. This legislation will require agencies proposing new rules that would impact small businesses and local governments to give due consideration to the practical, legal and economic or fiscal constraints that may affect the ability of these entities to implement new regulatory requirements. It also requires agencies to identify how they intend to communicate policy changes, since no such requirements will be effective if the target audience does not actually receive timely and adequate information on what is expected of them. Finally, to improve both the awareness of pending regulations and the effectiveness of the rulemaking process, the bill reiterates that an agency proposing a rule requiring an RFA must engage in targeted outreach to actively solicit input from affected entities.
Status: Passed Both Houses

Elections

Split shifts for election inspectors
S.443-A (Young) / A.6907 (Hunter)
Permits boards of elections to allow election inspectors to split shifts, and prorate their compensation accordingly. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that each board of elections is authorized to promulgate any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or before such effective date.
Status: Passed both houses

Candidate residency publishing
S.2786 (Akshar) / A.5588 (Cusick)
Removes the boards of elections requirement of publishing a candidate’s residence prior to an election. Law effective immediately upon signing.
Status: Passed both houses

Publishing websites of candidates
S.1567-A (Avella) / A.5588-A (Seawright)
Requires the state board of elections and local boards of elections to publish the campaign website addresses of certain candidates for public office. Law effective immediately upon signing.
Status: Passed both houses

© New York State Association of Counties
Energy

Bio-heating fuel tax credits
A.6954-A (Englebright) / S.5422-A (Boyle)
Relates to bio-heating fuel requirements and bio-heating fuel tax credits; requires all heating oil sold for use in any building in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties on and after July 1, 2018 be bio-heating fuel that contains at least five percent biodiesel.
Status: Passed both houses

Sustainable energy loan programs
A.7394-A (Paulin) / S.5990-A (Grifo)
Permits private funding of the sustainable energy loan program and authorizes the municipal corporation to impose requirements on disbursements therefrom.
Status: Passed both houses

Electric vehicle charging tariffs
S.3745 (Grifo) / A.288 (Paulin)
Provides that each investor owned utility must file with the Public Service Commission an electric vehicle charging tariff that allows a customer to purchase electricity solely for the purpose of recharging an electric vehicle; defines terms; makes related provisions.
Status: Passed both houses

Energy storage system deployment
S.5190 (Grifo) / A.6571 (Paulin)
Establishes the energy storage deployment program to encourage the installation of qualified energy storage systems; relates to commercially available technology that is capable of absorbing energy, storing it for a period of time, and thereafter dispatching the energy.
Status: Passed both houses

Environment

Creates the Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force
S.6754 (Valesky) / A.6716B (Stirpe)
This bill creates the Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force to identify reasonable measures that can be taken to enhance flood management and mitigation. The Task Force will develop the Upstate Flood Mitigation Grant Program, which will work alongside existing flood assistance grant programs to reduce flooding risks and protect communities from storms and floods.
Status: Passed both houses

Water testing on Long Island
A.2623 (Englebright) / S.3213 (Lavalle)
Relates to water quality testing for land clearing debris and compost facilities in Nassau and Suffolk counties.
Status: Passed both houses
Indemnification of communities along the Hudson River Valley Greenway
A.7176 (Cahill) / S.5566 (Serino)
Extends the indemnification to certain communities relating to the Hudson River Valley Greenway until December 31, 2022.
Status: Passed both houses

Liquefied natural and petroleum gas safety
S.5470 (Lanza) / A.7082 (Cusick)
Extends the moratorium on the issuance of certificates of environmental safety for the siting of facilities and certification of routes for the transportation of liquefied natural or petroleum gas.
Status: Passed both houses

Establishing a moratorium on the adoption or implementation of any local law, ordinance, rule or regulation related to charging a fee for plastic bags
S.4158 (Felder) / A.4883 (Cusick)
This new law establishes a moratorium on the adoption and/or implementation of any local law or ordinance, or any rule or regulation, by a city with a population of one million or more, related to charging a fee for carryout bags. Such moratorium would remain in effect until two hundred and seventy days after the adoption of a local law which re-authorizes, modifies or repeals New York City Local Law 63 of 2016 as amended by New York City Local Law 81 of 2016 for the charging of a fee on customers for carryout bags. The re-authorization, modification, or repeal would be required to be passed by the Council of the City of New York for the term commencing January 1, 2018 and terminating December 31, 2021, or any term commencing thereafter.
Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 7 of the Laws of 2017

