

2024 New York State  
Legislative Session Summary:  
The Impact on New York's Counties

*A Report on Bills the Legislature Passed  
August 15, 2024*



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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## **Executive Summary**

The mission of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is to foster excellence in county government and unite the voice of New York's county leaders. During the 2024 Legislative Session, NYSAC staff, together with our membership, worked with the State Legislature and Governor in support or opposition to numerous legislative and budget items.

So far, the 2024 Legislative Session has consisted of 69 session days beginning on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. As of publication of this report, the Legislature has passed 805 bills through both houses, which is slightly lower, but consistent with the volume of legislation advanced in recent years. The Legislature also passed the State Budget, which is the primary vehicle for counties to advance their priorities and which contained several wins for counties, including investments in essential county services, local infrastructure, election administration, public health, and renewable energy.

This report provides a snapshot of select legislation that was passed by both the Senate and Assembly during the legislative session. The bills included here will have a direct or indirect impact on counties if they are signed into law (a complete summary of the county impact of the SFY 2024-25 Enacted State Budget can be found at [www.nysac.org/nysbudget](http://www.nysac.org/nysbudget)). Each section provides the bill number (with direct links to the bill text via an electronic document), a brief description, and where it is in the legislative process, including:

- Chapter Number (signed) or Veto Message,
- “Delivered to the Governor” date (the Governor has 10 days to act not including Sundays), and
- “Passed Both Houses” – Passed Assembly and Senate, awaiting the Governor’s action.

## **2024 Legislative Session Overview: 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.

#### **Agriculture**

##### **Extends Eligibility for the Farm Employer Overtime Tax Credit – [S.9082](#)**

**[\(Hinchey\)/A.9824 \(Lupardo\)](#)**

This legislation clarifies that farm employers who choose to dispense wages through a professional employer organization are eligible for the farm employer overtime credit, as was the intention of the original law.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

##### **Expands the Definition of Crops to Include Cannabis – [S.1752 \(Hinchey\)/A.1234](#)**

**[\(Lupardo\)](#)**

The purpose of this legislation is to clearly define cannabis as an agricultural product and make it eligible to receive an agricultural assessment along with other protections afforded in the Agricultural Districts Law.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

##### **Provides Parity for Alcoholic Beverage Shipments – [S.02852-A \(Skoufis\)/A.3132-A](#)**

**[\(Lupardo\)](#)**

This legislation authorizes producers of liquor, cider, mead, and braggot to ship their products directly to interstate and intrastate customers, providing parity to New York's other alcoholic beverage manufacturers and allowing for sales opportunities across new markets.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 226 of the Laws of 2024*

#### **Children with Special Needs**

##### **Reserve Funds for Special Education Services – [S.9107-A \(Mayer\)/A.10315-A](#)**

**[\(Shimsky\)](#)**

Chapter 56 of the laws of 2021 authorized special act school districts to establish reserve funds. However, special act school districts have been docked for interest earned on those carrying reserve funds when the state calculates future aid disbursements. The state has treated this interest as offsetting revenue for the purposes of calculating their tuition rate for the following year. This legislation would correct this error, allowing districts to keep a modest percentage in reserve year to year and earn interest without jeopardizing their tuition rate.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

##### **Reimbursement Rates Study for Early Intervention Services – [S.1198-A](#)**

**[\(Rivera\)/A.10175 \(Paulin\)](#)**

This legislation mandates the Department of Health commissioner to conduct a comprehensive study and review the program's models of service delivery and the rates of reimbursement. The review would include: a comprehensive assessment of existing methods to determine

reimbursement rates; analysis of salary levels for individuals within the discipline; analysis of provider cost for the program; analysis by discipline and labor region salary levels; and recommendations for updating or maintaining reimbursement methods.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Economic Development**

### **Exempts Certain Fiber Optic Cable Assessments in Erie County – [S.8978-A \(Ryan\)/A.9964-A \(Rivera\)](#)**

This legislation creates a new section (§ 431) of the real property tax law, which specifies that municipal fiber optic networks in Erie County and municipal fiber optic cable in Erie County is exempt from real property taxes.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Expands the Eligibility for Regional Planning Councils to Apply for Grants – [S.8958 \(Hinchey\)/A.8374 \(McDonald\)](#)**

