

## INSIDE

### Legislative News

Session Days

Public Hearing Calendar

### From the Governor

Governor Announces Plans to Redesign Penn Station

Executive Orders

### Agency News

AG: Sues Towing Company

Comptroller: More Needs to Be Done on School Mental Health Training

## Session Ends, Focus Shifts to Elections

The Legislature officially closed out the 2022 legislative session late last week with the Assembly working into Saturday morning, June 4 to finish moving priorities. The Senate adjourned Thursday evening. The focus in Albany now shifts to elections, with primaries split between June (Assembly, Governor, & all statewide offices) and August (Senate & Congressional), and the General Election set for November. Along with the entire legislature, the Governor and all statewide offices are also up for election this year.

In the meantime advocates, lobbyists, and other interested parties will continue to work behind the scenes to share support or opposition with the Governor's Office on measures that passed both houses of the legislature. Those bills will be sent to the Governor over the coming months through the end of the year for her signature or veto.

With some fairly high-profile items not addressed in the final days of session, there is always the possibility the legislature could return to Albany before the end of the year. Whether or not the urgency exists is unclear at this point. Some of those fairly high-profile items include the Clean Slate Act, 421A legislation, and Good Cause Eviction

**Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Lawsuit:** Republican gubernatorial candidate Harry Wilson [is suing](#) rival Congressman Lee Zeldin and the New York State Board of Elections before the June 28 Republican primary for governor. Harry Wilson's lawsuit claims Rep. Zeldin has an array of campaign finance violations related to people employed by the Zeldin campaign which were not reported properly thus potentially violating the contribution limits in place for the race.

**NYS Gubernatorial Democrat Candidates Debate:** Governor Kathy Hochul [faced off against challengers](#) U.S. Representative Tom Suozzi and New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams in a debate of the candidates seeking the nomination as Democrats in the June 28<sup>th</sup> primary. The candidates spoke on bail reform, voting rights, subsidies for the Buffalo Bills stadium, congestion pricing, abortion, endorsements in congressional primaries, and even commented on their favorite karaoke songs.

**Gun Control Package:** In the final hours of the Legislative session, the state Legislature [passed a package of gun control legislation](#) that will raise the minimum age to buy semiautomatic rifles to 21, ban a majority of civilians from purchasing bullet-resistant body vests, and revise the "Red Flag" laws that make it possible to remove guns from the homes of individuals that are "red flagged" for dangerous behavior or threats as well as place those individuals on lists prohibiting them from purchasing firearms. The legislation was signed into law in New York this week as the U.S. House of Representatives considered similar reforms.

**Abortion Protection:** Also in the final days of session the Senate and Assembly passed [S9077A \(Krueger\) / A10372 \(Rules - Lavine\)](#) which provides legal protections for abortion service providers including protection from extradition, arrest and legal proceedings in other states if the procedure was preformed in New York State.



**PSLLC Notes:** *Weekly update Publication Schedule* - Because there is limited legislative activity during the summer months, the *PSLLC Weekly Update* will be taking a hiatus through August. However, as news and activity warrant, we will publish *bulletins* to update our clients and colleagues (e.g., important bill signings, election news, etc.). Beginning in September the *Update* will publish monthly and then in January 2023, the *Weekly Update* will return.

## Legislative News

### Legislative Activity

The Legislature is not scheduled to return to session this year, however, session is adjourned at the call of the Majority Leader and the Speaker leaving the door open for a return to session should the respective leaders deem it necessary.

### Public Hearings

There are no upcoming public hearings scheduled at this time. The complete public hearing calendar can always be accessed [here](#).

## From the Governor

### **Governor Hochul Announces Plans to Modernize Penn Station**

The MTA in partnership with Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT [announced](#) plans to seek firms to design the reconstruction of Penn Station. The firms will be tasked with designing the transformation of Penn Station. Preliminary plans for the new station feature a “massive single-level concourse with high ceilings and natural light, greater connectivity between the platforms, larger entrances, and intuitive travel paths.”

### **Executive Orders:**

There were no new statewide Executive Orders were issued this week.

## State Agencies

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

#### **AG Sues Predatory Towing Company**

State Attorney General James [filed a lawsuit](#) against a predatory towing company in Poughkeepsie, Bobby's Towing, [alleging its owner](#) repeatedly cheated and harassed hundreds of New Yorkers for years. The AG's accusations state the owner illegally towed cars, overcharged for towing fees, and falsified tow tickets while actively patrolling the streets for cars to tow even if the cars were on private property. The lawsuit seeks restitution and reimbursements.

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

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

An audit that [sampled 20 school districts](#) found the districts did not provide mental health training to all staff for the 2020-21 school year by Sept. 15, as required by New York State Education Department (SED) regulations, [according to a new report](#) issued by State Comptroller Thomas P. 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.

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