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New York State YMCA Youth And Government
2026 STATE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday March 19th

2:30 PM	Conference Leadership Desmond Hotel Check-in	Town Hall
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Orientation All leadership teens together	Town Hall
4:00 – :6:00 PM	*Work team training sessions*	
	Committee Chairs	Suite 156
	Justice Team	High Street 22, 28
	Cabinet	Suite 120
	Press Corps	Studio
	Advisors	Shaker
	Presiding Officers	Suite 112
6:00- 7:30 PM	NYS YMCA Youth and Government Alumni and Leadership Dinner Honoring Janine "G" Giordano	King Street Ballroom
7:30 – 10:30 PM	Training Sessions-Same Rooms	
9:00 – 10:30 PM	Presiding Officers Rehearse GA and Chambers	
10:30	All Leadership meeting	Town Hall
11:15 PM	CURFEW…LIGHTS OUT!	

New York State YMCA Youth And Government
2026 STATE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, March 20th

8:00 AM	BREAKFAST	High Street 24+26
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Q&A and Pictures with YMCA of the USA CEO Suzanne McCormick	High Street 24+26
9:30 – 11:00 AM	*Work team training sessions*	
	Committee Chairs	Suite 156
	Justice Team	High Street 22, 28
	Cabinet	Suite 120
	Press Corps	Studio
	Advisors	Shaker
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Registration set-up (done by Cabinet)	Fort Orange Courtyard
11:30 – 12:15 PM	Lunch (for early arriving leadership team)	High Street 24+26

All delegates arrive

12:30 PM	Conference Registration opens	Fort Orange Atrium
1:00 PM	Candidate Meeting	Suite 156
1:30 PM	Opening Session and Orientation	King Street Ballroom
	Overflow Seating	Town Hall
2:30 PM	Judicial Case Review and Legislative Committees	Assigned Rooms

C1:Assembly Freedom #1 – Suite 111	C11:Assembly Liberty #1 – Suite 115
C2:Assembly Freedom #2 – Suite 112	C12:Assembly Liberty #2 – Suite 116
C3:Assembly Freedom #3 – Suite 120	C13:Assembly Liberty #3 – Suite 117
C4:Assembly Freedom #4 – Suite 156	C14:Assembly Liberty #4 – Suite 118
C5:Senate Freedom #1 – Fort Orange 5	C15:Senate Liberty #1 – King Street 2
C6:Senate Freedom #2 – Fort Orange 7	C16:Senate Liberty #2 – King Street 4
C7:Senate Freedom #3 – Fort Orange 9	C17:Senate Liberty #3 – King Street 8
C8:Senate Freedom #4 – Suite 165	C18:Senate Liberty #4: – Town Hall
C9:Assembly Excelsior #1 – High Street 22	C19:Assembly Excelsior #3 – High Street 28
C10:Assembly Excelsior #2 – High Street 24	C20:Assembly Excelsior #4 High Street 26
Press Office - Studio	
Judicial Case Review-Hilton Garden Inn	
Case A – Saratoga Room	Case C-Hudson B
Case B – Hudson A	Justices - Lobby

New York State YMCA Youth And Government
2026 STATE CONFERENCE AGENDA

3:00 PM	Adult Meeting	King Street Courtyard
4:30 PM	Civic Engagement General Assembly	King Street Ballroom
	Overflow Seating	Town Hall
5:45 PM	Delegation Caucus – Room Keys Given out, luggage moved to rooms, any room issues reported.	
6:30 PM	Judicial Program Training (All Judicial Delegates)	Suites 111, 112, 120
	Judicial Student Work Area Suite 116(Case A) Suite 117(Case B) Suite 118(Case C) Suite 119(Justices)	
	Judicial students will eat dinner depending on when their team is scheduled to mee with advisors.	
6:30-7:15 PM	Joint Legislative Session	
	Joint Chamber 1	King Street
	Joint Chamber 2	Fort Orange 7 & 9
	Joint Chambers 3 and 4 Dinner	Fort Orange Koi Pond & King Street Courtyard
	Adult Dining Room	Fort Orange 5
7:15-8:00 PM	Joint Chamber 3	Town Hall
	Joint Chamber 4	High Street 24+26
	Joint Chambers 3 and 4 Dinner	Fort Orange Koi Pond & King Street Courtyard
	Adult Dining Room	Fort Orange 5
8:00-9:30 PM	Delegates at Dinner Return to Joint Legislative Session	
	Joint Chamber 1	King Street
	Joint Chamber 2	Fort Orange 7 & 9
	Joint Chamber 3	Town Hall
	Joint Chamber 4	High Street 24+26
9:30 PM	All Delegates-Cabinet Closing Thoughts and Announcements	King Street Ballroom
	Overflow Seating	Town Hall
10:00 PM	Delegation Meeting	Assigned Spaces
10:30 PM	CURFEW-ALL DELEGATES IN THEIR OWN ROOM	

