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Final Month

Pace Picks Up as Session Approaches the Far Turn

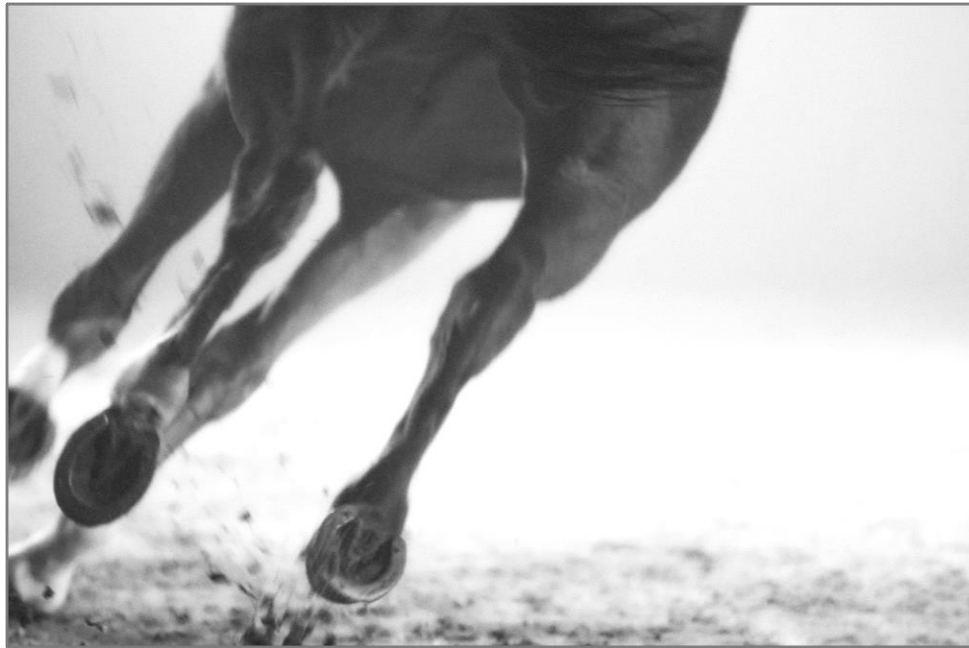
As [National Treasure charged to victory](#) in the Preakness Stakes over the weekend, the legislature continued its own sprint through the final weeks of session. The legislative workload has ramped up significantly with approximately 634 bills introduced in the last week, and another 783 bills on a committee agenda in either the Assembly or Senate this week where they will either be reported to another committee or to the floor for a potential vote.

The final days of session tend to be a swirl punctuated by many late nights as staff and leadership sort through member priorities, both local and statewide. Committees will, for the most part, likely be holding final committee meetings this week as the legislature begins to streamline the process of moving priority bills to the floor.

Over the weekend, the Finger Lakes Region [hosted the 2023 PGA Championship](#) at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, marking the fourth PGA Championship hosted in the region. Estimates have the weekend generating a \$190 million economic impact in direct, indirect, and induced spending. The final attendance tally is expected to top more than 225,000. The weather ended up finally cooperating on Sunday as Brooks Koepka maintained his second and third round surge to win his first major in four years.

In other news: an academic journal, Earth's Future, [published results from a study](#) conducted on New York City's infrastructure that appears to indicate that the weight of the massive city's buildings is causing NYC to sink 1-2 mm per year. While the paper stopped short of definitively naming the weight of buildings as the cause for all the sinking, they noted the main point was to raise awareness of the potential harms that high-rise construction could have in coastal areas.

In the wake of the Title 42 issue reported last week related to finding housing for migrants in New York, [a story broke by the Mid Hudson News](#) reported the YIT Foundation and its Executive Director Sharon Finch were mistaken when they claimed a Town of Newburgh hotel forced 20 homeless veterans to check out of the hotel in order to make room for the migrants. The false alarm has caused a backlash, with the [NYS Attorney General reportedly](#) investigating the allegedly false claims that were made.



Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature is scheduled to be in session on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week. After today, there are only 9 scheduled session days left on the [2023 session calendar](#). The legislature has already introduced approximately 14,807 bills. Last week, 113 bills passed in the legislature. Of particular note was:

~ [S5518 \(Brouk\)](#) / [A3828 \(Fahy\)](#) This bill modifies current continuing education requirements to mandate that 3 of the 36 hours of continuing education required for the profession of psychology be devoted to a course in diversity, equity and inclusion. This bill passed the Senate and heads to the Assembly 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 24th, Assembly Committees on Consumer Affairs and Protection, as well as the Committee on Transportation will host a public hearing on the “impact of electric bikes and electric scooters, and the safety and consumer risks associated with lithium-ion batteries.”

~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

Opening Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund

Governor Hochul [announced the opening](#) of the \$150 million Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund grant application for mixed-use housing and infrastructure projects throughout the Mid-Hudson Region.

Private companies, not-for-profits, municipalities, and public benefit corporations including IDAs and LDCs are eligible to apply and the funding will be broken up equally into mixed-use housing projects and essential infrastructure projects with awards ranging from \$2 to \$10 million. A 50 percent match will be required for all projects.

Executive Orders (EO):

Executive Order 4, continuing most healthcare staffing shortage provisions, was extended through 6/8/23 via [Executive Order 4.21](#).

State Agencies

From the Office of the Attorney General

AG: Recovers \$100,000 From Wholesaler for Price Gouging Lysol Products During Pandemic

New York Attorney General Letitia James [recovered \\$100,000 from a wholesale grocery and drug distributor, Quality King Distributors, Inc. \(Quality King\)](#), for price gouging Lysol products at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) received complaints from consumers of abnormally high prices for Lysol products, including Lysol Spray and Lysol Wipes. An OAG investigation found that Quality King, which distributes to retailers, drug stores, and local grocery stores in New York City and Long Island, increased prices of Lysol by more than 50 percent. New York's price gouging statute prevents companies throughout the supply chain from increasing prices on essential goods and services during emergencies. The agreement [resolves an earlier lawsuit against Quality King](#) and requires the company to pay \$100,000 to the state. Nearly 1,500 New Yorkers who reported high prices to OAG will receive reimbursement checks.

From the Office of the New York State Comptroller

Comptroller: Releases Analysis of 2023-24 Enacted State Budget

The \$229 billion Enacted Budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-24 includes new recurring spending for schools, mental health services, and health care, as well as resources for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and for emergency rental assistance. Preliminary estimates show All Funds spending will grow nearly 4% year-over-year amid a projected drop in revenues and as temporary federal aid is spent down, [according to an analysis](#) by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. According to DiNapoli, although the state is only a month into the new fiscal year, April tax collections may be a cause for concern, particularly the PIT. April PIT collections totaled \$7.5 billion, 49.4% below last year. While a year-over-year decline was anticipated, these revenues were 39.1% lower than DOB cash flow projections for April contained in its most recent Financial Plan.

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