



# This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

March 17, 2017 Edition



## *In the News – New York State*

### Let the Budget Conference Committees Begin

*9 Session Days Remain Before the Start of the New Fiscal Year*

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



Indicates Session Day



Indicates Start of Fiscal Year

Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night (and nights) stayed the NYS Legislature from the completion of its appointed rounds. The Senate and Assembly left a snow-laden Albany on Wednesday having passed the respective budget resolutions. The 2017-2018 budget negotiations now move into the next stage: Convening the Budget Conference Committees.

All week long stakeholders have been pouring over the pages of the respective bills trying to determine what’s in, what’s out, where the houses agree, where they disagree, and where everything stands in relation to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s plan. One item that the Legislature firmly denied was the Governor’s proposal to give the Division of Budget the power to deal with any funding shortfall resulting from the federal budget negotiations.

“We like it to be a balanced government,” Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) said, indicating the Legislature could return in the fall to deal with any shortfall.

Since the one-house releases, the press in all corners of the State have been reporting on the status of the major issues. With nine session days of negotiating remaining, the political fate of many of the issues could easily change. In the meantime, to follow is a rundown of some of the major issues:

**Millionaire's surcharge:** The Assembly and the Senate IDC joined Governor Cuomo in supporting an extension of the income tax surcharge on high income earners. The Senate, however, insists that the surcharge should sunset.

**Water infrastructure:** Both the Legislature and the Governor agree that New York must invest in its water infrastructure system. However, the investments vary from \$2 billion to \$8 billion.

**Heroin and opioid epidemic:** Both the Legislature and the Governor agree that more funding is necessary to address problem with heroin and opioid addictions.

**Aid to public schools:** All sides want a significant boost in state aid to public schools, again the devil is in the amounts. Governor Cuomo proposed \$900 million. The Senate suggests infusing \$1.2 billion. The Assembly came in with a \$1.8 billion boost.

**Aid for college students:** Both the Legislature and the Governor appear to agree that something must be done to make college tuition more affordable. However, the proposals differ in student and income eligibility, public versus private college, and how the Tuition Assistance Program comes into play.

**Raising the age for adult criminal responsibility:** Identified as Priority #1 for the Assembly, Raise the Age also has the support of Governor Cuomo. The Senate identified it as an issue to be discussed in the context of the budget. The Senate IDC included it in its one-house budget.

**Pay raise for direct care workers:** Both the Senate and Assembly included the \$45 million necessary to fund a pay raise for 100,000 direct care workers at nonprofits servicing the developmentally disabled. Governor Cuomo left that highly publicized line item out of his Executive Budget.



## **Bills Signed by the Governor**

**Chapter 9 - Sponsored by M of A Sepulveda/Senator Rivera (A368)** -- Relates to the appointment of interpreters to be used in parole board proceedings.

**Chapter 10 - Sponsored by M of A Cahill/Senator Seward (A376)** -- Relates to the state insurance advisory board in relation to membership.

**Chapter 12 - Sponsored by M of A Crespo/Senator Klein (A379)** -- Relates to access to the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children relating to specialty formula.

**Chapter 13 - Sponsored by M of A Moya/Senator Klein (A380)** -- Relates to employment agencies

**Chapter 14 - Sponsored by Senator Avella/M of A Lupardo (S972)** -- Relates to the early childhood advisory council.

**Chapter 15 - Sponsored by Senator Montgomery/M of A Simon (S974)** -- Relates to financing and construction of capital facilities for Dancewave, Inc.

**Chapter 16 - Sponsored by Senator Lanza/M of A Titone (S975)** -- Requires organizations applying for arts and cultural grants from the state council on the arts to demonstrate that their principal place of business is within New York State.

**Chapter 17 - Sponsored by Senator Ortt/M of A Englebright (S976)** -- Relates to notification requirements of the division of criminal justice services.

**Chapter 18 - Sponsored by Senator Valesky/M of A Mayer (S977)** -- Requires telemarketers to transmit to consumers the correct caller identification information.

**Chapter 20 - Sponsored by Senator Savino/M of A Richardson (S982)** -- Relates to defining consummation of a mortgage loan.

**Chapter 21 - Sponsored by Senator LaValle/M of A Englebright (S983)** -- Relates to the issuance of license plates bearing the words Cure Childhood Cancer.

**Chapter 23 - Sponsored by Senator DeFrancisco/M of A Titone (S3353)** -- Relates to the definition of employee for purposes of the workers' compensation law.

## ***In the News – New York City***

### **NYC Launches *HealingNYC* to Reduce Opioid Overdoses**

The deBlasio administration this week launched *HealingNYC*, a new effort to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 35 percent over the next 5 years.

In 2016, more than 1,000 people in New York City died in a drug overdose which involved an opioid, the highest year on record. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths increased by more than 300.