Saturday, March 21st

6:30 AM	Room Curfew Ends, Buses will be transporting from Hilton Garden Inn to Desmond at this time.	
6:30 AM	Breakfast Opens	Fort Orange Ballroom and Courtyard
7:30AM	Breakfast Service Ends	

Liberty Delegates and Judicial Delegates will be taken to the Capitol and Courthouse first, and then buses will return to pick up the Freedom and Excelsior Delegates.

Schedule for 2025 Youth and Government at the NYS State Capitol March 21, 2026					
	Assembly Liberty	**Senate Liberty**	**Assembly Freedom**	**Senate Freedom**	**Assembly Excelsior**
7:30 AM	Fort Orange Courtyard	Fort Orange Courtyard	State of the State	State of the State	State of the State
7:45 AM	Dismiss to buses	Dismiss to buses	King Ballroom	King Ballroom	King Ballroom
8:00 AM	Travel to Capitol	Travel to Capitol	King Ballroom	King Ballroom	King Ballroom
8:15 AM	Security	Security	Dismiss to buses	Dismiss to buses	Dismiss to buses
8:30 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Chamber	Travel to Capitol	Travel to Capitol	Travel to Capitol
8:45 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Chamber	Security	Security	Security
9:00 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
9:15 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
9:30 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
9:45 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
10:00 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
10:15 AM	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
10:30 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
10:45 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
11:00 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room A	Hearing Room B	Hearing Room C
11:15 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room A	Lunch	Hearing Room C
11:30 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Lunch	Lunch	Hearing Room C
11:45 AM	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Lunch	Lunch	Hearing Room C
12:00 PM	Assembly Parlor	Lunch	Lunch	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room C
12:15 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room C
12:30 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Lunch
12:45 PM	Lunch	Hearing Room A	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Lunch
1:00 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Lunch
1:15 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Chamber	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B
1:30 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
1:45 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
2:00 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
2:15 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
2:30 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
2:45 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Assembly Chamber	Hearing Room B
3:00 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
3:15 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
3:30 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
3:45 PM	Hearing Room C	Hearing Room A	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
4:00 PM	Depart	Depart	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
4:15 PM	Travel to Hotel	Travel to Hotel	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
4:30 PM	Travel to Hotel	Travel to Hotel	Assembly Parlor	Hearing Room B	Assembly Chamber
4:45 PM	King Ballroom	Town Hall	Depart	Depart	Depart
5:00 PM	King Ballroom	Town Hall	Travel to Hotel	Travel to Hotel	Travel to Hotel

New York State YMCA Youth And Government
2026 STATE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Saturday, March 21st

Based on Traffic and other potential obstacles to the schedule, this evening is tentative and announcements will be made about any adjustments.

5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	General Elections	King Street Ballroom
6:45 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.	Dinner and Change Clothes	Fort Orange Ballroom and Courtyard
8:15 PM	Delegate Celebration Theme -The 1990's	
	All Delegates gather in King Ballroom at this time for attendance to be taken	
	Karaoke & Talent Show	King Street
	Games & Crafts & Voter Registration &Merch	King Street Courtyard
	Photo Station	King Street Fountain
	Quiet/Study Room (No talking or noise)	Suite 156
	Hang out room	Fort Orange 9
	Movie	Town Hall
	Bingo & Trivia	High Street 24+26
9:45 – 10:15 PM	Closing Thoughts from the Presiding Officers	King Street Ballroom
	Overflow Seating	Town Hall
10:15 PM	Delegation Meetings	Assigned Spaces
10:45 PM	CURFEW-ALL DELEGATES IN THEIR OWN ROOM	

