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Bills, Bills, and More Bills

With the Legislature in the midst of the final weeks of session, legislative work has ramped up with dozens of committee meetings scheduled in the Senate and Assembly this week where bills will either move to other committees for further consideration or directly to the floor for a potential vote. Committee Agendas for the NYS Assembly can be [found here](#), with the NYS Senate Committee Agendas and archived videos of committee meetings [found here](#). In all likelihood, legislative committees will be shut down soon meaning each house will have to pull bills directly to the floor for consideration - a process that allows bills to be taken up in a much quicker manner with much shorter notice timeframes. And as the scheduled end of session closes in (June 8), it remains to be seen if major housing issues such as Good Cause Eviction, or a wrongful death bill that had been vetoed by the Governor last year ([A6698/S6636](#)), will come to the floor for consideration.

Title 42: After President Trump declared a national emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic in March of 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention invoked Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act of 1942 which empowered the CDC to deny admission into the United States for goods and people who pose a risk of spreading a communicable disease. Consequently, the CDC recommended to U.S. Customs and Border Protection that all noncitizens seeking asylum at ports of entry or illegally elsewhere be immediately returned to Mexico and not taken into custody thus risking spreading disease.

The power to invoke Title 42 was extended 60 days at a time until it was allowed to expire last Thursday. This led to an increased influx of migrants into New York City, where [Mayor Adams has sparred with leaders in Orange and Rockland Counties](#) over his plan to relocate migrants from NYC to those counties. In turn, several counties such as [Broome](#), [Oneida](#), or [Rensselaer](#) issued emergency orders in an attempt to stop NYC from sending migrants into these counties instead of coming up with housing for these individuals on their own downstate.



Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature is scheduled to be in session on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week. After today, there are only 13 scheduled session days left on the [2023 session calendar](#). The legislature has already introduced approximately 14,113 bills. Last week, 53 bills passed in the legislature. Of particular note was:

~ [A4011 \(Weprin\) / S1472 \(Breslin\)](#) Requires the superintendent to promulgate regulations which provide standardized definitions for commonly used terms and phrases in certain insurance policies. This bill passed the Assembly and heads to the Senate for consideration.

Public Hearings

~May 23rd, Senate Committees on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business as well as Labor will host a public hearing on the "impacts of non-compete agreements on the labor market and economic development, and possible legislative solutions, such as S3100."

~May 25th, Senate Committees on Labor and Judiciary will host a public hearing "to collect public feedback on S1977 and understand the scale of the issue of wage theft in New York State."

~May 25th, Assembly Committees on Consumer Affairs and Protection as well as Banks will host a public hearing on "examining the transparency and security of the cryptocurrency industry."

From the Governor

Gov asks Feds for Help Providing Shelter to Asylum Seekers

Governor Kathy Hochul [sent a letter](#) to President Biden, urging him to direct additional federal resources to the State of New York as it faces unprecedented numbers of asylum seekers set to arrive as Title 42 expires. Governor Hochul convened with New York's bipartisan Congressional delegation, the New York Association of Counties, and the New York Conference of Mayors to provide updates on the State's efforts to support asylum seekers and further aid needed to address this situation.

Executive Orders (EO):

There were no new Executive Orders issued this week.

State Agencies

From the Office of the Attorney General

AG and DOH Issue Alert on Health Insurance Renewal Scams

New York Attorney General Letitia James and Acting Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. James McDonald [warned New Yorkers](#) about a new scam targeting New Yorkers enrolled in public health insurance programs and provided important tips to protect consumers. For the first time since March 2020, people enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan will have to renew their health insurance coverage. Attorney General James and Acting Commissioner Dr. McDonald are urging New Yorkers to be vigilant in light of reports of scammers deceptively calling people and asking them to pay hundreds of dollars to maintain their health insurance. In the release, among other tips both entities noted: No one can ever charge you a fee to renew your health insurance in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan.

From the Office of the New York State Comptroller

Comptroller: State Contract and Payment Actions in March

In March, the Office of the State Comptroller approved 2,618 contracts for state agencies and public authorities valued at \$7.1 billion and approved nearly 4.2 million payments worth nearly \$38.1 billion. The office rejected 159 contracts and related transactions valued at \$272.6 million and nearly 9,200 payments valued at nearly \$34.6 million, primarily for mistakes, insufficient support for charges, and improper payments. A list of highlighted projects that had funds released can be [found here](#).

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