Government Operations

An act to amend the public officers’ law, in relation to freedom of information requests and attorney's fees
A.2750-A (Paulin) / S.2392-A (Gallivan)
The bill amends how FOIL requests are treated by requiring the court to issue reasonable attorney's fees when an agency denies access to freedom of information requests and the petitioner has substantially prevailed and the court finds that the agency involved had no reasonable basis for denying access to the records sought.
Status: Passed both houses

Modifies the certification requirements for determining whether certain minority and women owned businesses qualify as such
A.2819 (Bichotte) / S.3018 (Ritchie)
Eliminates the requirement that certain minority and women-owned business enterprise owners have a personal net worth of less than three million five hundred thousand dollars in order to obtain certification.
Status: Passed both houses

Relates to the qualifications for holding the office of assistant district attorney in Sullivan County
A.5670 (Gunther) / S.4153 (Bonacic)
The bill authorizes Assistant District Attorneys employed by Sullivan County (other than the First Assistant District Attorney or Chief Assistant District Attorney) to reside within Sullivan County or an adjoining county within the State of New York.

**Status: Passed both houses**

**Exempts from the sales and compensating use tax beverage tastings for wine, beer, cider, and liquor**

_A.6954-A (Lupardo) / S.3387-A (Gallivan)_

This bill amends the tax law, in relation to exemptions from the sales and compensating use tax for tastings held by a licensed brewery, farm brewery, cider producer, farm cidery, distillery or farm distillery in accordance with the alcoholic beverage control law

**Status: Passed both houses**

**Authorizes the sale and possession of sparkling devices outside of cities with a population of one million or more**

_S.724-A (O'Mara) / A.2290-C (Morelle)_

The bill modifies the process for allowing the sale of sparklers from a county “opt in” to a county “opt out”. Effective for the 2017 New Years’ Day timeframe and thereafter, it provides that the sale of sparkling devices is allowed outside NYC, unless a county opts out (or any city within Orange County) of allowing the sale of these products.

**Status: Passed both houses**

**State land transfer to Greene County**

_S.6070 (Amedore) / A.8214 (Lopez)_

Allows Greene County to use certain lands conveyed to it by the State for a county correctional facility, also to be used for an emergency call center, sheriff administration and if conditions allow, a solar field for the benefit of these facilities.

**Status: Passed both houses**

**Allows for a town court to serve the towns of Erin and Chemung**

_S.6770 (O'Mara)/A.3022 (Friend)_

This bill permits the town boards of the towns of Erin and Chemung in Chemung County to establish a single town court. Because the Erin and Chemung court buildings are very close to each other, consolidating these courts can save taxpayer dollars.

**Status: Passed both houses**

**Higher Education**

**Ensuring investment in SUNY/CUNY facility maintenance**

_A.967 (Glick) / S.1625 (Lavalle)_

This bill works to ensure that SUNY and CUNY buildings receive the annual investment necessary for proper maintenance. It directs the Governor to submit a five-year capital plan as part of the Executive Budget that meets 100 percent of the critical maintenance needs identified by each public university system or annually reduces the facility condition index (FCI) for each university system. FCI is an industry benchmark that measures the ratio of deferred maintenance dollars to replacement dollars for the purposes of analyzing the effect of investing in facility improvements.

**Status: Passed both houses**

© New York State Association of Counties
**Judiciary**

**Venue for civil action**  
*S.6031 (Ranzenhofer) / A.8032 (Rosenthal)*  
Allows for the venue used in a civil action to be the same county in which a substantial part of the event occurred and not limited to the place of residence of the plaintiff or defendant. Law effective immediately upon signing.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

**Mandatory e-filing of court documents**  
*S.6408A (Bonacic) / A.8127 (Weinstein)*  
Requires mandatory e-filing in the Appellate Division Courts. Law effective immediately upon signing.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

**Labor and Workforce Training**

**Investment in workforce development program**  
*A.8107 (Bronson) / S.6536 (Ortt)*  
This legislation amends the New York state urban development corporation act to establish the strategic workforce development program. The coordinated investment in workforce development programs will allow for collaboration with the Department of Labor, Department of Economic Development, the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and the State Education Department to collect and use information to target workforce training activities. In addition, it provides resources for training and skills development activities for unemployed and underemployed youth. Eligible applicants include not-for-profits, educational entities, or programs that provide training and skill development.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Medicaid**