Sunday, March 22nd

7:00 AM	Breakfast Begins. Buses will be transporting from Hilton Garden Inn to Desmond at this time.	
8:15 AM	Breakfast Service Ends	
8:30 AM	Judicial Program	Town Hall
	Freedom Assembly and Senate`	King Street Ballroom
	Liberty Assembly and Senate	High Street 24+26
	Excelsior Assembly	Fort Orange Ballroom
9:45 AM	Dismiss from Chambers	
10:00 AM	Closing Session	King Street Ballroom
	Overflow Seating	Town Hall
12:00 PM	Adjournment	

Dress Code

DAILY CLOTHING NEEDS

Day 1

Delegates will need one professional business casual outfit for this day. Please wear a skirt, slacks, or khakis that are not overly revealing or attention-grabbing. Shirts should have collars, and shoulders should be covered. This should not include blue jeans, shorts, leggings, athletic wear, sneakers, or sandals.

The clothes you travel to and from the conference in are decided by your local group.

Day 2

Delegates will need one professional business formal outfit for this day, and this should be a business suit or appropriate substitute.

Shoes should be appropriate for the outfit, not sneakers or other casual shoes. There will be a lot of walking throughout the day, so delegates should refrain from wearing uncomfortable shoes for the sake of appearance.

Delegates will be allowed to change into casual clothes for the social activities in the evening.

Day 3

Delegates may wear casual clothes on this day. Many will choose to wear their conference T-Shirt. Candidates are allowed but not required to wear a business formal or casual outfit.

OUR MISSION

YMCA OF THE USA MISSION STATEMENT

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

CORE VALUES

Honesty Respect
Caring Responsibility

YMCA DIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

The Y is made up of people of all ages and from every walk of life working side by side to strengthen communities. Together we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. Our core values are caring, honesty, respect and responsibility—they guide everything we do.

AREAS OF FOCUS

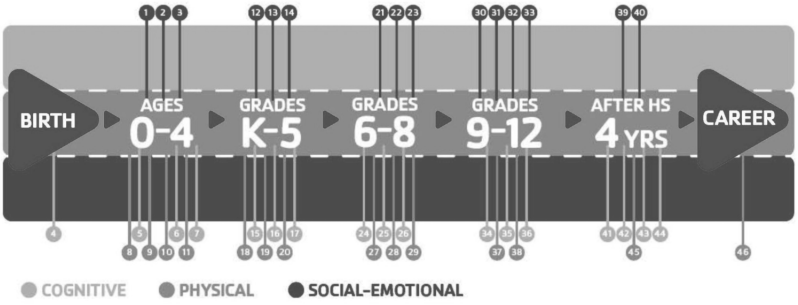
Youth Development
Nurturing the potential of every child and teen

Healthy Living
Improving the nation's health and well-being

Social Responsibility
Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT THE YMCA

YMCA Youth Development is the **social-emotional**, **cognitive**, and **physical** process that all youth uniquely experience from birth to career. A successful development process fulfills children and teens' innate need to be loved, spiritually grounded, educated, competent, and healthy.



Positive youth development is supported by the intentional efforts of individuals, including parents, mentors, teachers, community members, peers, and others who help foster the skills needed for successful living through motivation, active engagement, enriching activities, and healthy relationships.

DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING

At the Y, we support youth development by fostering nine dimensions of well-being: Character, Giving, Inspiration, Health, Achievement, Relationships, Belonging, Meaning, and Safety.

Youth Development at the Y emphasizes three of these dimensions when measuring the impact and effectiveness of our programs:

Achievement Relationships Belonging

THE FIVE PILLARS

To help ensure the fidelity and quality of our YMCA teen programs, we measure and seek to maximize impact using the following pillars:

Academics
Positive Relationships
Positive Identity
Life Skills
Civic Engagement (Youth and Government*)

*Each YMCA teen program has a unique pillar of measurement. As a Youth and Government program, we measure civic engagement.

