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Legislature Moves Wide Ranging Priorities

As the legislature continues to work through the final days of session, priorities have come into focus and have moved through the houses including an [extension of mayoral control of NYC schools](#), a gun control package, abortion protections, legislative confirmation of nominations, [a moratorium on cryptocurrency mining](#), [legislation permitting damages to be awarded in wrongful death lawsuits](#), and other local priorities. Also this week, several candidates have announced their intentions for the upcoming elections, NYSERDA and DEC extended the public comment period for the draft scoping plan, and OCM advanced regulations related to drug testing and cannabis marketing.

Gun Control Package: The New York 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.

Abortion Protection: 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.

Clarity on Political Races: With statewide, state assembly, and local primaries looming on June 28th, followed by congressional and state senate primaries slated to be held in August, several candidates have recently clarified their intentions for the upcoming elections. NYS Senator Martucci announced he will not seek re-election - Senator Skoufis will run for that seat. Senator Brooks in Long Island reversed course and announced he will seek re-election while neighboring Long Island Senator Gaughran announced he will not seek re-election. In the Capital Region, [Albany Sheriff Craig Apple announced](#) he will not seek election to the State Senate for a seat now sought by current Assemblyman Ashby.

Climate Action Council Extends Deadline: The Climate Action Council [extended the deadline for public comment](#) on the draft scoping plan to July 1, 2022. The extension follows the submission of more than 18,000 public comments and 11 public hearings. The announcement comes from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) after the public asked for more time to submit comments. The Draft Scoping Plan provides several scenarios for proposed changes informed by proposed policies and actions aimed at helping NY meet its climate directives as part of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

OCM Meeting: The Cannabis Control Board [voted to advance regulations](#) for the state’s recreational cannabis industry, which would establish standards for drug testing facilities and ban branding aimed at individuals under the age of 21.

PSLLC Notes: Former NBA legend Amar'e Stoudemire stopped by our client Puff Co.'s booth at the "MJ Unpacked" event in New York City last week.



Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature is scheduled to end session this week. As of Friday morning, 602 bills had passed either house this week. Of particular note the following bills passed both houses and will await the Governor's signature or veto:

~ [S4329 \(Breslin\) / A8617 \(Meeks\)](#) which authorizes life insurers to establish wellness programs in conjunction with the issuance of life insurance policies and provides for full or partial reimbursement for the cost of a device and associated subscription that can be used to track activity and/or biometric data as well as providing discounts on life insurance products and services intended to incent positive behavioral changes.

~ [S9462 \(Kavanagh\) / A10494A \(Rules - Cymbrowitz\)](#) establishes the special joint legislative commission on affordable housing to make recommendations to legislature on how to preserve and maintain existing affordable housing.

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 Supports Passage of Legislation Creating NYC Public Housing Preservation Trust

Governor Hochul [issued a statement](#) in support of the passage of legislation to create a "NYC Public Housing Preservation Trust" which the Governor indicated has the potential to unlock additional federal funding for billions of dollars of renovations. The legislation also calls for increased resident feedback, with the power lying with residents to opt in or out of the program.

Executive Orders:

As expected, the "Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to Healthcare Staffing Shortages ([EO 4.9](#))" was extended prior to expiring on May 30, no new statewide Executive Orders were issued this week.

State Agencies

From the New York Office of the Attorney General

AG Crackdown on Gun Sellers

State Attorney General Letitia James [announced new action](#) to crack down on firearms sellers illegally selling and advertising gun parts that are used to create homemade, untraceable firearms. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found 28 firearms sellers across New York State advertised and/or offered to sell one or more unfinished firearms or firearm components. The AG ordered these businesses to immediately stop advertising and selling these items and warned of legal consequences should they not comply with the order.

From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller

Comptroller: NYC Budget Surplus on Pace to Grow from Last Year

New York State Comptroller DiNapoli [indicated](#) the NYC Budget Surplus is currently on pace to grow another \$2.4 billion from April Projections. The statement released by DiNapoli read in part: "strong revenue growth may allow New York City to generate at least an additional \$2.4 billion in operating surplus in city fiscal year (FY) 2022 compared to the Executive Budget released in April." He added that the "better-than-projected fiscal performance may be short-lived amid inflation, geopolitical tension and supply chain issues," supporting the comment with [an analysis released](#) along with his statement.

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