**Expands payments for reserved bed days in residential health care facilities**  
*S.6559 (Hannon)/A.8338 (Gottfried)*  
This legislation amends the public health law. It modifies the proposal by the Executive and enacted in the FY 2018 budget, which eliminated the State’s Medicaid reserve bed day reimbursement methodology for nursing home patients who must go to the hospital for up to 14 days in a twelve-month period do not lose their nursing home bed.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

**Training for persons providing substance abuse treatment**  
*A.373 (Rosenthal) / S.981 (Amedore)*  
This law amends the mental hygiene law to require persons providing substance abuse treatment to receive training. Anyone providing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) must complete a one-time continuing education course for credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors (CASAC).  
**Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 2 of the Laws of 2017**
Disposal sites operated by pharmacies
**S.6750 (Hannon) / A.387-B (Gunther)**
This legislation amends the public health law, in relation to disposal sites operated by pharmacies. It requires that all chain pharmacies and nonresident pharmacies shall have take-back methods and if mail back is used shall not charge a consumer more than two dollars per mail-back envelop. Often to meet the need of communities, counties have partnered with law enforcement to host periodic drug take-back days so community members can dispose of unneeded opioids at a convenient location while also creating public awareness about the dangers of prescription drugs. Requiring chain pharmacies to take back unused medications would give municipalities and the state another tool in the fight against prescription drug abuse.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Kendra’s Law reauthorization
**A.7688 (Gunther) / S.6726 (Young)**
Extends the expiration of Kendra’s law from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2022.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Notification of closure of state facilities
**S.2836 (Ortt) / A.2229 (Gunther)**
Relates to requirements for notice to local governments, community organizations and other interested parties of the potential for significant service reductions at certain state-operated hospitals.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Preschool Special Education

Establishes that all school districts are approved evaluators of preschool students suspected of having a disability
**S.1694-A (Marcellino) / A.982-A (Nolan)**
The bill deems that all school districts are approved evaluators of preschool students suspected of having a disability without the need to submit an application to the commissioner if staff who provide such evaluation services shall have appropriate licensure and/or certification.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Public Employee Relations

Grants uniformed marine patrol officers in Seneca county peace officer status
**S.5507 (Helming) / A.7200 (Kolb)**
Allows employees appointed by the sheriff of Seneca County, pursuant to their special duties serving as uniformed marine patrol officers; provided, however that nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize such officer to carry, possess, repair or dispose of a firearm unless the appropriate license has been issued pursuant to section 400.00 of the penal law or to authorize such officer to carry or possess a firearm except while on duty.
**Status: Passed both houses**
Residency of correction officers employed by the county of Chenango
S.4087 (Akshar) / A.3914 (Crouch)
Allows correctional officers to live in adjoining counties.
Status: Passed both houses

Public employer options for tailored graded contribution rates
S.4759 (Golden) / A.2384 (Abbate)
Provide public employers with the ability to tailor grade contribution rate when amortizing a portion of their contributions to the PFRS retirement system.
Status: Chapter 48 of the Laws of 2017

Recording Tier 6 time earnings
S.5256 (Golden) / A.8092 (Abbate)
Amends the Retirement and Social Security Law to provide that time earnings to be reported by a participating employer for Tier 6 members to NYSLERS be based upon calendar year rather than fiscal year. Law effective January 1, 2018.
Status: Passed both houses

Special 20-year retirement option for county correction officers and deputies
S.1850 (Ortt) / A.6277 (Abatte)
Allows counties to opt-in to provide county correction officers and deputy sheriffs to become covered by the provisions of a special 20-year retirement plan. Law effective immediately upon signing.
Status: Passed both houses

Time off for cancer screenings
S.5925 (Hannon) / A.2830 (Dinowitz)
Grants excused leave to public officers, employees of the state, county, municipality or school district to undertake screening for cancer. Law effective immediately.
Status: Passed both houses

Guarantees county employees contractual step ups during a wage freeze
S.6788 (Rules) / A.7891 (Hooper)
The purpose of this bill is to guarantee that county employees receive contractual step ups towards the base pay they were hired for in the event of a wage freeze. It is meant to help with recruitment and retention issues.
Status: Passed both houses

