



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

June 10, 2022 Edition



“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”
-George Orwell, 1984-

In the News – New York State



Governor Hochul to Consider a Record Number of Bills as Legislature Gives Two-House Approval to Over 1,000 Initiatives in 2022

The second half of 2022 will be very busy for Governor Kathy Hochul and her counsels, as the Legislature will be presenting her with a record number of initiatives to consider in her first full year as Executive. The Senate and Assembly passed 1,007 two-house bills in 2022, surpassing the former high of 958 in 2006. To date, the Governor has considered 214 of those bills, leaving 793 remaining for review.

Of the 214 chapters signed to date, over 150 of those bills were chapter amendments to initiatives passed in 2021 which Governor Hochul approved with the understanding that changes would be enacted in 2022. In previous years, the number of chapter amendments were approximately 75 (2021), 55 (2020), and 25 (2019). Also, to date, Governor Hochul has issued 33 vetoes, all line items, in relation to funding in the Aid to Localities budget.

The Legislature's 1,007 record number is expected to increase before the year is out. It is anticipated that the Legislature will be returning this summer to address legislation in response to the pending Supreme Court decision on New York's concealed carry gun law. In addition, per published reports, the recently enacted gun safety legislation limiting the use of protective wear may need amendments to cover the type of body armor used in the Buffalo shooting. According to published reports, the Governor's office confirmed the legislation does not expressly cover hard body armor and indicated she will work with the Legislature to expand the definition at the first opportunity.

To follow is link to a sampling of the 793 bills that remain to be considered from the first six months of the record breaking 2022 session: [Bills Passed Both Houses](#).

MTA, in Partnership with Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT, Seeking Firms to Design Penn Station Reconstruction

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), in partnership with Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT, is [requesting proposals](#) from architecture and engineering firms to guide the \$7 billion Penn Station Reconstruction. The RFP went live Thursday afternoon and the opening/due date is July 28th. Officials will choose a winning bid by late summer or early fall.



Governor Hochul's plan, released last fall, calls for the redesign of Penn Station into a modern facility that is easy to navigate, increases transit access, and revitalizes the surrounding neighborhood to prioritize the public realm and invest in affordable housing and shared streets. The development proposal totals 18.3 million square feet and adds up to 1,800 residential apartments, 540 of which will be tied to income levels. According to published reports, Empire State Development (ESD) estimates that about

1,618,200 square feet will be residential, or just under 9% of the overall area.

The rebuilt station will integrate train boarding and all public functions and amenities on a single level. The makeover includes eight new entrances to the station, 18 new escalators and 11 new elevators to platforms, wider sidewalks outside and eight acres of added public space.

The project does not add any new tracks or train capacity to the station. According to Governor Hochul, the future expansion of Penn Station will add track and platform capacity and be fully integrated with a reconstructed Penn Station.

ESD's board will consider and likely vote on the development project's environmental impact statement at a June 30 meeting and vote on the overall proposal at the following meeting in July, according to agency spokesperson.



Chapters of the Laws of 2022

Chapter 204 Sponsored by AM Fahy/Senator Kaplan--Requires social media networks to provide and maintain mechanisms for reporting hateful conduct on their platform.

Chapter 205 Sponsored by AM Rosenthal L/Senator Hoylman--Requires semiautomatic pistols manufactured or delivered to any licensed dealer in this state to be capable of microstamping ammunition.

Chapter 206 Sponsored by Senator Kaminsky/AM Wallace--Establishes the crimes of making a threat of mass harm and aggravated threat of mass harm.

Chapter 207 Sponsored by Senator Kavanagh/AM Paulin--Requires the creation and imposition of restrictive commercial practices and stringent recordkeeping and reporting to prevent gun and ammunition sales to individuals with a criminal record.

Chapter 208 Sponsored by Senator Skoufis/Rules (AM Cahill)--Authorizes certain health care providers to file an application for an extreme risk protection order against a person examined by such health care provider in certain circumstances.