Fosdick – San Antonio Memorial Scholarship

In late January 1992, Meegan Fosdick and Shannon San Antonio from the Silver Bay Association, YMCA Conference and Training Center tragically lost their lives in a car accident.

Both Meegan and Shannon were entering their second year in the program. Shannon had never attended the Albany conference, but was an active member of her district and school club. She had participated in the drafting of several bills, and had helped many club members with their speeches. Meegan, however was a very involved member. She was an active member of the State steering committee, having attended meetings in Cortland and New York City. She had great plans for this conference. Upon being selected as a committee chairperson, she decided to run for Assembly Speaker.

These active participants in the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Program demonstrated qualities that all young people should emulate: they were involved in other community activities/organizations, other school and/or YMCA activities, coupled with a demonstrated passion of serving others.

In memory of their spirit and enthusiasm, The New York State YMCA Youth and Government program established a memorial scholarship fund. Partial proceeds from the fund are used to award annual scholarships to the YMCA Youth and Government Albany Conference defraying a teens State Program fee expense.

District Coordinators and Advisors are asked to nominate teens from their district for this award. Teens must currently be Juniors in High school. Final selection will be made in consultation with the State Director and the award committee based on applicants meeting the award criteria that is not restricted to financial need. Announcement of the award winners will be made at the closing banquet of the annual March Conference in Albany.

Contributions will be accepted at anytime during the year. Donations can be made out to the "YMCA of Greater Rochester," sent to the attention of Drew Caldwell, State Director, Alliance of New York State YMCAs, 465 New Karner Road, Albany, 12205.

Fosdick- San Antonio Recipients for the 2020 Conference:

Olivia Harris Brynn Loomis Eva Lisi Hannah Schultzer

Cleveland E. Dodge Collegiate Advisor Award

Collegiate Advisor Leadership (Cleveland E. Dodge Memorial Award)

- A scholarship program supported by the New York State YMCA Foundation Inc. redesigned in 2006 to support volunteer collegiate students instrumental in sustaining the vision of this civic engagement program in memory of the dedicated voluntary commitment rendered by Mr. Cleveland E. Dodge to the YMCA's of New York.
- A former delegate that has participated in a Youth & Government State Conference.
- A college volunteer who exemplifies servant leadership to the Youth & Government program in areas of program implementation, program development, or leadership development. _
- Demonstrated leadership with the local or State program endorsed by a YMCA Director.
- The $1000 cash award is intended to assist with educational expenses being presented at the closing banquet of the State Conference.

Past Recipients Include:

Khadija Saad		2025
Isaih Harris		2024
Gabe Stellato		2023
Lynsey Springman		2022
Liora Reiken	(Barnard College)	2021
Kayleigh Martin	(Nashville State Community College)	2020
Lilly Umana	(Syracuse University)	2019
Adam Henn	(Adelphi University)	2018
Devon Drake	(SUNY Upstate Medical University)	2017
Thomas Jacobs	(Rochester Institute of Technology)	2016
Paige Hughes	(Manhattan College)	2015
Maria Henry	(Emory College)	2014
Raul Sanchez	(John Jay College)	2013
Emily Bolan	(SUNY Geneseo)	2012
Matthew Dowgiallo	(LeMoyne college)	2011
Michelle Palandrani	(Hudson Valley Community College)	2010
Raphael Ortega	(Indiana University School of Law)	2009
Mike Couzens	(Syracuse University)	2008
Kate Harvey	(Seton Hall Law School)	2007
Leigh Arsenault	(Middlebury College)	2006

Clement A. Duran Delegate Scholarship Award

- A scholarship program supported by the New York State YMCA Foundation, Inc. honoring the vision and tireless commitment of YMCA Director Clement A. Duran to the purpose of affording teenagers an opportunity to have a voice in their community.
- A senior in High School
- Participation in the Youth & Government program for a minimum of two years
- A participant who has exemplified the conduct expected as spelled out in the Code of Conduct
- Leadership involvement in local community and the Youth & Government program
- Qualify as a participant to the Youth & Government Spring Leadership Conference
- Assure the State Executive Committee that the award will be used for educational expenses. The $1000 cash award is presented at the closing banquet of the State Conference.