Public Health

Expands the authority of schools to add items including a diabetes risk analysis to school health certificates for students
A.5151-B (Crespo) / S.2724-B (Klein)
The legislation allows school districts to expand the health certificate for students to include a diabetes check and to also generate reports and recommendations on obesity, healthy weight, wellness, asthma and other respiratory diseases that could impact students and their ability to perform in school.
Status: Passed both houses

© New York State Association of Counties
Amends the education law and the public health law in relation to a sepsis awareness, prevention and education program  
**A.6053-A (Nolan) / S.4971-A (Marcellino)**  
Directs the commissioner of education to collaborate with the department of health and other health organizations to establish regulations for a sepsis awareness and prevention program for school districts and nonpublic schools.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

Amends the public health law, in relation to requiring the Commissioner of Health to act when areas of lead poisoning are designated  
**A.1809-A (Dinowitz) / S.1200-A (Alcantra)**  
The bill mandates that the Commissioner of Health to act when areas of lead poisoning are designated under current law the Commissioner has discretion to act, but is not mandated to do so.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

Relates to the reporting of sudden, unexpected death in epilepsy  
**A.2380 (Brindisi) / S.2422 (Grifo)**  
The bill requires that when an autopsy is performed on a person with epilepsy or known to suffer from seizures that it include an investigation and determination of whether the death was the result of a sudden, unexpected death in epilepsy and notifying the appropriate national database of the findings.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

Expands the originating sites at which telehealth services may be delivered  
**A.4703 (Jenne) / S.3293 (Hannon)**  
Expands sites were telehealth services can be provided to include public, private and charter elementary and secondary schools, school age child care programs, and child day care centers.  
**Status: Passed both houses**

Expands originating site for telehealth services  
**S.4285-A (Serino) / A.1464-B (Jenne)**  
Amends the public health law to include any type of adult care facility licensed under title 2 of article 7 of the social services law under the definition of "originating site."  
**Status: Passed both houses**

Amends the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 to provide for emergency financial assistance to be available immediately  
**S.5902 (Helming) A.7712 (Morelle)**  
In its original form, this assistance would not be available until 120 days after the effective date, or August 18, 2017. However, due to the nature of emergency situations currently faced by municipalities across the state and in anticipation of such emergency situations in the near future, this bill would remove the 120-day waiting period, providing for immediate emergency financial relief.  
**Status: Chapter 30 of the Laws of 2017**

Prohibits e-cigarettes on school grounds  
**S.750 (Ritchie) / A.611 (Rosenthal)**  
Amends § 1399-o of the Public Health Law by adding a new subdivision 5 prohibiting the use of an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette on school grounds.  
**Status: Passed both houses**
Includes vaping (e-cigarettes) within the provisions of law regulating smoking in certain public areas
**S.2543-A (Hannon) / A.516-A (Rosenthal)**
Bans the use of electronic cigarettes in certain indoor and outdoor areas similar to how regular cigarettes are regulated with minor exceptions.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Establishes the enhanced safety net hospital program
**S.5661-B (Little) / A.7763 (Gottfried)**
Creates an enhanced safety net hospital program that provides state payments to hospitals that serve high percentages of Medicaid patients and are public sector hospitals.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Carves-out School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) from the State's Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) program
**S.6012 (Seward) / A.7866 (Gottfried)**
Provides that the Commissioner of Health shall not require the services provided by SBHCs to be provided through the State's Medicaid Managed program, among other reimbursement items.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Prescription drug refills
**S.5171-B (Felder) / A.6371-B (Simanowitz)**
Relates to authorizing pharmacists to refill non-controlled substance prescriptions for quantities of drugs not to exceed a ninety-day supply.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Allows children to use bug spray at summer camp
**S.6710A (Little) / A.8420 (Jones)**
This bill allows children attending summer camp to carry and use insect repellent to decrease the risk of Lyme disease and tick-borne infections. Unlicensed personnel are allowed to help children apply insect repellent if permitted by a parent or guardian and authorized by the camp.
**Status: Passed both houses**

