

INSIDE

Legislative News

Public Hearing Calendar

From the Governor

Workforce Development Grant Awards

Executive Orders

Agency News

AG:
Proposes Consumer Protection Rules

Comptroller:
Update on Recent Contract Payments and Review

OCM:
Double CAURD Licenses Approved

Former Budget Director Returns, Budget Hearings Conclude

Governor Hochul announced the return of Robert Megna last week (February 28) to take over as Budget Director immediately as the legislature concluded its hearings on the various aspects of the Executive budget proposal on Wednesday. The newly appointed Budget Director had served in that role under former governors Andrew Cuomo and David Patterson, and is temporarily taking over the position vacated by Robert Mujica at the end of 2022. Deputy Budget Director Sandra Beattie had filled the role as the Acting Director and it is our understanding that she will continue as Deputy Director. According to the Governor's [announcement](#), Megna will also assist in the search for a permanent Director.

The Governor continued to tout her Executive Proposal regionally last week and the legislature continues its work on One-House Budget Proposals, which will likely be introduced next week (week of March 13). As part of the annual budget process, the 30-day amendments were released last week and are posted on the Division of Budget [website](#), and the Consensus Economic and Revenue Forecast Report was also published. The [Report](#) includes a two-year revenue forecast that is \$800 million above what had been projected in the Governor's budget proposal.

The Legislature was in session on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday last week but will not be meeting again this week until Wednesday as committees weigh input and concepts for their one-house budget proposals.

Regional Executive Proposal Tour Continues: The Governor made an appearance in the [Capital Region](#), and [Long Island](#) detailing her plans for Fiscal Year 2024 - in particular the Governor touted her proposal for a New York Housing Compact which would build 800,000 new homes in the next decade.

Clocks will spring ahead an hour this Sunday, March 12, as Daylight Savings Time begins.



PSLLC Notes: Park Strategies Partner Lisa Marrello participated in a Public Affairs Panel at the New York State Economic Development Council Annual meeting to discuss advocacy and economic development.

Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature is in session the 8th and 9th this week and will return to session on the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th of next week. The legislature has already introduced approximately 10,638 bills. The Senate and Assembly passed 28 bills last week, of particular note:

~ [S3605 \(Webb\)](#) / [A1931 \(Bichotte\)](#) - Require the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development to report on their contracts in a more detailed manner which would allow data to be sorted and reviewed more substantively.

Public Hearings

~ **On March 7th**, the Senate Standing Committees on Health and Mental Health will host a public hearing to “receive testimony on how to identify and examine best practices for integrating doulas into New York’s maternal healthcare system, as well as recommendations for policies that provide sustainable Medicaid reimbursement rates for doulas.”

From the Governor

Second Round of Office of Strategic Workforce Development Grant Awards

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) the New York State Office of Strategic Workforce Development has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to fourteen projects across the state through the second round of the Workforce Development Capital and Pay for Performance Grant Programs. These grants will support the training of more than 3,700 workers through collaboration between training providers and more than 100 employer partners in fields like advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and construction. The first round of awards for the Office of Strategic Workforce Development which was [announced](#) late last year, awarded more than \$6 million and will leverage more than \$4 million in public/private funding and support nearly 3,000 trainees for over 100 business partners.

Executive Orders:

There were no new Executive Orders issued last week.

State Agencies

From the Office of the Attorney General

AG Announces Price Gouging Rules to Protect Consumers and Small Businesses

Attorney General Letitia James [proposed rules to protect consumers and small businesses](#) from corporate profiteering. The rules would strengthen enforcement of New York's price gouging law, which was updated in 2020 to grant the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) rulemaking authority. According to the AG's office, the proposed rules aim to make it more straightforward to investigate and combat price gouging by setting clear guardrails against price increases during emergencies. Under the State Administrative Procedures Act (SAPA) the proposals are open to a 60-day public comment period. New York's price gouging law bans companies throughout the supply chain from taking advantage of a market disruption to increase their profits for vital and necessary goods and services. In March 2022, OAG [launched the first-ever price gouging rulemaking process](#) to gather information from consumers and industry experts on how to strengthen and clarify the state's price gouging statute.

From the Office of the Comptroller

Comptroller Provides Update on Recent Contract Payment Actions

In January, the Office of the [State Comptroller approved](#) 1,801 contracts for state agencies and public authorities valued at \$1.7 billion and approved more than 1.7 million payments worth more than \$12.5 billion. The office rejected 101 contracts and related transactions valued at \$93 million and nearly 1,200 payments valued at nearly \$7 million, primarily for mistakes, insufficient support for charges and improper payments. More information on these contracts and payments is available at [Open Book New York](#).

From the Office of the Cannabis Management (OCM)

OCM Doubles Number of Available CAURD licenses

The Cannabis Control Board and the OCM announced on March 2 that the number of Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) Licenses to be issued by the OCM will be doubled from the originally planned 150 licenses to 300 licenses. The OCM has received 900 applications for CAURD licenses and has issued 66 provisional licenses as of the date of the [announcement](#).

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
500 Plum Street · Suite 104 · Syracuse NY 13204 · (315) 396-7535
www.parkstrategies.com

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