



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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In the News – New York State

Governor's Call to the Legislature: July 28th, 6 p.m.

Governor David Paterson will call the Legislature into extraordinary session on Wednesday, July 28, at 6 p.m. to consider legislation required to complete the State budget and other policy issues that were not addressed in the regular session of the State Legislature, according to Executive Communications Director Morgan Hook. If the budget plan is not resolved on Wednesday, Mr. Hook explained, the Governor will call special session for the following day.

Halfway There

700 Bills Passed by Both Houses of the Legislature; 347 Remain to be Delivered

The gubernatorial bill review mill continued to churn at high speed this week. Governor David Paterson acted upon 40-plus bills and the Legislature sent down another 100-plus for his consideration. At this point, Governor Paterson has received one-half of the bills passed by both houses of the Legislature.

Executive/Legislative Actions for the Week

Signed Into Law: *The Governor this week signed the following bills into law:*

- ▶ *A.6964/S.3359 Sponsored by M of A John (Senator Onorato):* Relates to unemployment benefits for innocent bystanders during industry controversy.
- ▶ *A.8462-A/S.3248-A Sponsored by M of A Magnarelli (Senator DeFrancisco):* Establishes June second as Italian Independence Day, a day of commemoration.
- ▶ *A.8952/S.5570-A Sponsored by M of A Weinstein (Hassell-Thompson):* Relates to modifying child support orders, employer reporting of new hires and quarterly earnings, work experience programs and noncustodial earned income tax.
- ▶ *A.9789/S.6706 Sponsored by M of A Lentol (Senator Padavan):* Extends tuition waivers for police officer students of the City University of New York.

- ▶ *A.9825-A/S.6772-A Sponsored by M of A Weisenberg (Senator Morahan):* Establishes procedures to handle allegations of abuse or mistreatment of patients served by programs licensed or operated under the mental hygiene law.
- ▶ *A.10771/S.7329 Sponsored by M of A Cusick (Senator Johnson C.):* Protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination and provides equal opportunity to enjoy common portions of dwellings.
- ▶ *A.10853B/S.7931 Sponsored by M of A Schroeder (Senator Stachowski):* Designates October eighteenth as Disabilities History Day.
- ▶ *S3780B/ A8914-B Sponsored by Senator Thompson (M of A Sweeney):* Limits the amount of phosphorus in dish washing detergent, and limits the use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus.
- ▶ *S5987B Sponsored by Senator Sampson:* Creates the Metropolitan Transit Authority Small Business mentoring program.

Vetoted: *The Governor this week vetoed the following pieces of legislation:*

- ▶ *A.1729/S.5002 Sponsored by M of A Gottfried (Senator Duane):* Would have provided staff membership and additional professional privileges to psychologists. According to the Governor, various hospital associations argued that the hospital medical staff is best determined by the hospital. In addition, the governing body of a hospital is responsible for the quality of care delivered by the hospital and for overseeing the selection of its medical staff. This bill would have restricted that body from making judgments regarding the nature and scope of its operations.
- ▶ *S6966 Sponsored by Senator Savino (M of A Abbate):* Would have barred any civil service position in the competitive class from being reclassified as non-competitive. According to the Governor, this bill was “at odds” with the effort to make the civil service system more flexible.
- ▶ *S.8316/A.11535 Sponsored by Senator Klein (M of A Magee):* Would have removed the ability for Federal courts to approve agreements between Indian nations or tribes and the State, empowering only the State Legislature to do so. According to the Governor, this would have also limited the Governor's flexibility to settle lawsuits, and thereby granted the Legislature “unprecedented control over an executive function.”

Bills Delivered to the Governor: Included among the 106 initiatives sent this week to the Governor for consideration are:

- ▶ *A.1719A/ S.2947 Sponsored by M of A Gottfried (Senator Hannon) --* Authorizes nurse practitioners to issue orders not to resuscitate.