**Public Safety**

The protection of public water supplies
**A.377 (Dinowitz) / S.1048 (Klein)**
The law boosts existing security requirements for water supply/dam/reservoir operators that includes additional reporting on their security systems to include cyber-attack security and response capabilities.
**Status: Chapter 11 of the Laws of 2017**

Transfer of certain inmates to secure mental health facilities
**A.7569 (Weprin) / S.5430 (Gallivan)**
This legislation amends the Correction Law to authorize the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to enter into an agreement with a sheriff’s department to allow the Sheriff to transfer custody of an inmate to an OMH secure facility while an inmate receives mental health treatment. This
legislation will remove a costly expense for the sheriffs’ departments and unnecessary use of personnel.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Health care services for county jail inmates**

*A.7985A (Blake) / S.5409A (Gallivan)*

This legislation amends the Correction Law to allow a county Board of Supervisors to procure the services of a professional partnership, a professional service corporation, a professional service limited liability company or a registered limited liability company, duly authorized to practice medicine in the state, for the purpose of providing health services to the inmates of the county jail.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Processing and maintenance of sexual offense evidence kits**

*S.980 (Hannon)/A.375 (Simotas)*

This legislation amends the Executive Law and a chapter of the Laws of 2016 amending the executive law, relating to the processing and maintenance of sexual offense evidence kits and making technical amendments. This is a chapter amendment that would clarify the entities to which the law applies, specify that Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS") profiles shall be developed from eligible evidence, and include an inventory requirement and a requirement of quarterly reporting to the leaders of the Senate and Assembly.  
**Status: Signed by Governor, Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2017**

**Optional disability coverage for county probation officers**

*S.2516 (Gallivan)/A.473 (Paulin)*

This legislation amends the General Municipal Law to include county probation officers among the employees who shall receive disability coverage equal to their full salary in the event that they are injured in the performance of their duties.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Oneida county sheriff and correctional facility to hold detained persons prior to arraignment**

*S.3504 (Griffo)/A.3824 (Brindisi)*

This legislation amends the Correction Law to allow the Oneida County Correctional Facility to hold persons who are under arrest and awaiting their arraignment.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

**Feasibility of implementing an emergency alert notification system**

*S.4383-A (Alcantara) /A.4140-A (Crespo)*

This legislation will require the Public Service Commission, commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and in consultation with the Disaster Preparedness Commission, and other necessary entities to study the feasibility of implementing an emergency alert notification system that requires alerts to be displayed while using a video streaming service. Each agency is authorized to receive information from any state or local agency that is relevant and material to the completion of such feasibility study. This legislation shall take effect immediately and is set to sunset two years after the effective date.  
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

© New York State Association of Counties
Comprehensive emergency management plans
**S.5016A (Lanza)/A6549A (Cusick)**
This legislation would require each county and city with a population of one million or more to revise their comprehensive emergency management plan to include the input of home health care and hospice organizations.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Extending authority of local correctional facilities to enter agreement to take out of state inmates
**S.5894 (Gallivan)/A.7675 (Weprin)**
The legislation amends the correction law relating to the boarding of out of state inmates at local correctional facilities. The legislation extends the expiration date to September 1, 2020 to continue to authorize local correctional facilities to enter into contracts for the purpose of boarding-in certain inmates from other states' local correctional facilities. Extending the authority to house these inmates will afford counties much needed mandate relief in that it would provide more flexibility to maintain an optimal inmate population to suit the facility's capacity and minimize loss from overhead costs.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Authorizes the Otsego county jail to also be used for the detention of persons being held for arraignment
**S.6623 (Seward)/A.8335 (Magee)**
This legislation amends the Correction Law to authorize the Otsego county jail to also be used for the detention of persons under arrest being held for arraignment in any court located in Otsego County.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Fines for alcohol and drug related traffic offenses
**S.6684 (Akshar)/A.210 (Lupardo)**
This bill clarifies that, in instances where a court imposes a fine and a mandatory surcharge for an alcohol and drug related traffic offense, payment of the fine will take priority over payment of the surcharge. It is meant to increase funding for county STOP-DWI programs, which are funded exclusively by fines levied on convicted drunk drivers. Increased surcharges have hurt counties because they led courts to cut back on the amount of the fine and left defendants unable to pay the fine in full after paying the surcharge.
**Status: Passed Both Houses**

Real Property

County assessing of utility property
**S.5892 (Klein) / A.7370 (Galef)**
Creates a pilot program so that municipalities located in Westchester County can work with the State's Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS) to shift the work and cost of performing the assessment of land, for real property tax purposes, of utility-owned (electricity and gas) real property located on privately owned land in such county. Law effective immediately upon signing.
**Status: Passed both houses**
Exempts certain BOCES capital expenditures from limitations upon school district tax levies

A.5965 (Galef) / S.4283 (Murphy)

The purpose of this legislation is to exempt BOCES capital expenditures from limitations upon local school district tax levies. The Legislature noted that this correction to existing law is necessary to be consistent with the school district property tax exemption for capital costs.