Mayor de Blasio and NYPD  
Commissioner James O'Neill.

"The opioid epidemic is a growing crisis that affects not only users, but also their loved ones," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "If we're going to start winning the battle against opioids, we need to start talking honestly about what works and invest in the strategic measures that will stop abuse, break addiction and save lives. *HealingNYC* is our plan to treat and help those struggling with addiction - and prevent more from falling under the control of these powerful drugs."

According to Mayor de Blasio, the increase is driven by the introduction of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, into the supply of illicit drugs. Before 2015, fentanyl was involved in fewer than five percent of all overdose deaths in New York City. Almost 90 percent of fatal opioid overdoses in 2016 involved heroin or fentanyl, while 18 percent involved prescription opioid painkillers.

*HealingNYC* builds on the steps the City has already taken to address the opioid crisis which included the expansion of naloxone availability and training, increased training for physicians on buprenorphine, and the creation of the Mayor's Heroin and Prescription Opioid Public Awareness Task Force. In 2016, the City doubled its budget for its harm reduction and outreach engagement programs, to create more mobile outreach and drop-in centers to serve an additional 12,000 individuals.

Through *HealingNYC*, the City will focus its efforts on four main goals to combat the epidemic, and invest \$38 million annually at full ramp-up to implement the following strategies:

- **Prevent opioid overdose deaths** – The City will distribute 100,000 naloxone kits to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York City Police Department, the Department of Social Services and Correctional Health Services, a division of NYC Health + Hospitals.
- **Prevent opioid misuse and addiction** – In 2017, *ThriveNYC* will create additional mental health clinics in high-need schools that account for a disproportionate share of suspensions and mental health issues. The City will also build on "Save a Life, Carry Naloxone" public awareness campaign and will connect up to five of the communities at highest risk with targeted prevention messages and care. In addition, the City will also educate clinicians on best practices for judicious prescribing, and expand the Nonfatal Overdose Response System (NORS) to a total of 10 high-risk neighborhoods, up from three from 2017 to 2019.
- **Connect New Yorkers to effective treatment** – An additional 20,000 New Yorkers will have access to medication-assisted treatment by 2022 as NYC Health + Hospitals will adapt its substance use care models to address opioid use. The City will also build on the work of the Mayor's Task Force on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice System to target treatment and expand resources in the criminal justice system.
- **Reduce the supply of dangerous opioids** – In 2017, the Administration will make new investments in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the New York City Police Department to increase the kinds of testing and information sharing that the City needs to get a

better understanding of the local drug environment. To build upon existing efforts in Staten Island, the New York City Police Department will create new Overdose Response Squads that will target dealers in other high-risk neighborhoods in New York City. The City will assign 84 detectives and hire 50 lab personnel at the New York City Police Department to combat this epidemic and disrupt the supply of opioids before they come into the city.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Health + Hospitals will lead the clinical application of the new program.



## **Wall Street Profits Up in 2016: Comptroller DiNapoli**

Securities industry profitability rose sharply in 2016, increasing by 21 percent, while the average bonus paid to employees in New York City's securities industry increased by 1 percent to \$138,210, according to an estimate released today by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

"Wall Street profits bounced back strongly in 2016. Lower costs more than made up for the continued decline in revenues," Comptroller DiNapoli said. "Bonuses were up only slightly in New York City as the industry held the line on compensation. The jump in profitability is good news since the industry generates a significant amount of tax revenue for both the state and city budgets."

The securities industry in New York City added 3,800 jobs in 2016 to reach 177,000, the highest annual level since the financial crisis. This was the third consecutive year of job gains, although job growth slowed. The industry added 2,800 jobs in 2014 and 4,500 jobs in 2015.

Despite job gains, the securities industry in New York City is 6 percent smaller than in 2007, while the rest of the private sector has grown by 20 percent. Industry accounts for less than 5 percent of the private sector jobs in the city, but generates more than one-fifth of the private sector wages paid. Comptroller DiNapoli estimates that nearly 1 in 10 jobs in the city are either directly or indirectly associated with the securities industry.



## SECURITIES INDUSTRY Employment & Profits

### EMPLOYMENT

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jobs	188,900	188,400	169,600	166,300	172,200	169,300	165,900	168,700	173,200	177,000

Source: NYS Department of Labor  
Prepared by the Office of the State Comptroller, March 15, 2017

### PROFITS

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
\$ Billions	11.3	12.2	9.7	16.3	21.0	10.4	6.9	16.8	13.7	9.4	20.9

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
\$ Billions	-11.3	-42.6	61.4	27.6	7.7	23.9	16.7	16.0	14.3	17.3

Note: Profits are for the broker/dealer operations of New York Stock Exchange member firms. Profits have not been adjusted for inflation.  
Sources: NYSE/Intercontinental Exchange; Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association  
Prepared by the Office of the State Comptroller, March 15, 2017



Comptroller DiNapoli also reported that:

- The average salary (including bonuses) in the city’s securities industry (\$388,000 in 2015, was five times higher than in the rest of the private sector (\$74,000). Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the industry’s employees in the city earned more than \$250,000, compared with 2 percent in the rest of the city’s workforce.
- The securities industry accounted for 18.5 percent (\$13.8 billion) of state tax collections in state fiscal year 2015-2016 and 7 percent (\$3.7 billion) of city tax collections in city fiscal year 2016.