Past Recipients Include:

Racheal Stickland	2025	Raul Sanchez	2011
Mary Duenzl	2024	Kathryn Maxwell	2010
Mathew Fagerheim	2023	Alaina Ryan	2009
Sean Guffanti	2022	Michaela Jebb	2009
Violet Hamlin	2021	Emma Corey	2008
Patrick Barnett	2020	Kristen Rafferty	2007
Katie Lindley	2019	Newton Kwan	2006
Aminata Toumbou	2018	LaRelle Gee	2005
Owen Voutsinas-Klose	2017	Emilie Kershaw	2004
Tim Ryan	2016	Jerry Castillo	2003
Rose Reiken	2016	Leigh Arsenault	2002
Khaled Hassan	2015	Lazaro Chavez	2001
Molly Schroder	2014	Ellie Gardner	2000
Emily Vigliotta	2013		
Maria Henry	2012		

Press Corps

Sofie Barsanti, Editor-In-Chief

Michelle Ordway, Social Media Editor

Jenae Carrion, Executive Editor

Amelia Rabinowitz, Video Editor

Sarah Anand

Riley Matuszak

Hannah Daken

Peyton Sekoll

Eva Santacroce

Jaylisa Williams

Matt Costa

Lilliana Mosher

Tate Bacon

Lucia Williams

Zen Seiler

Madison Westberry

Laila Carty

Holly Marraccino

Naya Kratz

Madison Narain

Maya Perez

Debora Miguel

Evelyn Balletta

Devin Bierfeldt

Tessa Carusone

Joanna Cherian

Viktoria Farmer

Emily Budway

Juliana Esteban

Zanda Atkinson

Brendan Salter

Charlotte Flora

Molly ODonnell

Olivia Tuzel

Deya Allen

Kate Gonzalez

1. Introduction

1. It is important to keep in mind that this is a CONFERENCE and not a legislative session. The major working objective is to prepare and consider in depth bills relating to crucial state concerns. The use of technical motions and restrictive parliamentary procedure are discouraged.
2. References in this document will follow the format of (area, section, subsection). If no subsection is specified, please refer to the entire section of text.
    a. Example: "(see 2.1.a)" refers to the General Rules and Procedures, section 1,
    subsection a.

2. General Rules and Procedures

1. The Presiding Officers of the Conference shall serve as the Chairpersons for their respective Chamber and remain neutral during debate. The Committee Chairs shall serve as the Chairpersons for their respective Committee and remain neutral during debate.
    a. Chairpersons will choose a clerk from among the Chamber if necessary.
2. The Chairpersons for the session shall have the right to call a delegate out of order if that delegate is being disruptive in nature or is breaking any other rule of procedure. This shall be done by the sole discretion of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairpersons for the session shall be the interpreter of these rules, and in such will rule upon any motion presented upon the floor. The Chairperson shall have complete discretion when choosing to recognize a motion.
4. Absolutely no clapping is permitted after the defeat of a bill or after any speaker. Spirt fingers are in order to show appreciation for the bill sponsors work towards the bill.
5. Controlled applause or spirit fingers will be allowed following the passage of a bill, but delegates may not leave their seats to congratulate the author.
6. Referencing of other bills is not in order.
7. Refer to another speaker as "a previous delegate," or "previous speaker" during debate.
8. Face and hand gestures are not permitted during another delegate's speech.
9. Remain seated and quiet during an author's opening and closing statements.
10. A delegate seeking to be recognized should remain seated and raise their placard. They should not call out.
11. Do not raise your placard or hand while a speaker is addressing the chamber.
12. The use of false debate will be called out of order during all sessions. A "False debate" shall be defined as a sarcastic speech, or being recognized to speak during debate but deliberately presenting arguments in favor of the opposing side. An example of false debate is a delegate being recognized to speak a pro statement but calling for the defeat of the bill. Agreeing with the intentions of the bill are not considered false debate.

13. The use of any prop while speaking will be called out of order during all sessions. A "Prop" shall be defined as any external, non-verbal element which is used during a recognition to demonstrate a point. Examples of props are, but are not limited to charts, pictures, magazines, printed research, etc. Brief gestures with a bill book or a notebook are not considered use of a prop.