Regional Planning Commissions, as a rule, work with local governments in a coordinated and cooperative effort. They often coordinate local government projects yet are not able to directly secure funding which can be a barrier to or delay project completion. Allowing RPCs to apply for grants and funding will streamline the process which can help expedite implementation of projects.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Board Requirements for Local Industrial Development Agencies – [S.4040-B \(Mayer\)/A.7532-B \(Solages\)](#)**

This legislation amends the general municipal law to require at least one local labor organization representative and at least one representative of a school board or a superintendent of a school district to be appointed to each IDA. It also allows the size of the IDA to increase above the 7-member limit, if needed, to allow for the addition of the two mandatory members. The IDA must also decrease its size to seven or fewer members as the seats of non-mandatory members are vacated.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Prevailing Wage Requirements for Brownfield Remediation Work – [S.5868-B \(Harckham\)/A.7491-B \(Bronson\)](#)**

This legislation amends the Environmental Conservation Law to stipulate that brownfield sites will not be eligible for tangible property tax credits if the contamination from groundwater or soil vapor is solely emanating from property other than the site subject to the present application, or the site has been previously remediated pursuant to navigation law, or remedial activities are performed by construction workers paid less than the prevailing rate of wages (unless the site is an affordable housing project). It also allows DEC to terminate a brownfield site cleanup agreement if the participant does not comply with prevailing wage requirements.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## Elections

### **Absentee Ballot Dropoff Locations – [S.610 \(Hoylman-Sigal\)/A.7243 \(Simone\)](#)**

This legislation grants county boards of elections the ability to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations with secure ballot drop boxes.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Authorizes Pre-registered Voters to Apply for an Absentee or Early Mail Ballot – [S.6735-A \(May\)/A.3250-A \(Epstein\)](#)**

This legislation would give pre-registered voters who are 18 years old by the time of an election the opportunity to vote absentee provided all other qualifications are met.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 214 of the Laws of 2024*

## Environment & Energy

### **The Climate Superfund Act – [S.2129-B \(Kreuger\)/A.3351-B \(Dinowitz\)](#)**

The purpose of the bill is to establish the climate change adaptation cost recovery program, which would require companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of greenhouse gases, to bear a share of the costs of infrastructure investments required to adapt to the impacts of climate change in New York State.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **New Construction Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Mandate – [S.1736-E \(Kreuger\)/A.3780-E \(Fahy\)](#)**

New residential and commercial buildings will be required to provide electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle ready parking spaces when the construction includes dedicated off-street parking.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Requires NYSERDA to Develop Recommendations for Microgrids – [S.8841 \(Parker\)/A.9123 \(Cruz\)](#)**

This legislation requires the New York state energy research and development authority, in consultation with the department of public service and the division of homeland security and emergency services, shall prepare a report including recommendations regarding the establishment of microgrids for protection of critical facilities in the State of New York.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Expands the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Program – [S.5331-A \(Harckham\)/A.5906-A \(Shimsky\)](#)**

This legislation expands the New York State Food Scraps Recycling and Food Donation Program by incrementally reducing the amount of waste an entity must produce to be designated a food scraps generator. Under the legislation, a food scraps generator may average:

- Two tons or more of food per week between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023;
- One ton or more of food per week between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025; and
- One half ton or more of food per week starting January 1, 2026 and thereafter.

Additionally, the legislation increases the law's distance threshold from 25 miles to 50 miles, requiring generators that are farther from organics recyclers to comply with the law's requirements.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Requires Charging Stations in State-Owned Parking Lots – [S.1535-B \(Hoylman-Sigal\)/A.4871-B \(Kelles\)](#)**

This legislation requires any parking facility owned and operated by the State of New York with more than two hundred parking spaces to install electric charging stations in at least 20% of the parking spaces. If signed, the law will take effect on April 1, 2025.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Bans Foam Coolers – [S.4414-A \(Krueger\)/A.4943-A \(Epstein\)](#)**

Building on previous state and local bans on polystyrene foam food and beverage containers, the legislation prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam coolers, effectively immediately. Polystyrene pollution poses risks to human health and the environment, leaching toxic chemicals that have been linked to cancers and other health conditions.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Establishes the Office of Sustainability – [S.2003-A \(May\)/A.5909-A \(Epstein\)](#)**

This legislation establishes a new Office of Sustainability led by a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) appointed by the Governor. The new office would advise and assist state agencies in an ongoing and coordinated response to address climate change and support state agencies' implementation of statutory requirements related to energy and environmental protection.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Requires NYSERDA to Develop an EV Charging Station Implementation Plan – [S.489-A \(Comrie\)/A.8869 \(Barrett\)](#)**

