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## THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK

COVERING NEW YORK & CITY GOVERNMENT

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*"Obstacles don't define us. Rather, it is the unparalleled courage and character of us that defines us as a people. So my confidence in the future is steeped in our glorious past - in the face of adversity, we always persist. We persevere, we prevail." Governor Kathy Hochul*

## In The News-New York State



### Governor Hochul's Letter to US Senate: The 'Big Ugly' Reconciliation Bill Will Devastate New York Families

Governor Kathy Hochul today issued a [letter to Senate Majority Leader John Thune](#) outlining the potentially disastrous impact that the House's proposed budget would have on New Yorkers. If enacted, the bill would "gut New York's healthcare system, strip families of crucial nutrition benefits, trigger billions in economic losses through the removal of clean energy tax credits, and continue to unfairly tax hard-working New Yorkers by failing to fully repeal the SALT cap."

According to the Governor, the House bill cuts \$13.5 billion in funding for New York's healthcare economy through cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act marketplace, putting nearly 1.5 million New Yorkers at risk of losing their health insurance. The Governor asserted that safety net hospitals in rural and low-income areas could be forced to close doors permanently and doctors and health care providers would face financial jeopardy. The bill also significantly shrinks federal support for SNAP nutrition and food benefits, making it more difficult for the nearly three million New Yorkers who rely on SNAP.

In addition, Governor Hochul asserted that the House bill would put the safety and reliability of our power grid at risk by repealing tax credits that support major renewable and energy storage projects with an estimated loss of \$25 billion in clean energy investments. The bill would also curtail efforts to reduce housing energy costs and improve resilience by eliminating the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program, necessary to retrofit affordable housing stock. Other proposed measures include "gutting" student loan programs, levying "outrageous" taxes on nonprofits and universities, eliminating the direct-file program to simplify the tax process, and prohibiting state AI regulation.

Governor Hochul also noted that the proposed budget also failed to deliver a full repeal of the SALT cap. She indicated that the decision to impose a new, permanent SALT cap upholds a double-tax on New York taxpayers and unfairly burdens middle-class households.

The Governor urged Majority Leader Thune to reject the House proposal and instead work with Leader Charles Schumer on a bipartisan reconciliation package.



## Governor Issues Proclamation Declaring June as Worker Safety Month in NYS

Governor Kathy Hochul this week proclaimed June as Worker Safety Month. The announcement coincides with three new laws going into effect: the Warehouse Worker Injury Reduction Program, Retail Worker Safety Act, and the Fashion Workers Act. These new policies are meant to safeguard workers in these sectors by requiring employers to implement health and safety programs to reduce incidents of work-related injuries or abuse.

“Behind every paycheck, there’s a life worth protecting. Our fight for the Warehouse Worker Injury Reduction Program and the Retail Worker Safety Act reflects our commitment to ensuring that every New Yorker goes home safe, every shift, every day,” Senator Jessica Ramos said. “These laws aren’t the finish line; they’re the foundation for expanded protections that safeguard the health and dignity of our workforce. Declaring June as Worker Safety Month is a powerful reminder that no job is worth risking a life. Let’s keep pushing forward to make New York a safer place to work.”

The [Warehouse Worker Injury Reduction Program](#), which went into effect June 1<sup>st</sup>, requires certain warehouse distribution center employers to establish and implement an injury reduction program. This will help them identify and reduce the risk of work-related injuries. Employers must now conduct worksite evaluations, provide training to employees and supervisors, and establish medical staffing and treatment protocols. The Warehouse Worker Injury Reduction program is part of the [Warehouse Worker Protection Act](#), which requires employers to disclose production quotas as well as protect warehouse workers from disciplinary action or firing where quotas are undisclosed or prevent legally protected breaks.

“The New York Teamsters thank Governor Hochul and legislative leaders for enacting the Warehouse Worker Injury Reduction Act and giving the state the tools to tackle the injury crisis in this industry,” Teamsters Joint Council 18 President Tom Quackenbush said. “Bad employers are putting their profits ahead of safety, and workers are getting hurt in staggering numbers. We look forward to working with the New York Department of Labor to ensure this law is properly implemented and enforced to hold these companies accountable and protect New York workers.”

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Retail Worker Safety Act went into effect. The Act requires retail employers with ten or more employees statewide to develop and implement training programs to prevent workplace violence, including acts or threats of physical violence, abuse, harassment, or intimidation. Additionally, employers with 500 or more employees must install silent response buttons or provide wearable or mobile phone-based silent response buttons by January 2027.