Status: Passed both houses

Relates to real property tax credits for farmers

S.2899 (Ritchie) / A.4650 (Magee)

This bill would make an amendment to the tax code to allow for tenant farmers who rent land from a trust to claim the Farmer’s School Tax Credit.

Status: Passed both houses

Special assessing units other than cities to adjust their current base proportions

S.5958 (Rules)/A.8407 (Lavine)

This legislation amends the Real Property Tax Law. It would limit the amount of property tax shift between homestead/non-homestead classes and share apportionment for local governments within and including Nassau County and homestead/non-homestead apportioned local governments within Suffolk County (Town of Islip) for one year.

Status: Passed Both Houses

Property tax exemptions for energy systems

S.946 (Ranzenhofer) / A.260 (Rosenthal)

Extending exemptions from real property taxation to micro-hydroelectric energy systems, fuel cell electric generating systems, micro-combined heat and power generating equipment systems, and electric energy storage equipment. Effective January 1, 2018

Status: Passed both houses

Assessing and coding notification forms

S.6408-A (Bonacic) / A.2438-A (Weinstein)

Local assessor offices would no longer be required to add a code to notification forms for creating or terminating a mortgage escrow account. Law effective immediately upon signing.

Status: Passed both houses

Including PILOT agreements in quantity change factor

S.2122-A (O’Mara) / A.1841-A (Morelle)

This bill requires the commissioner of taxation and finance to include the change in assessed value for each property exempted on tax rolls under PILOT agreements when calculating the quantity change factor for each local government. Law effective immediately upon signing.

Status: Passed both houses

Cold War veteran property tax exemption

S.5659 (Gallivan) / A.6510-A (D’urso)

Allow for a county, city, town, village or school district that has adopted a local law or resolution to grant the Cold War veteran exemption for a ten-year period, to adopt another a local law or resolution providing that the exemption authorized previously shall apply to qualifying owners of qualifying real
property for as long as they remain qualifying owners, without regard to such ten-year limitation. Law effective immediately upon signing.

**Status:** Passed both houses

### Social Services

**Relates to the forwarding of reports of abuse to the social services district charged with the care, custody, or guardianship of the child**

**A.2965 (Paulin) / S.4172 (Gallivan)**

This bill establishes a procedure for forwarding child abuse reports to social services districts charged with the care, custody, or guardianship when the child is placed with an agency that is not in the county charged with the care of such child.

**Status:** Passed both houses

**Amend the social services law in relation to notice of determination of eligibility for medical assistance**

**A.5175-A (Gottfried) / S.1241-A (Ortt)**

This legislation would require the Department of Health to include information with the eligibility notice to individuals who qualify for the “excess income” program of the option to participate in a qualifying trust as a means of qualifying for medical assistance. The goal is to make more people aware of the trust option, to help individuals with disabilities stay in their communities by requiring information regarding individual and pooled special needs trusts to be included in eligibility notices.

**Status:** Passed both houses

**An act to amend the social services law in relation to the eligibility of disabled persons who are applicants for or recipients of medical assistance**

**A.6743 (Barrett) / S.4779 (Hannon)**

The bill harmonizes State law with the new federal provisions that enable non-elderly individuals with disabilities to establish their own Medicaid Special Needs Trust without having to file a petition with a court.

**Status:** Passed both houses

**Authorizes social services districts to offer participants in public assistance employment programs an option to complete a course of instruction in financial literacy and personal finance**

**A.474-A (Paulin) / S.1170-A (Carlucci)**

Provides that social service districts may require, on a case-by-case basis, those who are collecting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to participate in a course of instruction in financial literacy and personal finance, with such instruction counting toward meeting the 30-hour work requirement or as an educational activity.

