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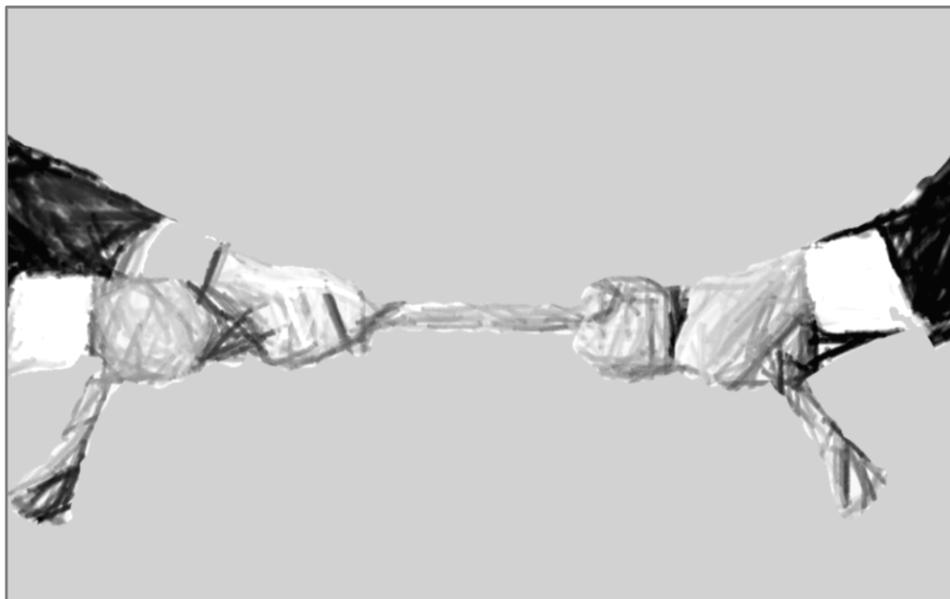
Executive Budget Proposal Looms

As expected, it is a quiet start to this week in Albany as the Legislature and the various interested parties await the Executive Budget Proposal, which the [Governor](#) is scheduled to unveil on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 in the Red Room of the NYS Capitol.

Once the Executive Budget proposal is released, and as they do each budget cycle, the NYS Senate and Assembly will immediately schedule and host a series of budget hearings, which will allow advocates to opine on the Governor's proposals and discuss various state budget related industry needs with the legislature.

The Governor also has 30 days to amend her proposal, which means we will not likely see a complete proposal until somewhere around the first of March. Typically, 30-day amendments primarily consist of changes to the Executive Proposal that are technical in nature (that being said, the possibility remains that the Governor could propose additional policy pieces as part of those amendments). Once the 30-day amendments have been released, the Senate and Assembly will finalize and introduce their own one-house budget proposals, which will lay out each house's position on the Governor's bill and outline their respective budget priorities (usually by early to mid-March), signifying the beginning of three-way negotiations between the houses and the Governor. An enacted budget is due by April 1st each year, barring any extensions of the current budget agreed to by the Governor and the legislature.

Recreational Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Owner's Hopeful: Adult-use cannabis retail store owners in the Capital Region were featured in [Spectrum News](#) expressing hope for their retail operations to open soon in upstate New York. The state Office of Cannabis Management prioritized its Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licenses for people with prior marijuana-related offenses, and experience owning and operating a business in the state. Retail dispensary licenses continue to be suspended in the Finger Lakes, Central New York, Western New York, the Mid-Hudson region and Brooklyn after an injunction issued as part of a federal lawsuit last fall.



From the Governor

Gov. Announces Energy Jobs in Mid-Hudson Region

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) Zinc8 Energy Solutions, USA, a leader in the long-duration energy storage industry, will relocate its \$68 million manufacturing facility and U.S. headquarters to Kingston, Ulster County at the former Tech City, IBM Ulster campus, now known as iPark 87 business park. Zinc8 Energy Solutions develops innovative battery technology that uses zinc and air as fuel. Zinc8 has committed to creating up to 500 jobs, which will support the Governor's initiative to have six gigawatts of energy storage by 2023.

Executive Orders:

Executive Order 4.0 (related to health care staffing shortages) was extended until February 21, 2023 ([EO 4.17](#)).

Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature will be in session on the 30th, 31st, and 1st this week and the 6th, 7th, 8th next week. The legislature has already introduced approximately 6,068 bills. The Senate and Assembly passed 34 bills in session last week, of note:

~ [S439 \(Skoufis\) / A1178 \(Jacobson\)](#) - Requires bodily injury be covered under supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorist insurance coverage for police vehicles. This bill passed on the Senate Floor and will head to the Assembly Insurance Committee for consideration.

Public Hearings

~ On January 30th, the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Codes, Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, and Judiciary held a public hearing on "criminal justice data."

~On January 31st, the Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming, and Wagering along with the Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering will host a public hearing on mobile sports betting in NY; a first-year review and its budget impact.

State Agencies

From the New York Office of the Attorney General

AG sues Google for Monopolies in Digital Advertising

New York Attorney General Letitia James [sued Google LLC](#) (Google), for monopolizing the digital advertising industry. Together with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), a bipartisan coalition of eight states allege that Google has engaged in a 15-year, organized campaign so it could obtain outsized influence at all levels of the ad tech industry, and has used its power to reduce competition and innovation, harming website publishers, advertisers, and consumers. Through this lawsuit, Attorney General James, DOJ, and the coalition of states are seeking to stop Google's anticompetitive practices and order it to sell off various ad tech tools to restore a competitive balance in digital advertising and end Google's unfair advantage in the industry.

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