3. Committee and Chamber Procedure

1. Each bill in Committee and Chamber shall be considered in the following manner:
    a. Opening remarks by the bill author (4 minutes). The author may only reserve unused time to the author's summation.
    b. Non-debatable, technical questions; (see 4.3 and 4.4).
    c. Chairperson opens debate. Con and pro speakers will alternate; Debate must start and end with a con speaker. Upon recognition, the delegate shall thank the Chair, state their name, and delegation. A delegate may exercise up to three (3) of these actions without further impediment:
        i. Address The Chamber.
        ii. Ask a series of questions of the bill author, provided the author's permission is sought through and granted by the Chair (see 4.5).
        iii. Make one motion, provided this intention is declared upon taking the floor. A motion shall preempt yielding the floor.
    d. Delegates must continue to seek permission, through the chair, to pose a series of questions to the bill author.
    e. A delegate must reserve their right to make a motion.
    f. Yielding to another delegate is not in order during Committee or Chamber.
    g. The floor is not relinquished by a speaker unless the delegate yields their time to the Chair, or their time has elapsed.
    h. Author's summation (time reserved from opening statement).
    i. Appropriate voting or ranking procedures will take place (see 6.1 or 6.2).
2. Previous question is in order after the first round of debate and must be approved by 2/3 of the assembly. For previous question to be moved prior to the time limit, all Presiding Officers in that Chamber must agree.
3. If a delegate is called out of order prior to addressing the floor, the chair shall seek a different, replacement, speaker of the same intent (con or pro) rather than a speaker of the opposing intent.

4. Technical Questions

1. During the period for technical questions, all questions must remain non-debatable.
2. Technical questions asked during debate may be debatable and non-debatable.
3. A non-debatable technical question shall consist of:
    a. Questions that call for a factual response.

4. A debatable technical question shall consist of:
    a. Questions that are hypothetical in nature.
    b. Questions that call for an opinion or assumption of the bill author.
    c. Questions that are not germane to the topic of the bill.
5. A series shall be defined as follows:
    a. Three (3) technical questions during a period of technical questions.
    b. Two (2) technical questions during a period of debate.

5. Motions during Committee and Chamber Sessions

1. The following motions are in order during a Committee Session:
    a. Point of information, to ask for clarification on a rule of procedure.
    b. Point of order, to object to a rule of procedure that is not being followed correctly.
2. The following motions are not in order during a Committee Session:
    a. Motion to extend debate, to extend the period of debate.
    b. Motion to move to the previous question, to end debate on a bill (refer to 3.2).
3. The following motions are in order during a Chamber Session:
    a. Motion for a division, to request a vote by standing vote.
    b. Motion to expel the Governor, to remove the Governor from the legislative chamber.
    c. Motion to extend debate, to extend the period of debate.
    d. Motion to move to the previous question, to end debate on a bill (refer to 3.2).
    e. Point of information, to ask for clarification on a rule of procedure.
    f. Point of order, to object to a rule of procedure that is not being followed correctly.

6. Voting & Ranking Procedures

1. Committee Procedure:
    a. Delegates will rank their top bills after Committee using the voting criteria.
    b. The top 4 bills in each chamber specific committee will heard in joint session.
    c. All remaining bills will move on to Chamber Session.
2. Joint Session & Chamber Session Procedure:
    a. Delegates will vote on the passage of each bill. This will occur after each bill has been presented.
    b. Passage of a bill requires a simple majority, greater than half of the chamber (1/2).
    c. Approval of a bill in the Chamber shall be recorded by delegates raising their placard in conjunction with a voice vote unless division of the chamber is called and recognized. In such a case, the vote shall be recorded by a standing vote. The Presiding Officers may call for a division if there is any doubt about the voice vote.

d. Passed bills will be sent to the Youth Governor, to be either passed or vetoed.
e. Absolutely no clapping is permitted after the defeat of a bill or after any speaker. Spirt fingers are in order to show appreciation for the bill sponsors work towards the bill.
f. Controlled applause or spirit fingers will be allowed following the passage of a bill, but delegates may not leave their seats to congratulate the author.