**Status:** Passed both houses

**Establishes a childcare taskforce to evaluate issues related to child care access**

**S.5929-A (Avella) / A.7726-A (Jaffee)**

The taskforce would examine issues including access to subsidized childcare, the cost of childcare, availability of non-traditional hours, impact of childcare access on the workforce, the impact on economic development and childcare quality.

**Status:** Passed both houses
Establishes a temporary state commission to study child abuse and neglect prevention
S.233-A (Golden) / A.5769-A (Galef)
The bill establishes a temporary State commission to study child abuse prevention efforts in New York and report its findings to the Governor and Legislature. The report is due one year after the effective date of the act and include any regulatory and statutory recommendations.
**Status: PASSED BOTH HOUSES**

Sets caseload caps for child protective service employees
S.3146 (Golden) / A.4049 (Lupardo)
Establishes a standard of no more than fifteen cases per month per full-time child protective services worker.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Clarifies the definition of “prospective relative guardian” for purposes of subsidized kinship guardianship assistance
S.4833-A (Avella) / A.7554-A (Hevesi)
Expands the eligible kinship guardian to include related by blood through the half-sibling, step-parent, godparent, neighbor or family friend.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Foster care demonstration program
S.6081 (Serino) / A.8131 (Lupardo)
Extends certain provisions of law relating to the foster family care demonstration programs until December 31, 2021.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Increases the SSI rate adult care facilities receive
S.6732 (Serino) / A.6715 (Brindisi)
This bill incrementally increases the Social Security Income Rate adult care facilities receive from $40/day to $60/day to ensure that these services continue to be available to low-income SSI recipients. This will help to prevent more SSI facilities from closing, which saves the state money because housing and care for a displaced SSI recipient in a nursing home costs $150-250 a day in Medicaid.
**Status: Passed both houses**

Transportation

Requires the MTA to make publicly available their proposed capital plan
A.1250 (Buchwald) / S.5159 (Ranzenhofer)
Requires that the MTA make available to the public copies of its proposed capital plans on its website the same time it is provided to any committees within the MTA.
**Status: Passed both houses**

An act to amend Lauren's law in relation to making the provisions of such law permanent
S.1206 (Carlucci) / A.5179 (Ortiz)
The purpose of this legislation is to make Lauren's Law permanent; its provisions require individuals who apply for a New York State Driver License to complete the organ donor registry section. **Status: Passed both houses**

**Prevents registered sex offenders from being Uber/Lyft drivers**
*S.6782 (Croci)/A.8493 (Lentol)*

This bill responds to concerns about ride sharing legislation enacted as part of the 2017-18 State Budget. It clarifies that registered sex offenders are not eligible for a transportation network company (TNC) permit. TNCs include Uber and Lyft. It also clarifies that people applying to seal their criminal records are only required to file one application, as opposed to filing an application for each conviction. **Status: Passed both houses**

**Veterans**

**Amend the executive law and the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to a public listing of certain not-for-profit corporations**
*S.1853 (Croci) / A.6038 (Dinowitz)*

The bill requires a public listing of the certificates of incorporation that have been approved by the Adjutant General for purposes of soliciting funds or other benefits for the Armed Forces of the United States or of any foreign country. **Status: Passed both houses**

**Waiver of civil service test fees for veterans**
*S.946 (Ranzenhofer) / A.8032 (Rosenthal)*

State civil service department shall waive the state application fee for civil service exams for original appointment taken by honorably discharged veterans and veterans discharged under honorable circumstances. This act shall take effect thirty days after becoming law. **Status: Passed both houses**

**Veterans’ eligible funds tax exemptions**
*S.6408A (Bonacic) / A.8127 (Weinstein)*

Permits school districts to offer the "eligible funds" veterans real property tax exemptions by passing a local ordinance. Law effective immediately upon signing. **Status: Passed both houses**

**Reserve veterans’ property tax exemption**
*S.5411 (Croci) / A.7001 (Dendekker)*

Allows towns to adopt a local law or resolution to include reserve veterans for the veteran alternative exemption. Law effective immediately upon signing. **Status: Passed both houses**
The New York State Association of Counties is a bipartisan municipal association serving the counties of New York State including the City of New York. Organized in 1925, NYSAC mission is to represent, educate and advocate for member counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public.