The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) has created a series of training videos and a written model training to assist employers with creating their own workplace violence prevention training programs.

The [New York Fashion Workers Act](#) goes into effect on June 19<sup>th</sup> and requires model management companies and model management groups to comply with new duties and responsibilities under the law. The new law outlines the duties and responsibilities companies must provide, including:

- Acting in the best interest of the models they represent.
- Ensuring a safe work environment.
- Providing models with a written agreement detailing their total compensation before work begins and clearly communicating itemized deductions and disclosing any financial relationships with clients.
- Establishing company policies and complaint processes that address abuse, harassment, and any other inappropriate behavior towards models.

“Every worker has the right to a safe work environment, free from threats of violence, exploitation, and workplace oversights that lead to injuries,” New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said. “With these new laws, our Department now has more tools in its toolbox to better protect hundreds of thousands of workers across these industries.”



## Bills Passed by Both Houses of the Legislature



***A934-A/S6735A--Sponsored by AM Magnarelli/Senator Fahy--***Clarifies the procedure on when to allow the use of peremptory challenges in criminal trials with an even number of defendants when there is a tie between defendants on using a challenge. The bill requires the challenge to be honored in that situation.

***A1672A/S S6822-A--Sponsored by AM Rosenthal/Senator Gianaris--***Prohibits contracts for the purchase or financing of a dog or cat from online websites from including provisions allowing repossession of the animal.

***A 2725A AM Paulin/Senator Fernandez--***Requires employers to include an opioid antagonist where first aid kits are required by federal law.

***A 2736A AM Jacobson/Senator Hinchey--***Requires utilities to fully describe their capital expenditures in rate cases and requires the burden of proof to show that a capital expenditure is just and reasonable be on the utility.

***A3516/S416--Sponsored by AM Reyes/Senator Gianaris--***Requires that any law enforcement agency in the state that chooses to encrypt its radio communications shall ensure that members of the press and emergency services organizations maintain real-time access to communications.

***A5345/S4323--Sponsored by AM Hunter/Senator Krueger--***Establishes a framework for banks and their customers to utilize special deposits with greater certainty of how deposits will be treated when identified events occur. The framework has an "opt in" and applies only if a bank and its customer specify in the account agreement that they intend to be covered by the Uniform Special Deposits Act.

***A7617/S7151A--Sponsored by AM Peoples-Stokes/Senator Baskin--***Repeals New York's current prohibition on multiple listings for organ transplantation candidate patients, allowing patients to register at multiple transplant centers within the state.

**A7928/S7193--Sponsored by AM Cruz/Senator Scarcella-Spanton--**Extends the effectiveness of the New York Black Car Operators' Injury Compensation Fund, Inc. for three years.

**A8045/S7622--Sponsored by AM Bronson/ Senator Brouk--**Extends provisions authorizing certain mental health practitioners to engage in diagnosis and the development of assessment-based treatment plans.

**S1373/A4910--Sponsored by Senator Serrano/AM Simone--**Creates an option on dog registration applications for a dog owner to donate to a local animal pound or shelter in the area.

**S1356A/A3649B--Sponsored by Senator Skoufis/AM Taylor--**Authorizes the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to join a multistate voter list maintenance organization such as the Electronic Registration Information Center, also known as ERIC.

**S5149/A5524--Sponsored by Senator Comrie/AM Jackson--**Requiring all contracting agencies to promptly provide written and email notice to unsuccessful bidders that are MWBEs, notifying them that they were not selected and the reasons why, and to disclose the identity of the successful bidder, offer guidance for improving future proposals, and advise the MWBE of services and debriefings available to help them with future proposals.

## ***In The News-New York City***



NYC Office of the Mayor

### **Mayor Adams Announces Citywide Speed Limit for E-Bikes and E-Scooters, Presses City Council for Action on Legislation To Protect Delivery Workers**

***Proposed Rule Prohibits E-Bikes and E-Scooters from Traveling Faster Than 15 Miles-Per-Hour on City Streets***

***Mayor Adams Pushes for Council Action on Adams Administration Bill to Create Commercial Delivery License to Strengthen Delivery Worker, Battery, and Traffic Safety***

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week announced a slate of new policies to enhance street safety, including a citywide 15 mile-per-hour speed limit for e-bikes and e-scooters on city streets.

Recognizing that enforcement and physical safety measures can only go so far, Mayor Adams also renewed a push for the City Council to take up legislation he announced to create a commercial delivery license to strengthen delivery worker, battery, and traffic safety.