This legislation requires NYSERDA to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle fast charging station implementation plan to facilitate the development of statewide charging infrastructure. The plan will be subject to a 30-day public comment period prior to its adoption and must be updated annually.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Utility Corporation Securitization Act – [S.9339-A \(Comrie\)/A.10346 \(Paulin\)](#)** This legislation would allow Avangrid, the owner of New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and

Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E), to petition the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the authority to issue storm recovery bonds. If approved, the cost of the bonds would be charged to ratepayers as a separate line item on utility bills.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 224 of the Laws of 2024*

## **General Government Operations**

### **Authorizes Design-Build Authority for NYC – [S.9849 \(Comrie\)/A.10543 \(Braunstein\)](#)**

This legislation amends the New York City Public Works Investment Act (the "PWIA"), to create new definitions for the terms "alternative project delivery contract" and "construction manager build" to facilitate the PWIA's incorporation of new capital project delivery methods. "Alternative project delivery contracts" would be defined to include design-build and construction manager build ("CM Build") contracts.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Extending NYC's Joint Bidding Authorization – [S.9709 \(Sepulveda\)/A.10401 \(Braunstein\)](#)**

This legislation will extend, for one year, New York City's authorization to use joint bidding for utility interference work involved in public work projects.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Procurement Law Extenders – [S.9233 \(Cooney\)/A.10283 \(Conrad\)](#)**

This legislation extends the authority of local governments to purchase technology products and software, security, law enforcement and disaster relief from the Federal General Service Administration; authorizes local governments to utilize and purchase from county contracts for construction trades/ service-related contracts; and make purchases using the Office of General Services (OGS) contracts.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 164 of the Laws of 2024*

### **Expansion of the Electronic Open Auction Public Bond Sale Pilot Program – [S.9348-A \(Martinez\)/A.10173-A \(Thiele\)](#)**

This legislation would expand the opportunity for more municipalities to participate in the electronic open auction public bond sale pilot program. This changes the requirement that a municipality must have issued \$25 million in bonds within any one of the last three to within any one of the last five years. Further, the 400,000 or more-population restriction for counties is removed. This will allow more municipalities to be eligible to participate.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Municipal Website .GOV Requirement – [S.3353-A \(Skoufis\)/A.2852-A \(Zebrowski\)](#)**

This legislation requires all municipal governments (counties, cities, towns and villages) to maintain a website, and the website must have a .gov address.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Insurance**

### **Copayments on Physical Therapy Services – [S.1470 \(Breslin\)/A.6345 \(Weprin\)](#)**

This prohibits insurance plans from shifting the cost of physical therapy care to consumers by limiting co-payments to no more than 20 percent of the total reimbursement to the provider of care.



*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Treatment of Workers' Compensation Injuries by OTA's and PTA's – [S.9462-A \(Ramos\)/A.1204-A \(Zebrowski\)](#)**

This bill allows occupational therapist assistants to provide care to workers' compensation patients.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Judiciary**

**Wrongful Death Expansion – [S.8485-B \(Hoylman-Sigal\)/A.9232-B \(Weinstein\)](#)**

This bill defines and limits the "surviving close family members" who may potentially claim grief and suffering damages as recipients under current law, with the limited exception of where the decedent is survived by a parent or parents, or any person standing in loco parentis to the decedent, and a spouse and no issue, the parent or parents or such person standing in loco parentis is deemed to be a surviving close family member. And importantly, the finder of fact shall determine which close family members are-or are not-entitled to damages based upon the specific circumstances relating to the person's relationship with the decedent. To further address concerns raised by the Governor, this version of the bill has shortened the proposed retroactive effect of the legislation by three years. It now only applies to causes of action that accrue on or after January 1, 2021.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Local Government Finance**

**Extension of Local Government Debt Issuance and Management Options – [S.9417 \(Martinez\)/A.10282 \(Santabarbara\)](#)**

This legislation would extend the ability for municipalities to voluntarily opt-in to expanded debt issuance and management options until July 15, 2027. This extension includes the ability for local governments to pay the first installment on a bond issuance two years after the first date of issuance. Local governments would also be authorized to issue variable rate bonds and notes, and this legislation suspends the five percent down payment requirements for certain bonds and notes.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 167 of the Laws of 2024*

