

## INSIDE

### Legislative News

Public Hearing Calendar

### From the Governor

Governor Hochul Announces Initiative for Start-Ups

Executive Orders

### Agency News

AG: Secures Court Order Against Syracuse Landlord

Comptroller: Pressures Companies to disclose political activity

## Session Opens - State of the State Set for Tomorrow

Tomorrow in the Assembly Chamber the Governor will present her [State of the State address](#). The [2023 legislative session](#) kicked off last week with leadership in both the Senate and the Assembly remaining the same roles, as democratic Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins was voted the Senate Majority Leader and democratic Assemblyman Carl Heastie maintained his post as Speaker of the Assembly. For the Republicans, Senator Rob Ort maintained his role as Minority Leader in the Senate as did Assemblyman Will Barclay in the Assembly. The final month of 2022 saw a range of activity including legislative pay raises, release of a climate action plan and the publication of adult-use cannabis regulations.

**Special Session for Legislative Pay Increase** - The New York State Senate and Assembly reconvened for a special session on Thursday, December 22, 2022 in order to pass [A.1030 / S.9617](#) which raises the lawmakers pay to \$142,000 at the start of 2023 and institutes a cap on outside income for legislators that will take effect in two years. With the Governor signing the bill into law just prior to the New Year, NYS legislators become the highest paid in the nation.

**Climate Action Council Releases Plan** - New York State's Climate Action Council Co-Chairs, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) President and CEO Doreen M. Harris, announced the approval and adoption of the [New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan](#). The plan outlines recommended policies and actions intended to help meet the goals and requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

**Office of Cannabis Management Publishes Proposed Adult Use Regulations** - The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) [published proposed regulations](#) for adult-use cannabis licenses on December 14, 2022 with public comments due in February 2023. The proposed regulations delineate specific authorizations, requirements, and prohibitions unique to the seven types of adult-use licenses as the state moves towards retail cannabis sales getting up and running.

**New Laws Effective 2023** - As we begin the new year, there is a slew of new laws set to take effect, and expire, with the beginning of the year. Some of the highlights include the expiration of the "gas tax holiday" that was intended to give drivers a 16.75 cents per gallon break at the pump; the minimum wage in New York State went up on January 1 to \$14.20 an hour across the state, except for New York City where it has been \$15 an hour for four years; absentee ballot measures that allowed voters to request absentee ballots if they feared contracting COVID at a polling place to expire, however, legislators from the Senate Majority [held a press conference](#) committing to passing legislation that would reinstate similar measures.

**PSLLC Notes:**



Park Strategies was proud to work with its healthcare client, Iroquois Healthcare Association, to participate in a press conference hosted by Assembly Majority upstate members on December 7 in the NYS Capitol to bring awareness to critical staffing issues that hospitals are facing. Press coverage of the event can be [found here](#).



Park Strategies client, Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) announced the DRIVE initiative - the first 24/7 all-electric car sharing service in the Capital Region has officially launched.

**From the Governor**

**Announces Initiative for Start-Ups**

Governor Hochul announced the launch of the \$30 million Pre-Seed and Seed Matching Fund Program, which will offer early-stage start-up companies \$50,000 to \$250,000 in assistance which they will match with funds from private sector co-investors. Funding for the program comes from the [State Small Business Credit Initiative](#), part of the federal American Rescue Plan, to support small businesses, especially those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and very small businesses which traditionally do not receive sufficient access to capital or support.

**Executive Orders:**

In December, the Governor extended executive order 4.0 (EO 4) related to a public health emergency due to health care staffing shortages, for another 30 days ([EO 4.16](#)). We've been told by the Governor's office that this is the last time the EO will be extended.

## Legislative News

### Legislative Activity

The Legislature held the opening day of session on January 4, 2023 and is scheduled to reconvene for session this week on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and next week on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. In the first five days of the new year, the legislature has already introduced approximately 1319 bills, most of which were reintroductions from the previous legislative cycle.

### Public Hearings

No upcoming public hearings scheduled at the time of this publication.

## State Agencies

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

#### **NYS AG Secures Court Order Against Syracuse Landlord**

New York State Attorney General Letitia James [announced a court ruled in her office's favor](#) and ordered Syracuse landlord, Greenland Property Services, LLC and its related entities (Green National), to correct code violations at their properties, install a monitor, and pay for violating their agreement. The court decision requires Green National to correct all code violations issued by the City of Syracuse and retain a monitor to submit monthly reports to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on code compliance. The court also imposed a civil penalty for the landlord's lack of complying with prior agreements to remedy these issues.

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

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DoNapoli [announced the filing of shareholder proposals](#) that call on seven corporations (Caesars Entertainment, Match Group, Penn Entertainment, SoFi Technologies, Warner Bros. Discovery Inc., Zillow Group, and Zoom Video Communications) in the New York State Common Retirement Fund's (the Fund) portfolio to disclose their direct and indirect spending on political causes. He also called on two other companies, The Coca Cola Company and Travelers Companies, to adopt a new policy prior to contributing to the political activities of third-party organizations.

## **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](http://www.parkstrategies.com)

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