## Bills Approved by the Council

**Introduction 247-A, sponsored by Council Member Elizabeth Crowley,** would categorize electrical work performed without a required license as an immediately hazardous violation and would impose a minimum penalty of \$4,800.

**Introduction 748-B, sponsored by Council Member Corey Johnson,** would require an agency designated by the Mayor to prepare a report on municipal drug strategy, including short-term and long-term plans and recommendations to coordinate private and public resources to address problems associated with drug use. The bill would also create a municipal drug strategy advisory council whose members would include agency representatives from DOHMH, DOE, H+H, NYPD, ACS, HRA, DOC, DOP, DHS, the speaker of the city council and up to three members appointed by the speaker. The advisory council would additionally include the representatives of any other agencies deemed necessary, and at least eight additional representatives, including one from each of the following: continuum of care providers, those directly affected by drug use, those in recovery from drug use, people formerly incarcerated for drug related offenses, and experts in issues related to illicit and non-medical drug use and policies. This advisory council will make recommendations to the designated agency and may produce an advisory addendum to the New York municipal city drug policy strategy report.

**Introduction 882-A, sponsored by Council Member Helen Rosenthal,** would require that City capital projects with a baseline cost of \$950,000 or more involving the construction or reconstruction projects of one or more assembly areas must include an induction loop assistive listening system in at least one assembly area. Projects are exempt from this requirement if the induction loop assistive listening system will cost more than 5% of the baseline construction costs, if the building is not owned by the city (unless 50% or more of the estimated cost of the project will be paid for by the city) or if the mayor exempts the project.

**Introduction 1071-A, sponsored by Council Member Alan Maisel,** would require DOT to conduct a study of private streets in the city, including a review of the factors that may be considered or necessary for the City's acquisition of private streets.

**Introduction 1198-A, sponsored by Council Member Donovan Richards,** would require DEP to issue to the Mayor, Speaker and post publicly online, a plan for mitigating flooding in Queens Community Districts 12 and 13. Additionally, the bill would require DEP to issue reports on progress in implementing such plan after the end of each fiscal year.

**Introduction 1474-A, sponsored by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez,** would lower the rate of the medallion transfer tax from 5% to 0.5%.

**Introduction 1475-A, sponsored by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez,** would effectively eliminate the remaining distinction between individual and mini-fleet medallions, allowing all medallions to be owned by any owner, regardless of whether they own a single medallion or more than one medallion. The bill would also change TLC's authority to revoke medallions for nonuse from mandatory to permissive, and would repeal a provision requiring a bond to be filed for outstanding tort liabilities for the transfer of a medallion.

# State Legislators Launch Partnership to Provide Breast Cancer Support

*Program Kickoff will Raise Awareness of Breast Cancer in Low-Income Communities of Color Empowering Survivors and Community Members*

State Legislators Senator Marisol Alcantara and Assemblymember Carmen de la Rosa this week joined ambassadors of SHARE Breast Cancer Support to announce a partnership to bring breast cancer awareness to low-income communities of color.

According to Senator Alcantara, Latina women have the lowest rate of regular mammogram screenings of any group, and black women have much higher rates of death from breast cancer than any other group. In addition, low-income women in general are not as likely to have regular contact with health services.

Senator Alcantara and Assemblymember de la Rosa have been working with SHARE to train breast cancer survivors and other women how to be breast cancer ambassadors. They bring information about screening and risk factors to their own communities through trainings, workshops, and the distribution of materials.

SHARE Ambassadors are breast and ovarian cancer survivors trained to educate under-served Latino/Hispanic and African-American communities about these diseases. All are women of color, and they offer educational presentations at community-based organizations in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.



**Ivis Sampayo, SHARE Policy Director (C), Sen. Marisol Alcantara (L), AM Carmen De La Rosa (R) & Cancer Survivor Advocates Kickoff Breast Cancer Outreach Program**

Diagnosed with breast cancer?  
¿Fue usted diagnosticada con el cáncer de seno?