- ▶ *A.4501A/ S.814 Sponsored by M of A Espaillat (Senator Peralta) -- Requires warning of the hazard of early childhood tooth decay upon the sale of baby-bottles and sippy cups.*
- ▶ *A.8117B/S.5007 Sponsored by M of A Gottfried (Senator Duane) -- Relates to the definition of the practice of midwifery.*
- ▶ *A.9898/ S.7409 Sponsored by M of A Miller M (Senator Onorato) -- Makes permanent the provisions establishing an alternative dispute resolution system to resolve certain claims through collective bargaining agreements.*
- ▶ *A.10410/ S.7289 Sponsored by M of A Rosenthal (Senator Sampson) -- Authorizes the facsimile or transmission by electronic means of orders of protection and temporary orders of protection.*
- ▶ *S.1700-B/ A.1952-B Sponsored by Senator Breslin (M of A Morelle) -- Increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the property damage threshold after which a motor vehicle accident report must be filed with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.*
- ▶ *S.3296-H/ A.6919 Sponsored by Senator Thompson (M of A Englebright)-- Prohibits the manufacture, distribution and sale of child care products containing bisphenol A.*
- ▶ *S.4812-A/ A.7471-A Sponsored by Senator C. Johnson (M of A Rosenthal) -- Prohibits agencies from charging for the process of a FOIL request made by state and local agencies or the state legislature.*
- ▶ *S.6785/ A.9943 Sponsored by Senator Savino (M of A Abbate) -- Provides for the continuation of health insurance benefits for public employees injured or taken ill in the performance of duty.*
- ▶ *S.7316-B/ A.7691-C Sponsored by Senator Peralta (M of A Castro) -- Provides for the sanitization of every used mattress or bedding material transported, stored or sold in the state.*
- ▶ *S.8279/ A.11400-A Sponsored by Senator Montgomery (Rules, M of A Aubry) -- Adopts the interstate compact for juveniles.*

And They're Off: Racing Begins at Saratoga



WHAT: Saratoga Race Course's 142nd season.

WHEN: 40 days. Friday, July 23 through Monday, September 6, Labor Day. No racing on Tuesdays.

WHERE: Saratoga Race Course, Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

FIRST RACE POST TIME: 1 p.m.

Note: On Travers Day, Saturday, August 28, first race post is 11:35 a.m.

In the News – New York City

City to Consolidate “Back-Office” Operations

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Council Speaker Christine Quinn this week released specifics of a new plan to consolidate the City's back-office operations. The initiative is projected to reduce the number of city employees by 3,000 via attrition, save \$500 million over the four-year implementation phase, and \$500 million in each subsequent year.

The plan targets five areas: human resources management; real estate management; fleet operations; collections; and information technology. In addition to consolidation, the plan seeks to increase the use of outside contractors particularly in the areas of fleet operations and collections. According to the Mayor, with respect to fleet services, a “competitive market already exists” and outside services would introduce “a level of competition within the City.”

According to the Mayor, the first stage of the back-office process consolidation includes:

- ▶ ***Human Resources Management*** (Savings to be realized: \$107 million):
 - Centralize human resources operations by relocating operations from agencies into a Human Resources Shared Service Center, where transactional aspects of personnel management, benefits, leaves, and separations will be managed. Payroll, time keeping, and training will also move to the Shared Services Center in subsequent phases.
 - Expand the 311 Call Center to include a human resources call center.
 - Redirect agency human resources employees to focus on workforce development, such as training and better testing.
 - Appoint a Chief Human Resources Officer who will set citywide human resources strategy.

- ▶ ***Real Estate Management*** (Savings to be realized: \$50 million):
 - Complete a total of 40 relocation, consolidation, and space termination projects currently underway and consider additional projects.
 - Establish a real estate services center to help reduce unwanted space and assist agencies with consolidation.
 - Create new metrics for agencies to track rentable square feet per employee and vacancy to hold agencies accountable for space usage and to identify trends and opportunities within the real estate portfolio.

- ▶ ***Fleet Management***: Nine agencies employ more than 1,500 employees who work on fleet management, and who repair vehicles at 126 shops. (Savings to be realized: \$71 million):
 - Consolidate agency maintenance shops to utilize a centralized agency shop; and/or transfer certain types of repair work to outside vendors; and consolidate/eliminate fueling operations
 - Consolidate existing maintenance contracts into citywide requirements contracts.
 - Explore the use of commercial repair shops for passenger vehicles.
 - Establish standard performance metrics for fleet maintenance and fueling operations.
 - Explore privatization of the auto auction to leverage nationwide buying power and online services of well-established auto retailers.