"I have heard, over and over again, from New Yorkers about how their safety — and the safety of their children — has been put at risk due to speeding e-bikes and e-scooters, and today, our administration is saying enough is enough: We are implementing a new 15-mile-per-hour speed limit for e-bikes and e-scooters that will make our streets safer," said Mayor Adams. "We're proud of the work we've done to expand biking across the five boroughs, but we have an obligation to keep everyone safe. We are also calling

on our partners in the City Council to pass our long-proposed legislation that will strengthen delivery worker safety — it's time to protect delivery workers and all New Yorkers, once and for all."

The proposed rule to establish a speed limit would prohibit e-bikes, electric scooters, and pedal-assist commercial bicycles from operating at speeds greater than 15 miles-per-hour on city streets, the same speed limit that currently applies to stand up e-scooters. The new rules would also mirror best practices for e-bike speeds in many other areas of the world, including the European Union.

Mayor Adams also announced the city is exploring installing additional physical safety measures in city parks, including Central Park and Prospect Park, to protect both riders of e-bikes and pedestrians walking near them.

Originally announced by Mayor Adams during his [2024 State of the City address](#), the proposed legislation to create a Department of Sustainable Delivery has stalled in the City Council for over nine months, according to the Mayor. Meanwhile, the Adams administration has held multiple roundtable discussions with app companies, bike companies, transportation advocacy groups, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), hospitality industry leaders, and delivery workers.



## **Downstate Community Advisory Board Submits Proposal That Will Modernize the Hospital and Preserve All Inpatient and Outpatient Services in Central Brooklyn**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week received the Downstate Community Advisory Board proposal for the over \$1 billion State reinvestment in SUNY Downstate's hospital. According to the Governor, following months of community input and engagement, the advisory board advanced a proposal that aims to stabilize and renovate the facility and deliver a modern hospital to Central Brooklyn.

The proposal from the advisory board will:

- Retain all current inpatient and outpatient services, including maternity and kidney transplant services.
- Convert all double-occupancy rooms to private rooms with showers and add additional rooms resulting in 225 operational beds (with the goal of increasing the current 165 average daily census).
- Modernize and expand the emergency department to 45 stations.
- Establish/renovate dedicated inpatient specialty units for cardiology, oncology, and orthopedics.
- Build a new hospital annex, including an ambulatory surgery center that expands services in oncology and cardiology.
- Address the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure issues that have resulted in repeated system failures.

“PEF has been a vocal Advocate for the revitalization of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, emphasizing the necessity of substantial investment to address long-standing challenges in the community,” President of the Public Employees Federation Wayne Spence said. “PEF's consistent advocacy underscored the importance of sustained investment and stakeholder engagement in transforming SUNY Downstate into a renewed and equitable healthcare institution for Brooklyn's residents."

The State provided \$750 million in capital funding for SUNY Downstate’s hospital in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Enacted State Budgets, and directed SUNY to dedicate its anticipated \$50 million annual capital allocations in each of the next seven years to bring the total investment to more than \$1 billion.

*Briefs*

**Comptroller DiNapoli: State Pension Fund Investments Return  
5.84% for State Fiscal Year 2024-25**

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli today announced that the New York State Common Retirement Fund’s (Fund) investment return was 5.84% for the state fiscal year that ended March 31, 2025. The Fund closed the year with an estimated value of \$272.8 billion.

“Market volatility has been pronounced in the first half of 2025, with unpredictable actions out of Washington and other economic and geopolitical issues causing uncertainty for investors that is likely to continue in the short term,” Comptroller DiNapoli said. “The state pension fund’s sound management and long-term approach has weathered previous market ups and downs and remains well-positioned to provide the retirement benefits state and local government employees have earned.”

The Fund’s long-term expected rate of return is 5.9%. Comptroller DiNapoli noted that while yearly returns vary, the Fund has delivered a five-year rate of return of 10.6% and a 10-year rate of 7.74%

The Fund's value reflects retirement and death benefits of \$16.7 billion paid out during the fiscal year.

**New York State Common Retirement  
Fund Fiscal Year-End Value**

Year	Fund Value (in billions)	Rate of Return*
2015	\$184.5	7.16%
2016	\$178.6	0.19%
2017	\$192.4	11.48%
2018	\$207.4	11.35%
2019	\$210.5	5.23%
2020	\$194.3	-2.68%
2021	\$258.1	33.55%
2022	\$272.1	9.51%
2023	\$248.5	-4.14%
2024	\$267.4	11.56%
2025	\$272.8	5.84%

SFY ends March 31  
\*Rate of return is calculated by the fund's custodian bank on a time-weighted basis based on preliminary fund values.

