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Final Month

Plenty of Work Packed into the Remaining Days

Legislative work continues full throttle at the capitol as session nears an end. So far this year 859 bills have passed either the Assembly or the Senate, compared to 1875 bills that passed either house last year, indicating the last few days of session will be quite busy if the legislature intends on keeping pace with last year. That being said, many inside the capitol seem to believe most of the contentious issues will not necessarily be addressed during session as the sheer volume of work remaining to accomplish local priorities and non-controversial legislation remains daunting. In other news, the comptroller reports on unpaid tolls, the Governor remains busy at the end of session and some localities begin accepting migrants into their community amid the ongoing Title 42 migrant housing issue.

Comptroller: According to a [new audit released](#) from NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, NY's Thruway Authority has to do a better job of identifying, billing and collecting tolls and related fees including \$276.3 million it has a collection agency seeking as of March 2023. Toll and related fees make up more than 90% of the Thruway's revenue. Ninety percent of toll revenues are from users of E-ZPass with the rest through Tolls by Mail. In 2021, the Thruway collected \$804 million from tolls and related fees. Nearly half (43%) of the unpaid tolls and related fees, \$119.3 million, is owed by out-of-state drivers. A substantial portion of that money is from vehicles registered in New Jersey (\$34.2 million) and Connecticut (\$16.7 million).

Governor: Governor Hochul is staying busy while the legislature moves towards the final days of session. Early last week, Gov. Hochul [announced](#) \$10 million to advance innovation in clean hydrogen research, development and demonstration projects. The Governor also delivered the [commencement speech](#) at New York Law School's 131st commencement, encouraging students to utilize their newfound credentials to protect democracy. Most recently, in a continuation of quirky tradition as of late, the Governor [announced landmarks](#) such as One World Trade Center would be lit up red, white and blue in honor of Memorial Day.

Localities Accept Migrants: In the Capital Region, migrants displaced by the expiration of Title 42 [arrived in Colonie and Albany](#) over the weekend causing some local turmoil as some local leaders did not feel completely briefed and prepared for the arrival of the migrants.



(L to R) Joe Rossi, Managing Director, Park Strategies; John Marraffa (President, Kinney Drugs); Lt. Gov. Delgado; Mike Duteau (President, Noble Health Services); Tim Walsh (VP Pharmacy Operations at Noble Health Services).

PSLLC Notes: On Tuesday May 23rd, Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado visited Park Strategies client KPH Healthcare Services in Syracuse, New York. Lt. Governor Delgado toured KPH's specialty pharmacy Noble Health Services and their new specialty home infusion therapies company Aristacare.

Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature is scheduled to be in session on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week. After today, there are only 6 scheduled session days left on the [2023 session calendar](#). The legislature has already introduced approximately 15,114 bills. Last week, 133 bills passed in the legislature. Of particular note was:

~ [A5208 \(Pheffer Amato\) / S5027 \(Jackson\)](#) This bill would extend eligibility for death benefits and accidental disability benefits in relation to any health condition of impairment of health caused by diseases of the heart to correction officers, correction supervisors, deputy sheriff patrol officers or deputy sheriff patrol supervisors. This bill passed the Assembly and heads to the Senate for consideration.

Public Hearings: The Senate Committee on Banks hosted a public hearing today to explore why Signature Bank failed.

From the Governor

New Efforts to Crack Down on Xylazine

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) new actions to address the spread of xylazine in New York State, including a new effort to supply free xylazine test strips through the New York State [Office of Addiction Services and Supports](#) and [Office of Mental Health](#) programs, as well as directly to the public. Xylazine is a non-opioid sedative found in the unregulated drug supply with potentially harmful health impacts, especially when added to illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Xylazine is not responsive to naloxone, leading to complicated fentanyl overdoses. Additional [educational information](#) about xylazine is now available on the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports website.

Executive Orders (EO):

There were no new Executive Orders issued this week.

State Agencies

From the Office of the Attorney General

AG: Sues Telecommunications Company Over Illegal Robocalls

New York Attorney General Letitia James [sued Avid Telecom \(Avid\), its owner Michael Lansky, and its vice president Stacey S. Reeves](#) alleging they are illegally initiating and facilitating billions of robocalls to millions of Americans. The lawsuit alleges that Avid ignored repeated notifications that it was conducting illegal robocalls and made more than 7.5 billion calls to telephone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry. [This legal action](#) arises from the nationwide, bipartisan Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force of 51 attorneys general.

From the Office of the New York State Comptroller

Comptroller: Employment Among Mothers in NYC Improves, Unemployment Remains Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Levels

The unemployment rate for mothers in New York City has improved but it remains higher than it was prior to the pandemic, according to [a report released](#) by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The report also found that 5.7% of city moms in the workforce were unemployed in 2022 compared to 3.4% nationally. Black mothers in the city are the hardest hit, facing an unemployment rate of 9%. The city and state have improved access to early education and child care for working mothers and families, but more can be done to improve outreach and expand these opportunities.

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