- Evaluate a pilot to outsource parts management.
- ▶ **Collections:** More than 25 City agencies assess fines, fees or taxes and accept payments; five administrative tribunals adjudicate fines, and four agencies have their own collections operations. (Savings to be realized: \$183 million):
 - Direct the Department of Finance to handle accounts receivable citywide, including payments and collections.
 - Implement citywide standards and operating procedures for collecting payments.
 - Consider outside contracting of certain payment processing to reduce internal resources.
 - Expedite hearing processes for fines and tickets by providing more opportunities for online, mail-in, and telephone hearings; and limiting the number of instances that require a court appearance to plead guilty.
 - Use more outside collection agencies to create higher levels of competition and greater incentive to collect. Commission rates will be structured to reward for optimal collection and all debt collections contracts will be centrally managed by the Department of Finance.
- ▶ **Information Technology:** The City's information technology network consists of more than 80 data centers that support approximately 3,000 applications in more than 50 different locations. (Savings to be realized: \$98 million).
 - Establish the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications as the central provider of consolidated IT infrastructure and set IT standards, with an Executive Order codifying the department's role and authority to lead the citywide IT agenda.
 - Upgrade the City's network (CityNet) and place additional agency applications and devices onto the New York City Wireless Network.

In Brief

Board of Regents Appoints SED Chief Operating Officer

Former Director of State Operations Valerie Grey to Become SED Senior Manager for Operations

The State Board of Regents this week approved the appointment of Valerie Grey to serve as the State Education Department's (SED) Chief Operating Officer. The appointment becomes effective on August 23rd. Most recently, Ms. Grey served as Governor Paterson's Director of State Operations, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the State. As SED's Chief Operating Officer, reporting to the Commissioner, Ms. Grey will be the Department's senior manager for operations.

Prior to her service as Director of State Operations, Ms. Grey was the First Deputy Secretary to the Governor. She also served as the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services. Ms. Grey's other public sector experience included service in the Department of Health, the Office of the State Comptroller, and the New York State Assembly. Ms. Grey holds an A.A.S. in Accounting from Schenectady County Community College; a B.A. in Economics from the State University of New York at Albany; and an M.A. in Economics from the State University of New York at Albany.

PACB Approves First Phase of the Moynihan Station Project

The State Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) approved the first phase of improvements that will transform the Farley Federal Post Office Building in Manhattan into the new Moynihan rail Station. With this approval, the Moynihan Station project moves from planning into implementation.

Phase 1 will include the expansion and enhancement of the 33rd Street Connector between Penn Station and the West End Concourse, which lies under the grand staircase of the Farley building; the extension and widening of the West End Concourse to serve nine of Pennsylvania Station's eleven platforms; new vertical access points and passenger circulation space; and entrances into the West End Concourse through the 31st and 33rd Street corners of the Farley building. These improvements are expected to begin by October of 2010 and be completed in 2016. The budget for Phase 1 is \$267 million and is being jointly funded by the State and Federal governments.

"Keep Your Butts Off Our Beaches" Campaign

The Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island (TAC) has launched a campaign to educate Long Island residents about the benefits of tobacco free beaches. The campaign raises awareness of the environmental impact of tobacco litter, dangers of secondhand smoke, and influence on children when tobacco use is not restricted. TAC is part of the Tobacco Free NYS project that is promoting the establishment of more tobacco free outdoor recreational areas. TAC is offering sample policies and free signage to local municipalities and organizations to assist in creating more entryway bans and outdoor tobacco use policies. Call (631) 265-3848, x22 for more information. To view more campaign materials, visit www.TobaccoFreeNYS.org.

Coming Up

New York State

No public meetings scheduled

New York City

Tuesday, July 27th

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, 250 Broadway, 16th Fl., 9:30 a.m.

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses, 250 Broadway, 16th Fl., 11 a.m.

Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions, 250 Broadway, 16th Fl., 1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28th

Committee on Standards and Ethics, 250 Broadway - Hearing Room, 14th Fl., 8:30 a.m.
Oversight - Rule 10.80 hearing regarding Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez

Committee on Land Use, 250 Broadway - Hearing Room, 16th Fl., 10 a.m.

Committee on General Welfare, 250 Broadway - Hearing Room, 16th Fl., 1 p.m.

Thursday, July 29th

Committee on Finance, 250 Broadway - Hearing Room, 16th Fl., 10 a.m.

Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, 250 Broadway, 16th Fl., 11 a.m.

City Council Stated Meeting, Emigrant Savings Bank - 49-51 Chambers Street, 1:30 p.m.

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