**Grants Municipalities the Authority to Offer Real Property Tax Exemptions to Volunteer EMS and Firefighters Working in Neighboring Communities – [S.2862-A \(Martinez\)/A.2121-A \(Stern\)](#)**

This legislation provides localities with the option of adopting a local law to allow residents who serve in a neighboring municipality the ability to receive a tax exemption they would be entitled to had they served in the municipality in which they reside.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Delinquent Tax Interest Rates – [S.967-A \(Ryan\)/A.1489-A \(Thiele\)](#)**

Section 924-a of the Tax Law currently sets the floor for the lowest rate a municipality may charge at twelve percent. This has been in effect since 1983. This bill would amend section 924-a to cap the delinquent tax interest rate at 16%, reduce the floor to 2% and most importantly, grant the commissioner of NYS Taxation and Finance the ability to maintain the interest rate

ceiling at the prime interest rate. Currently, one measure of the prime interest rate is 8.5%, meaning the ceiling could be 8.5%, or lower, NOT 16%.

NYSAC has vehemently opposed this legislation.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Installment Plans for School District Property Taxes – [S.3604-A \(Webb\)/A.7813-A \(Shimsky\)](#)**

This legislation requires the assessing unit to include the due dates for the payment of taxes in installments. The assessing unit must specify in a notice to the owner of taxable real property without interest or penalties to such owner that has elected to pay such taxes in installments.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Regulation of the Short-Term Rental Industry – [S.885-C \(Hinchey\)/A.4130-C \(Fahy\)](#)**

This legislation would create statewide guidance and regulation on short-term rentals, including a rental registry, and allow for the collection of local and state sales tax. Both the information contained within the registry and the sales tax revenue will assist counties and municipalities with determining the economic impact of these rentals and how they are impacting the housing supply.

The tax collection provisions included in this legislation would apply to short-term rentals statewide, regardless of whether municipalities have their own registration systems. This will level the playing field with the traditional hotel industry and provide municipalities and counties with revenues that can be reinvested in the community to support tourism, local initiatives, and the policy priorities of that community.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Public Employee Relations & Labor**

### **20-Year Retirement Benefit for Certain Law Enforcement Officers – [S.8472-A \(Jackson\)/A.8918-A \(Pheffer-Amato\)](#)**

The retirement and social security law are amended to allow environmental conservation officers, forest rangers, regional state park police, and university police officers to receive a 20-year retirement plan similar to the New York State Troopers and the majority of municipal police officers.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Public & Mental Health**

### **Authorization to Reimburse EMS Providers for Treating in Place & Transporting to Alternative Healthcare Destinations – [S.8486-C \(Hinchey\)/A.9102-C \(Kelles\)](#)**

This bill would authorize Medicaid reimbursement to emergency medical service agencies for:

- providing emergency medical care to Medicaid enrollees without requiring the transportation of these patients from the location where the medical care was administered.
- providing emergency medical care to Medicaid enrollees and transporting them to alternative destinations (i.e. locations other than a hospital), such as an urgent care clinic or mental health or rehabilitation facility

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Appointments to County Boards of Health & Health Services Advisory Boards – [S.8561 \(Rivera\)/A.8232-A \(Paulin\)](#)**

Public Health Law stipulates that local boards of health are to have three physicians on the board. Many of the local health departments, especially in rural areas, are having trouble meeting this statutory requirement because there are not enough physicians in certain areas of the State who have the time to add serving on a county health department to their already busy schedules.

This legislation would amend the law to make the requirement for health care providers be at least one physician with the other positions able to be filled by a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Further, the law would be amended to allow for a board member from a contiguous county to serve on a local board of health as long as they do substantial work in that county and have a healthcare background.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Authority for Ambulances to Store and Distribute Blood & Initiate Blood Transfusions – [S.6226-A \(Hinchey\)/A.5789-A \(Woerner\)](#)**

This legislation amends the public health law to allow for ambulance services and advanced life support first response service to store and distribute blood. Distribution and administration of the blood on an ambulance is limited to only qualified medical and health personnel, such as a registered nurse.

This section also sets forth the standards of care that ambulance services must adhere to when handling, storing and distributing the blood.