As of March 31, 2025, the Fund had 39.2% of its assets invested in publicly traded equities. The remaining Fund assets by allocation are invested in cash, bonds, and mortgages (23%), private equity (14.9%), real estate and real assets (14.1%) and credit, absolute return strategies, and opportunistic alternatives (8.8%).

## **Lighthouse Point Phase I Completed on SI's St. George Waterfront**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week celebrated the completion of the first phase of Lighthouse Point, a mixed-use project developed by Triangle Equities that brings new housing, commercial space, and economic opportunity to Staten Island's St. George waterfront.

“For more than a century, this historic site served as a beacon for ships navigating into New York Harbor, and today Lighthouse Point becomes a beacon for Staten Island's economic future,” Governor Hochul said. “This development exemplifies our commitment to creating housing opportunities that work for all New Yorkers — from market-rate homes to affordable units for working families — while honoring our state's rich maritime heritage. When we invest in transit-accessible, mixed-use developments like this, we're building the foundation for thriving, inclusive communities.”

The site, which once served as the U.S. Lighthouse Service General Depot guiding ships safely into New York Harbor, has been transformed into a modern, walkable, transit-oriented waterfront community. The first phase of the development features 115 new residential units, 60,000 square feet of commercial space, and 274 parking spots. Backed by \$16.5 million in State investment through Empire State Development, this project addresses critical housing needs while spurring economic opportunity on Staten Island's North Shore.

“Triangle Equities is proud to bring a slew of new housing, retail, and job opportunities to the community, while ushering in an era of economic growth for the region with support from our partners at ESD,” Triangle Equities President and CEO Lester Petracca said. “It has been an honor to work alongside ESD, NYC Economic Development Corporation, and our project partners throughout the development process, and we look forward to continuing our joint mission to bring much-needed affordable housing to Staten Island’s North Shore through this phase of Lighthouse Point.”

The development is expected to create approximately 100 permanent jobs and has generated over 1,200 construction jobs during the building of phase one. Located steps from the St. George Ferry Terminal, Lighthouse Point provides residents with direct access to Manhattan while contributing to the ongoing revitalization of Staten Island's North Shore. The development team has rehabilitated and repurposed the site’s historic wall along Bay Street by incorporating it into the building.

From 1863 to 1966, the Lighthouse Point site served as the U.S. Lighthouse Service General Depot, functioning as the operational headquarters for lighthouse services across the entire United States for over a century. This critical maritime facility operated under the Treasury Department until 1903, then under the Department of Commerce and Labor through 1939, before transitioning to Coast Guard oversight. The site remained active until 1966 when the Coast Guard relocated operations to Governor's Island, with the New York Harbor Pilots' Association maintaining a presence until 1984. After sitting vacant for decades, the property was transferred to the City, setting the stage for the redevelopment.

# ***Coming Up***

## ***New York State***

### ***Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>***

***New York Board of Regent Meeting***, 89 Washington Ave, Albany, 9 a.m.

***New York State Senate Session***, Senate Chamber, Albany, 3 p.m.

***New York State Assembly Session***, Assembly Chamber, Albany

### ***Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>***

***New York Board of Regent Meeting***, 89 Washington Ave, Albany, 11:25 a.m.

***New York State Senate Session***, Senate Chamber, Albany, 3 p.m.

***New York State Assembly Session***, Assembly Chamber, Albany

### ***Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>***

***New York State Department of Health: Early Intervention Coordinating Council***, Empire State Plaza Convention Center – Meeting Room 6, 10:15 a.m.

***New York State Senate Session***, Senate Chamber, Albany, 3 p.m.

***New York State Assembly Session***, Assembly Chamber, Albany

### ***Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>***

***New York State Senate Session***, Senate Chamber, Albany, 11 a.m.

***New York State Assembly Session***, Assembly Chamber, Albany

## ***New York City***

### ***Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction***, 250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 p.m.

***Committee on Aging***, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 p.m.

### ***Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure***, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

***Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises***, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10:45 a.m.

***Committee on Land Use***, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 11 a.m.

***Committee on Veterans***, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, 11 a.m.

***Committee on Hospitals***, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

### ***Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Finance***, Council Chamber – City Hall, 9:30 a.m.

***City Council Stated Meeting***, Council Chamber – City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

### ***Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>***

***Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions***, 250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10 a.m.

***Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises***, 250 Broadway - Committee Room, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 11 a.m.

***Committee on Economic Development***, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 p.m.

### ***Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Oversight and Investigations***, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

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