

INSIDE

Legislative News

Session Days

Public Hearing Calendar

From the Governor

Resolution to Seneca Dispute

Capital Grants for the Arts Announced

Executive Orders

Agency News

AG: State Intends to Appeal Redistricting Decision

Comptroller: NYSED Needs to do more for NYers with Disabilities

OCM: Opens Portal for Localities

Time Runs Out on Budget Deadline

Members of the legislature left Albany Thursday without resolving the overarching issues holding up the FY 2023 budget negotiations. Technically, for an on-time budget, the deadline was midnight Thursday, March 31. Changing bail reform, funding for a new football stadium in Buffalo, and child care, were among the major issues that need to be resolved before differences related to access to broadband services, health care reimbursement, and wage increases for home care workers can be resolved. It is unclear whether or not budget extenders will be necessary, depending on how negotiations play out over the weekend, however the state Comptroller has [warned agencies](#) that without a budget (or an extender) in place by April 4, some state payrolls may be delayed. According to reports, leadership and staff will be working through the weekend to seek a deal.

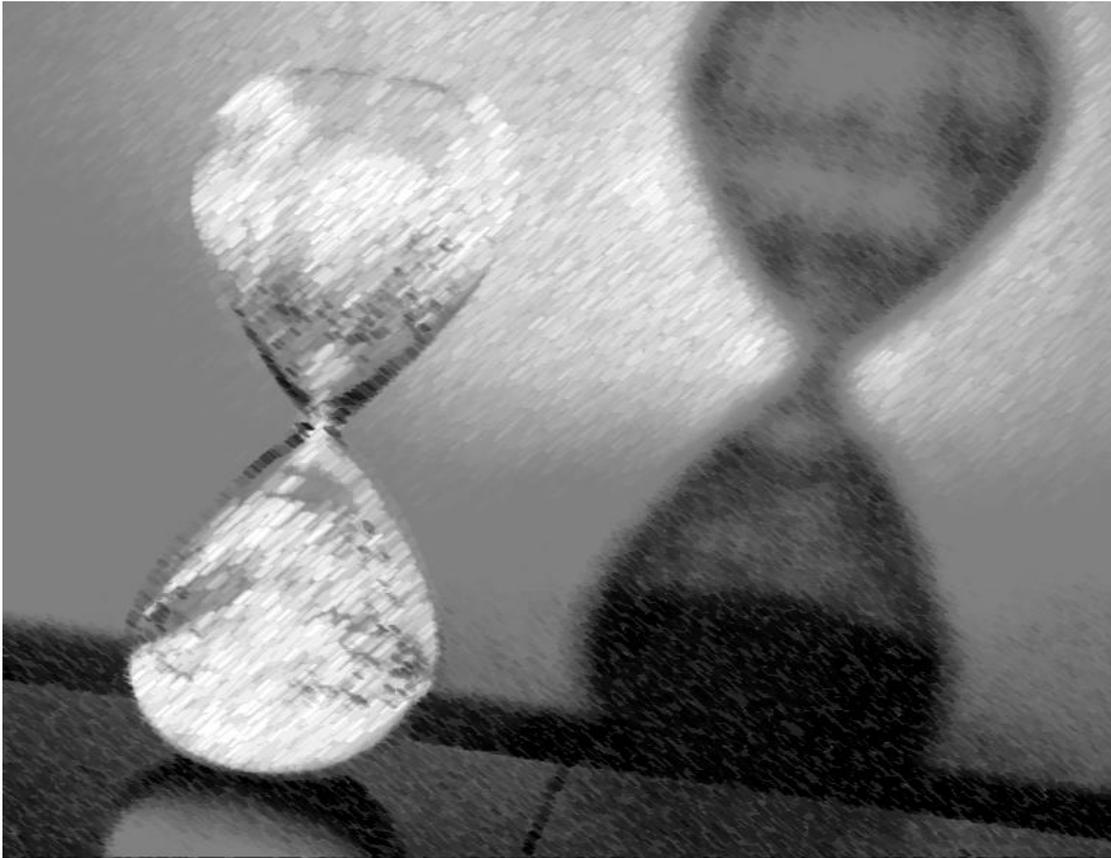
While all things budget related dominated Albany this week, there were other items of interest including the extension of an Executive Order related to staffing, which notably left out a previously authorized delay in implementing required staffing ratios for nursing homes.

Buffalo Bills New Stadium: Governor Hochul [announced an agreement](#) between NYS, Erie County, and the Buffalo Bills franchise for a new \$1.4 billion stadium in Orchard Park. The Bills will commit to remain in Buffalo for 30 years under the deal, with \$550 million coming from the NFL and the Bills, \$600 million from NYS and \$250 million from Erie County. The NYS portion of funding still needs to be approved by lawmakers in order to be finalized and has drawn a firestorm of criticism.