Ambulances continue to be prohibited from carrying their own blood products to administer to patients in hemorrhagic shock. This legislation permits all ambulance services to provide the same blood transfusion services to patients as permitted for air transport ambulance services when such ambulance services meet the same standards as currently set forth in the law. Permitting all ambulances to qualify to transfuse blood products to patients to resuscitate them during transport will result in more saved lives.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Creates a Health Emergency Response Data System – [S.5732 \(Skoufis\)/A.5370 \(Paulin\)](#)**

This bill is designed to create in statute the health emergency response data system (HERDS) and bring transparency to information gathered during public health emergencies, including communicable disease outbreaks like COVID-19, by requiring the Department of Health to share aggregate data from HERDS reports with the entities reporting and the public.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Requires Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices in Places of Public Assembly – [S.1078-A \(Gounardes\)/A.2885-A \(Rosenthal\)](#)**

To prevent deaths from anaphylaxis, this legislation requires places of public assembly to have an epinephrine auto-injector device on hand whenever they are used for public or private

events and at least one person present who is trained to use the device. It also includes liability protections for the good faith use of epinephrine auto injectors.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Enhances the Transparency of Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) Data** – [S.5732 \(Skoufis\)/A.5370 \(Paulin\)](#)

This legislation would bring transparency to information gathered during public health emergencies, including communicable disease outbreaks like COVID-19, by requiring the Department of Health to share aggregate data from HERDS reports with the entities reporting and the public as soon and as close to real time as practicable after it is collected but no later than seven days after it is received by the Department.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Requires Public Institutions and Buildings Be Equipped with Opioid Antagonists** – [S.3112-A \(Mannion\)/A.1588-A \(Buttenschon\)](#)

Nicknamed “Erin’s Law” after a young woman who lost her life in Rochester to an accidental fentanyl overdose, this legislation amends Public Buildings Law to require that public institutions and buildings be equipped with opioid antagonists, such as naloxone. The legislation would take effect one year after it is signed into law.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Requires Fentanyl Test Strips Be Distributed Alongside Opioid Antagonists** – [S.4393 \(Martinez\)/A.5004 \(Hyndman\)](#)

This legislation requires that fentanyl test strips and informational cards be included in any opioid antagonist distribution as part of NYSDOH’s opioid overdose prevention programs. The legislation would take effect on the nineteenth day after it is signed into law.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Public Safety**

**Reporting Requirements for Extreme Risk Protection Orders** – [S.3340 \(Mayer\)/A.5873 \(Lavine\)](#)

This bill requires that temporary and final extreme risk protection orders be included in the existing statewide computerized registry of orders of protection and warrants of arrest.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Petitioner Reforms to the Extreme Risk Protection Order Law** – [S.8589-A \(Scarcella-Spanton\)/A.7717-B \(Wallace\)](#)

This legislation allows the police agency to be listed as the petitioner in lieu of the police officer’s name, alleviating issues for members of law enforcement when civil judgements or lawsuits are searched on behalf of banks, mortgage companies, etc.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Uniform Medical Records System for Correctional Facilities** – [S.5214 \(Harckham\)/A.5902 \(Kelles\)](#)

This legislation amends the correction law by stating that the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of health and mental health, shall develop a uniform electronic medical records system to be used by all correctional facilities in the state.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Rules & Regulations for Strip Searches in Correctional Facilities – [S.9350 \(Salazar\)/A.4904 \(Gibbs\)](#)**

The State Commission on Corrections (SCOC) will be required to promulgate rules and regulations establishing standard practices and procedures for the use of strip searches in correctional facilities. Such rules and regulations shall at a minimum include a requirement that no fewer than two staff members shall be present for any strip search.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Transportation**

**Penalty Increase for School Bus Stop Arm Camera Program – [S.9504-A \(Cooney\)/A.3120-A \(Magnarelli\)](#)**

This legislation increases the maximum fine for a third or subsequent conviction within three years from \$1000 to \$1500.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Social Services**

**Childcare Assistance – Child Block Grant Reforms – [S.8152-A \(Brisport\)/A.8878-A \(Hevesi\)](#)**

This legislation will require county DSS offices to provide childcare assistance funded under the block grant for additional or different hours than a parent or caretaker spends in work, training, educational activities or other reasons for care designated by the social services district in its consolidated services plan. This may include paying for full-time childcare assistance regardless of the hours of the activity of the parent's or caretaker's reason for care.

In addition, a social services district shall not limit authorized childcare services strictly based on the hours during which the parent or caretaker is engaged in work, education or other activity or the number of hours the parent or caretaker is engaged in any such reasons for care.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Child Support Orders Reform – [S.9015 \(Persaud\)/A.9505 \(McMahon\)](#)**

This bill would update the New York State child support guidelines to conform to the Federal Regulations allowing for discretion to consider specific circumstances. Sections one through four of this bill would amend various sections of the family court act and domestic relations law relating to factors which judges may evaluate when determining the amount of income that may be attributed or imputed for the purposes of determining child support payments.