Chapter 209 Sponsored by Senator Hoylman/Rules (AM Peoples-Stokes)--Relates to the definition of large capacity ammunition feeding device for purposes of the offense of criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.

Chapter 210 Sponsored by Senator Kavanagh/Rules (AM Jacobson)--Relates to the unlawful purchase and the unlawful sale or delivery of a body vest.

Chapter 211 Sponsored by Senator Sepulveda/Rules (AM Burgos)--Expands the definition of a "firearm" to include any weapon not defined in the Penal Law that is designed or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

Chapter 212 Sponsored by Senator Thomas/Rules (AM Jackson)--Limits the purchase or taking possession of a semiautomatic rifle to individuals 21 years of age or older.

Chapter 213 Sponsored by Senator Bailey/Rules (AM Meeks)--Establishes the task force on social media and violent extremism; and requires the domestic terrorism task force report to be delivered to the attorney general.

Chapter 214 Sponsored by Senator Kavanagh/AM Cybrowitz--Relates to authorizing any dwelling with a certificate authorizing occupancy as a Class B hotel to also authorize occupancy of the units for permanent residence purposes.

In the News – New York City



Attorney General James Reaches Agreement with Verizon to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced this week that she has reached an agreement with Verizon to ensure that the company takes swift and comprehensive action to prevent the spread of Legionnaires' disease in New York. The agreement follows an investigation that found at least 225 alleged violations of city and state laws at 45 of Verizon's cooling tower locations throughout the state.

An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found that since 2017, Verizon failed to conduct testing, address positive test results, and clean and inspect the cooling towers by required deadlines. As part of the agreement, Verizon will adopt official policies and procedures to ensure full, ongoing compliance with the law and pay a \$118,000 penalty for the violations, which will be used by OAG to address the health impacts of air pollution.

"Legionnaires' disease remains a deadly presence in areas across our state, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color," said Attorney General James. "It is essential that companies such as Verizon are taking the necessary actions to avoid the spread of this preventable and lethal disease. This agreement will protect New Yorkers' public health and slow the spread of Legionnaires' disease."

According to the Attorney General, Verizon maintains and manages its cooling towers within the state through contractors and vendors. The violations identified at Verizon-owned buildings included alleged failures to timely test water samples from cooling towers for Legionella and other bacteria, failures to properly take corrective action in response to positive test results, and failures to timely complete cleaning, disinfection, and inspection of cooling towers. The OAG found several causes for the alleged violations, including disorganized accountability, communication and tracking failures, and a lack of central policies and procedures within the company.

Under the agreement, Verizon must establish a range of practices and procedures that will increase accountability and tracking, including:

- Ensuring that building managers, whether Verizon employees or third-party contractors, report to and are accountable to environmental health and safety compliance personnel with regard to cooling tower compliance responsibilities.
- Maintaining a centralized tracking system for cooling tower compliance deadlines, including corrective action deadlines as they may arise.

- Notifying senior Verizon management about any violation at a cooling tower, or when any laboratory report is received showing Legionella or other bacteria test results above specified concentrations.
- Performing an annual audit for compliance with these policies and procedures.

The OAG's investigations into other cooling tower owners in New York state for compliance with anti-Legionnaires' disease laws are ongoing.

According to Attorney General James, between 200 and 800 cases of Legionnaires' disease are diagnosed in New York state each year. New York City has seen a series of lethal outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease in recent months, with 24 people infected in the Bronx, leading to two confirmed deaths and several hospitalizations. The Bronx previously experienced an outbreak in 2015 that sickened 120 people and led to at least 12 deaths. Following the 2015 outbreak, both the state and city adopted laws designed to prevent Legionella growth in cooling towers.

Briefs

Governor Hochul Signs Legislative Package to Strengthen Gun Laws and Protect New Yorkers

Governor Kathy Hochul this week signed the 10-bill legislative package (See Chapters 204 to 213 on page 2-3) to immediately strengthen the state's gun laws, close loopholes exposed by shooters in Buffalo and Uvalde, and protect New Yorkers from the "scourge of gun violence that continues to infect our nation and endanger our communities."