Childcare Funding: [Child Care funding](#) that will expand subsidies, create day care centers at public universities and additional support for providers was proposed by the Governor at a cost of \$1.4 billion. Lawmakers have pushed back on the amount of proposed funding arguing it falls far short of need. The Senate proposed \$2.2 billion in childcare funding while the Assembly has called for \$3 billion.

Bail Reform: Remains a contentious issue in budget negotiations as Governor Hochul [has proposed](#) wide ranging reforms expanding judicial discretion, effectively increasing the amount of crimes eligible for bail. Some groups of lawmakers do not agree with the proposed changes and would rather see the 2019 bail reform changes stay in place. Brooklyn Assemblywoman Latrice Walker has gone on a [hunger strike](#) opposing Governor Hochul's proposal.

Executive Order 4.7: On March 31, 2022 Governor Hochul issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 4.7](#) which extends Executive Order 4 and subsequent Executive Orders with the exception of the provisions in EO 4.4 which relate to providing relief for mandated staffing ratios in residential healthcare facilities and nursing homes.



Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature will be in session the 4th, 5th, 6th, next week (the *2022 Legislative Calendar* can be accessed [here](#)). With the legislature's focus on budget negotiations, the floor calendars were somewhat lighter as 77 bills were passed this week.

Of particular note was:

~ [A9002 / S8002 \(Budget\)](#) which is the Debt Service Fund - General Debt Service Fund budget bill that typically is the first budget bill passed, authorizing the state to continue to pay on debts incurred. The bill passed both houses of the legislature this week.

Public Hearings

No public hearings are currently scheduled for either house of the legislature. The public hearing calendar can be accessed [here](#).

From the Governor

State Reaches Resolution on Seneca Dispute

Governor Hochul [announced](#) a \$564 million resolution with the Seneca Nation settling a dispute regarding payments owed to the State. The Governor has proposed earmarking \$418 million of the windfall for a new Buffalo Bills Stadium.

\$20 Million Investment in Capital Projects for Arts and Cultural Organizations

The New York State Council on the Arts [has granted](#) 116 Capital Awards spanning 10 regions with 60% of the \$50 million in NYSCA Capital Funding going to organizations outside of New York City.

Executive Orders:

Governor Hochul extended Executive Order 4, described in the opening column, this week.

State Agencies

From the New York Office of the Attorney General

AG Statement on Redistricting Decision

A judge in New York State [Supreme Court in Stuben County struck down](#) the recently redrawn congressional and legislative maps, ordering the state Legislature to “submit bipartisanly supported maps” by April 11th, ruling the maps were unconstitutionally and politically drawn and declaring them “void and not usable.” The Attorney General and the Governor [issued a joint statement](#) stating they intend to appeal the decision.

From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller

Comptroller: State Education Employment Program For New Yorkers With Disabilities Falling Short

[The program](#) run by the State Education Department (SED) to help New Yorkers with disabilities gain employment, transition to independent living, and rise out of poverty is not fulfilling its mission because it too often leaves participants with inadequate plans that do not accomplish those goals, according to an [audit released](#) by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation Supported Employment Program (ACCES-VR) provides vocational rehabilitation services and supports the employment goals of people with a disability.

From the New York Office of Cannabis Management

Office of Cannabis Management Opens Web-Portal for Localities to File Repeals of Decisions to Opt-Out of Hosting Retail Dispensaries or On-Site Consumption Licensees

The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) [announced](#) the opening of a web-based [portal](#) through which localities that have repealed their local laws seeking to opt-out of adult-use cannabis sales at either retail dispensaries or on-site consumption lounges, or both, can file an update with the Cannabis Control Board.

The Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) enacted in March 2021, gave cities, towns, and villages until December 31, 2021, to pass a local law that makes a request to the state Cannabis Control Board to opt their jurisdiction out of hosting retail and/or on-site cannabis consumption licensees. In November, the OCM opened a web-based portal to make it easier for localities to file their requests with the Board.

PARK STRATEGIES, LLC

101 Park Avenue · Suite 2506 · New York NY 10178 · (212) 883-5608
111 Washington Avenue · Suite 600 · Albany NY 12210 · (518) 426-3800
50 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard · Suite 601 · Uniondale, NY 11553 (516) 794-9730
327 W. Fayette Street · Suite 415 · Syracuse NY 13202 · (315) 396-7535

www.parkstrategies.com

To stay up to date on the latest information, please follow us on [Park Strategies LinkedIn](#)