Sections five through eight would amend the family court and domestic relations law to remove the exceptions allowing for consideration of incarceration to be voluntary in determining child support orders.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**CPS Worker Remote Training Option – [S.6357-B \(Mannion\)/A.7341-B \(Hevesi\)](#)**

This bill would amend section 421 of the Social Services Law by allowing the training requirements for persons hired by a local child protective service, excluding the annual in-

service training requirement, to be completed through a distance learning method on or after April 1, 2025, as authorized by an adopted County law, ordinance or resolution.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Presumptive Eligibility Standard for Childcare Assistance – [S.4667-A \(Brouk\)/A.4099-A \(Clark\)](#)**

In New York State, families must meet certain eligibility requirements for the receipt of childcare assistance, and upon application must wait up to 30 days before receiving care. In New York City, this processing time can be as long as 60 days. Administrative delay in the processing of applications for subsidies can often spell the difference between families missing medical appointments, job interviews, and other important life events that can lead to upward economic mobility and growth.

This bill is modeled on the efforts of Monroe County's Department of Human Services to provide timely childcare assistance for families in need. Monroe County DRS issues subsidy certificates to families presumed eligible, allowing them to pursue childcare while their applications are formally processed.

Under a statewide presumptive eligibility standard, all local social services districts will be required to provide childcare assistance under this method. Presumptive eligibility will eliminate unnecessary delays for families to receive childcare assistance and help create a more accessible system for all.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Closure of Nursing Homes (Notice Requirements) – [S.2984 \(Kavanagh\)/A.3703 \(Epstein\)](#)**

The "Rivington Act" would strengthen oversight by creating a transparent process when nursing homes closures are proposed and requiring DOH to ensure the local community and nursing home tenants are notified before approving any closure.

The current closure process does not require engagement of the surrounding community, or an examination of how a facility's closure will impact the broader community before a decision for closure is made. Information on a potential closure cannot even be disclosed to the public prior to a closure being approved by DOH. Communities have no ability to comment on the impact of the proposed closure.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

**Shelter Reimbursement (Single v. Double Occupancy Rooms) – [S.15-A \(Gounardes\)/A.2583-A \(Hevesi\)](#)**

This bill will provide temporary housing assistance to a single individual who meets the residential program providers' eligibility requirements for victims of domestic violence as defined in section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social services law, while allowing the program provider to be reimbursed by New York State for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy in order to address the systemwide lack of shelter for single adults.



This legislation will require the State to preserve the full reimbursement to providers who "downsize" a room configured for a family of two to accommodate a single adult victim of violence and will therefore help increase system-wide capacity for single adults who otherwise faced serious obstacles to accessing this shelter system.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

## **Veterans**

### **Expands Eligibility Under the Veterans Tuition Assistance Program (VTAP) – [S.8596-A \(Scarcella-Spanton\)/A.9205-A \(Buttenschon\)](#)**

The State of New York is home to 800,000 military veterans, all of whom deserve an opportunity to achieve a high-quality higher education in our state. Currently, the veteran's tuition awards program is limited only to those veterans who served in active combat roles, therefore, alienating countless service members and women from accessing this vital program.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Veteran Burial Reimbursements – [S.2413-C \(Bailey\)/A.4613-C \(Jean-Pierre\)](#)**

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Services to provide a percentage increase in the maximum amount of funeral and burial based on the consumer price index with such percentage rounded up to the next highest one-tenth of one percent and shall not be less than one percent or no more than four percent.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Establishment of a Veteran Resource Database – [S.6523-A \(Scarcella-Spanton\)/A.7701-A \(Jean-Pierre\)](#)**

This legislation directs the Department of Veterans' Services to establish and maintain, in consultation and collaboration with other state agencies, a searchable database of resources available in the state for veterans, members of the uniformed services, and their families.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*

### **Non-Wartime Veteran Benefit Access (VTAP Expansion) – [S.5195-B \(Skoufis\)/A.4611-B \(Jean-Pierre\)](#)**

Current law provides certain benefits only to those United States veterans who served during times of war. This bill will ensure all veterans and their family members have access to their entitled benefits regardless of whether the United States was actively participating in a war during their time of service.

*Status: Passed Both Houses*



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