SHARE  
www.sharecancer.org  
https://sharecancer.org

Special Thanks to  
Marisol Alcantara  
Carmen De la Rosa

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer, SHARE is here for you.  
Call us at **1.844.275.7427**

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha sido diagnosticado con cáncer de seno o cáncer de ovario Latina SHARE está aquí para usted.  
Llámenos al **1.844.275.7427**

NewYork-Presbyterian  
West Harlem Development Corporation  
Solutions through collaboration™

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "black women have the highest death rates of all racial and ethnic groups and are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women. The reasons for this difference result from many factors including having ... fewer social and economic resources. To improve this disparity, black women need more timely follow-up and improved access to high-quality treatment."

In addition, Latina women are about 20 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than non-Latina white women diagnosed at a similar age and stage, according to the American Cancer Society. Latinas are significantly more likely to present at a later stage with larger tumors that are more difficult to treat. It is believed that these disparities exist because of different access to treatment and lower rates of mammograms in the Latina community.



## Briefs

### **Despite Private Sector Growth, State and Local Government Employment Has Not Regained Jobs Lost to the Great Recession**

Rockefeller Institute of Government this week released a report showing that, across the country, state and local government job growth remains weak in comparison to strong private sector growth. Employing more than 19 million people, state and local governments account for nearly 13 percent of total employment for the nation. Nationally, state and local government employment is 1.5 percent below its prior peak, while private sector employment is 6.4 percent above its prior peak.

“...While the national economy has recovered from the Great Recession in many respects, state and local governments across the nation are clearly still feeling its effects,” Jim Malatras, President of the Rockefeller Institute of Government. “For many governments, this is forcing them to rethink operations, find efficiencies, and alternative ways to deliver services. The current trend in Washington to shift responsibilities back to localities and states will only exacerbate this problem.”

Specifics of the report include:

- State government employment nationally is 2.5 percent below its peak level and local government employment is 1.3 percent below its peak level.
- State government non-education employment, for services such as corrections, hospitals and other health care, public welfare, and highways, has fared the worst among the government subsectors - --- currently, 5.5 percent below its peak even though the population has grown 6.9 percent over the same period.
- Local government education and non-education employment are 2.0 percent and 0.8 percent below their respective prior peaks, while elementary and secondary enrollment has risen by more than 2.0 percent during the same period.
- The only subsector that has grown is state government education employment for universities, colleges, and similar services; employment is up 1.2 percent above the prior peak.

### **NYS Sees Decline in Sepsis Mortality Rates**

Since 2014, New York has achieved a consistent reduction in sepsis mortality rates, according to a study by the State Department of Health. The reduction comes as a result of regulations establishing protocols for hospitals to improve identification and treatment of sepsis.

Sepsis is a progressive shutdown of the body's organs and systems caused by systemic inflammation following infection that enters the blood or soft tissue. Those who don't die often experience life-altering consequences like missing limbs or organ dysfunction. Studies have shown that early detection combined with appropriate interventions can improve the chances of survival.

The DOH study comparing quarterly data from 2014 and 2016 has confirmed a 20 percent increase in the identification of sepsis patients from 10,970 at the onset of the study to 13,126 at its conclusion. In this same timeframe, mortality rates in adults steadily declined from 30.2 percent to 25.4 percent.

## NYC Sues Verizon Over Fios

The City of New York this week filed a complaint in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, contending that Verizon breached its 2008 franchise agreement. That contract called for Verizon to build a citywide Fios network by the end of 2014. However, the City asserts, that Verizon has failed to make its service available to at least “tens of thousands” of prospective customers and has refused to accept service requests from many others.

"Verizon must face the consequences for breaking the trust of 8.5 million New Yorkers. Verizon promised that every household in the city would have access to its fiber-optic Fios service by 2014. It's 2017 and we're done waiting. No corporation - no matter how large or powerful - can break a promise to New Yorkers and get away with it," Mayor de Blasio said.

## Coming Up

### *New York State*

*No meetings scheduled this week*

### *New York City*

#### ***Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Health***, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing-Health.

***Committee on Mental Health***, Committee Room – City Hall, 3 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing-Mental Health.

#### ***Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>***

***Committee on Education***, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing-Education.

***Committee on Parks and Recreation***, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing-Parks and Recreation.

## **Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Committee on Immigration**, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.  
Preliminary Budget Hearing-Immigration.

**Committee on Civil Rights**, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.  
Preliminary Budget Hearing-Civil Rights.

## **Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Committee on Environmental Protection**, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.  
Preliminary Budget Hearing-Environmental Protection.

**Committee on Housing and Buildings**, Committee Room – 250 Broadway 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10 a.m.  
Int 0393-2014 in relation to illegal residential conversions.  
Int 0750-2015 in relation to requiring landlords to distribute voter registration forms.  
Int11333-2016 in relation to the denial of building permits where outstanding charges are owed to the city.

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