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## Budget Slog Continues as Deadline Looms

With the April 1 deadline to enact the FY 2023 budget fast approaching, all things budget sucked most of the air out of the room this week as the legislature and the Executive continued to seek common ground on priorities. Table targets are expected to be announced very soon, which usually accelerates the process, and work will likely continue throughout the coming weekend.

In other news, the requirement to implement the HERO Act has expired, the state's economy saw some good news with job growth, and transportation advocates recently rallied for funding support.

**Hero Act Ends:** On March 17, 2022, the designation of COVID-19 as an airborne infectious disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health under the HERO Act ended. Private sector employers (excepting some employers in healthcare and congregate care settings or other high-risk sectors) are no longer required to implement their workforce safety plans, such as daily healthcare screenings. Here is the link to the [full DOH Press Release](#). However, New York City private employers are still required to implement [mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements](#) for their employees.

**Department of Labor:** According to preliminary seasonally adjusted figures released by the New York State Department of Labor, the number of private sector jobs in New York State increased over the month by 39,800, or 0.5%, to 7,888,300 in February 2022. By comparison, the number of private sector jobs in the U.S. increased by 0.5% in February 2022. New York State's private sector jobs (not seasonally adjusted) increased by 458,000, or 6.3%, over the year in February 2022.

By comparison, the number of private sector jobs in the U.S. increased by 5.4% over the year.

### PSLLC Notes:

**250 Attend Virtual Rally to Support Local Highway Funding:** In what has become an annual tradition at the NYS Capitol, Town Highway Superintendents, County Public Works Commissioners and highway industry professionals recently gathered in Albany to advocate for increased local highway and bridge funding in the state budget. The Park Strategies team and their clients helped coordinate this year's virtual event - "Local Roads are Essential" - which was attended by hundreds of local officials who were joined by Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Tim Kennedy and Assembly Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Magnarelli. The Rally can be viewed on the [following link](#).



## From the Governor

### Multi-State Agreement Signed with Major Hydrogen Ecosystem Partners to Propose a Regional Clean Energy Hydrogen Hub

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) that New York has signed a multi-state agreement, including with an initial group of 40 hydrogen ecosystem partners, to develop a proposal to become one of at least four regional clean energy hydrogen hubs. The hubs designated through the federal Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program included in the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The New York-led consortium includes Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, along with key industry partners.

### Executive Orders:

There were no COVID related Executive Orders issued this week. However, the Governor did extend [EO 3.6](#) through April 21, 2022 which implements a state of emergency related to gun violence.

## Legislative News

### Legislative Activity

The Legislature will be in session the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> next week (the *2022 Legislative Calendar* can be accessed [here](#)). With the legislature's focus shifting to budget negotiations, the calendar was somewhat lighter as 71 bills were passed this week.

Of particular note was:

~ [S4697 \(Breslin\) / A5384 \(Dinowitz\)](#) allows the use of an authenticated electronic signature in connection with a power of attorney used specifically for salvage vehicle title transfer documents. This bill passed the Senate, and heads to the Assembly for consideration.

### Public Hearings

There are no Public Hearing currently announced for either house of the legislature.

The public hearing calendar can be accessed [here](#).

## State Agencies

### **From the New York Office of the Attorney General**

#### **AG Reminds Crypto Investors to Pay Taxes on Virtual Investments**

New York Attorney General Letitia James [issued a warning](#) to virtual currency investors and their tax advisors to make sure that they accurately declare and pay taxes on their virtual investments. Deliberate or reckless failure to properly declare and pay taxes on cryptocurrency transactions may constitute civil or criminal violations of the tax law, as well as violations of tax provisions of the New York False Claims Act, which could result in steep financial liabilities.

### **From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller**

#### **Wall Street's 2021 Bonuses Set a New Record**

The average bonus paid to employees in New York City's securities industry for 2021 grew to \$257,500, a 20% jump over the previous year's record high, according to annual [estimates released](#) by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The estimated bonuses paid out on Wall Street are higher than the city's most recent 15.7% growth projection, and should help the city exceed its expected revenue from income taxes.

### **From the New York Department of Education**

#### **Chair and VP of Board of Regents Re-Elected**

The Board of Regents [unanimously re-elected Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr. and Josephine Victoria Finn to the posts of Chancellor and Vice Chancellor](#), respectively. Commissioner Betty Rosa [issued a statement](#) congratulating both of them. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor are the two elective officers of the University of the State of New York, each serving a three-year term.

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