"Gun violence is an epidemic that is tearing our country apart. Thoughts and prayers won't fix this, but taking strong action will," Governor Hochul said. "In New York, we're taking bold steps to protect the people of our state. I am proud to sign a comprehensive bill package that prohibits the sale of semiautomatic weapons to people under 21, bans body armor sales outside of people in select professions, closes critical gun law loopholes and strengthens our Red Flag Law... While we are taking expedient action to enhance New York State's nation-leading gun laws, we recognize that gun violence is a nationwide problem. I once again urge Congress to follow our lead and take immediate action to pass meaningful gun violence prevention measures. Lives depend on it."

Comptroller DiNapoli: More Needs to Be Done to Provide Mental Health Training to School Staff

A New York State Comptroller audit sampling 20 school districts found they did not provide mental health training to all staff for the 2020-21 school year by September 15th, as required by State Education Department (SED) regulations, according to a new report issued by Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Eighteen of 20 districts (90%) either did not offer mental health training or provided training that lacked some or all the recommended components, including how to access crisis support and recognizing warning signs such as obsessive compulsive, psychotic, and eating disorders.

“School personnel are often the first to notice if a student is having mental health challenges, and they need effective training to help them understand the signs and symptoms early on,” Comptroller DiNapoli said. “Failure to do so can have devastating consequences for students, staff, families and communities. Unfortunately, my office has found much of this vital training is not taking place...Our nation is facing a mental health crisis, and we need to help our students.”

The New York Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (SAVE Act) requires school districts to develop a comprehensive, district-wide school safety plan that addresses crisis intervention, emergency responses and management. The safety plan developed by each district must include policies and procedures for annual safety training for staff and students. School districts must also certify to the SED Commissioner that all staff have undergone the training, which must contain a component on mental health, and the date the training was provided.

Adams Administration to Complete over 100 Street Redesigns to Improve Safety Around Schools, Focusing on Under-Resourced Areas

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez this week announced that the city is on track to complete more than 100 safe street redesigns in 2022, with most projects located in underserved communities and many near schools.

“Our students know their communities best — down to how to stay safe on their way to and from school,” said New York City Department of Education Chancellor David Banks. “It’s vital that we invest in projects that equitably address street traffic safety, and student voice is the most powerful and essential tool we have at our disposal in this work.”



One of the projects — on Amsterdam and Saint Nicholas Avenues between West 188th Street and Fort George Avenue — was led by Northern Manhattan high school students participating in the ‘I Challenge Myself’ afterschool program. In collaboration with Department of Transportation, the students worked to develop a redesign of the street with traffic-calming measures, including two-way protected bike lanes, pedestrian islands, speed cushions, and curb extensions to reduce speeding and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. It will deliver traffic safety improvement measures to seven schools located near the corridor: the College Academy, the Equity Project Charter, High School for Health Careers and Sciences, High School for Law and Public Service, High School for Media and Communications, P.S. 138, and P.S. 189.

Other street safety improvement projects near schools include:

- Bronx: East 165th and 167th Streets between Prospect Avenue and Simpson Street
- Bronx: Boone Avenue between West Farms Road and Freeman Street
- Bronx: East 158th Street and Cauldwell Avenue
- Brooklyn: Chauncey Street and Malcolm X Boulevard
- Brooklyn: Linden Boulevard and Atkins Avenue
- Queens: Rockaway Boulevard between Sutphin Boulevard and Farmers Boulevard
- Queens: 34th Avenue (Open Street) from 69th Street to Junction Boulevard
- Staten Island: Martha Street and Howard Avenue
- Staten Island: Elson Court and Jules Drive

The announcement follows a *Streetsblog* investigation that found a disproportionate number of crashes occur near schools, and that those crashes are even more likely to happen near schools with a majority of students of color.

NYC Sanitation Department of Offer Civil Service Exam

The New York City Sanitation Department this week announced that it is opening registration for the Sanitation worker civil service exam. The registration application will be open between June 8th and June 28th. The test, which will be administered by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, will be offered on a rolling basis and is expected to be made available starting in September.

“We often take for granted that we move tons of trash,” Mayor Adams said. “The importance of this occupation and profession — it’s a significant part of our city.”

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, be 17-and-a-half years old when they take the exam and be vaccinated for COVID or have proof of vaccination exemption to apply.

Those who take the test will be ranked by their scores and chosen in order from a list as jobs become available. Starting pay is \$40,622 a year, and the salary ceiling among rank-and-file workers is \$83,465 annually.

Mayor Adams Reappoints Annabel Palma as Commissioner and Chair of NYC Commission on Human Rights

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week announced the reappointment of Annabel Palma as Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR). Palma will continue to lead the enforcement of New York City’s Human Rights Law.

Under Palma’s leadership, CCHR has expanded current protections to include domestic workers and additional salary transparency safeguards, as well as developed new trainings to combat antisemitism in New York City.

Prior to her position, Palma's public service includes the NYC Test + Trace COVID Corps, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives in the New York City Department of Social Services, City Council Member (14-year representative of District 18).

She is a graduate of Monroe College and a Certified Nursing Assistant. She joined 1199SEIU as a full-time organizer and served as the union representative at St. Vincent De Paul Senior Residence in the Bronx.

Coming Up

New York State

No Scheduled Hearings

New York City

Monday, June 13th

Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers - City Hall, 1 p.m.
Oversight – Abandoned Boats Along the Waterfront.

Tuesday, June 14th

Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers - City Hall, 10 a.m.

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings & Dispositions, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 10 a.m.

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 11:30 a.m.

Committee on Land Use, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15th

Committee on Education, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room-City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight–School Food.

Committee on General Welfare, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers-City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight–Juvenile Detention in NYC.

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Hybrid Hearing–250 Broadway–Committee Room–14th Floor, 12 p.m.

Thursday, June 16th

Committee on Finance, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers-City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Rules, Privileges & Elections, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 10:30 a.m.

City Council, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, June 17th

Committee on Veterans, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight – How New York City’s Veterans Access Healthcare.

“No man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover the bare cost of living, and hours of labor short enough so after his day’s work is done he will have time and energy to bear his share in the management of the community, to help in carrying the general load.”

-Theodore Roosevelt-

Disclaimer: The materials in this *This Week in New York* report are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to be a comprehensive review of legislative or governmental or political developments, to create a client-consultant/lobbyist relationship, or to provide consulting, lobbying or political advice. Readers are cautioned not to attempt to solve specific problems on the basis of information contained in this *This Week in New York*. If consulting, lobbying or government relations advice is required, please consult a professional expert in such matters.

The information contained herein, does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC, or any of its members or employees or its clients.

Neither Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC, nor its members or employees make any warranty, expressed or implied, and assume no legal liability with respect to the information in this report, and do not guarantee that the information is accurate, complete, useful or current. Accordingly, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC is not responsible for any claimed damages resulting from any alleged error, inaccuracy, or omission. This communication may be considered an advertisement or solicitation. To request that copies of this publication be sent to a new address or fax number, to unsubscribe, or to comment on its contents, please contact Theresa Cosgrove at tcosgrove@pittabishop.com or at (518) 449-3320.

To Our Clients: If you have any questions regarding any of the matters addressed in this newsletter, or regarding any legislative, government relations or political or consulting or related issues in general, please contact the Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC professional with whom you usually work.

This Week in New York is a publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC.

**120 Broadway, 28th Floor
New York, New York 10271**
Telephone (212) 652-3890
Facsimile (212) 652-3891

**111 Washington Avenue, St. 401
Albany, New York 12210**
Telephone (518) 449-3320
Facsimile (518) 449-5812

**25 Hyatt Street, St. 202
Staten Island, New York 10301**
Telephone (718) 943-1050
Facsimile (718) 943-1051

**1220 19th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036**
Telephone (202) 964-4753
Facsimile (202) 964-5754