3. Veto Override Procedure:
    a. Delegates will vote on whether the veto of the bill should be overridden. This will occur after each bill has been presented.
    b. Passage of a bill requires a super majority, two-thirds of the chamber (2/3).
    c. Approval of a bill during veto overrides shall be recorded by delegates raising their placard in conjunction with a voice vote unless division of the chamber is called and recognized. In such a case, the vote shall be recorded by a standing vote. The Presiding Officers may call for a division if there is any doubt about the voice vote.

7. Veto Override Procedure

1. Each bill passed in Chamber, which was vetoed by the Governor, shall have the right to be considered in the following manner:
    a. A Motion to override the veto will be made by the bill author.
    b. Cabinet member statement (1 minute). The cabinet member will explain why the bill was vetoed.
    c. Opening remarks by the bill author (1 minute). The author may only yield unused time to the Chair.
    d. Chairperson opens debate. One (1) con speaker and one (1) pro speaker will be recognized; Upon recognition, the delegate shall thank the Chair, state their name, and delegation. A delegate may exercise up to three (3) of these actions without further impediment:
        i. Address The Chamber.
        ii. Ask a series of questions of the bill author, provided the author's permission is sought through and granted by the Chair.
        iii. Make one motion, provided this intention is declared upon taking the floor. A motion shall preempt yielding the floor.
    e. Appropriate voting procedures will take place (see 7.3).

8. Changes to the Rules

1. Rules may be changed by submitting the proposed change in writing to the Presiding Officers at any time. The Presiding Officer will present the proposed change for a vote among all Presiding Officers. A simple majority is required for approval. Upon approval, the Presiding Officers shall recommend the rule change to the State Director for the next Conference. No changes to the rules will occur for the current conference.

9. Conclusion

1. While the Rules and Procedures of the Legislature provide a structured framework for conducting the conference, it is important to remember that the primary objective of the conference is to engage in meaningful discussions, develop critical thinking skills, and have a positive learning experience. It is essential for participants to approach the procedures with a sense of enthusiasm and a willingness to engage in constructive debate. The rules are designed to facilitate the process, but it is equally important to maintain a spirit of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility throughout the conference. Ultimately, the goal is to create an environment where delegates can learn, grow, and have fun while participating in the legislative process.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE SCRIPT

1. Chair: It is now time for bill (#). Are the bill sponsors for bill (#) present?
    a. Bill Sponsors thank the chair and say they are present
2. Chair: Will the Clerk read the An act to/title of the bill
    a. Clerk will read the An act to/title
3. Chair: Thank you. The Bill Sponsors will have 4 minutes to divide between their opening and closing statements and may begin when ready.
    a. Bill Sponsors give their Opening Statement
4. Chair: Thank you. The Bill Sponsors have reserved (time) to their closing statements. Now that the time for Opening Statements has elapsed, we will now move into a period of Non-Debatable Technical Questions. Is there a technical question on the floor?
    a. The chair will choose delegate with a raise placard
    b. Delegates will continue asking questions until the chair announces for a final technical question.
5. Chair: Thank you. Now that the time for non-debatable technical questions has elapsed, we will move into a period of Con/Pro debate. Since the Bill Sponsors Opening statement was a speech in favor, I will now be looking for a speech in opposition. Is there a Con speech on the floor?
    a. Chair will Alternate speeches in favor and in opposition, ending with a Con speech.
6. Chair: Seeing that the time for Con/Pro debate has elapsed, we will now move onto a period of closing statements. The Bill Sponsors have reserved (time) for their closing statements and may begin when ready.
    a. The bill sponsors will give their closing statement
7. Chair (In Committees): Thank you Bill Sponsors. We will now move into a period of ranking.
8. Chair (In Chambers): Thank you Bill Sponsors. We will now move on to a period of voting. All those in favor of the bill, please say “aye” in your normal speaking voice. *Give a beat before doing opposition vote* All those in opposition please say “nay” in your normal speaking voice.
9. Chair (In Chambers): In the eyes of the chair, this bill has (passed/defeated).

CRITERIA for Rubric System of Ranking of Bills
TO BE RANKED BY COMMITTEE DELEGATETS

Criteria 1 – Communication of Purpose

5 points: All 5 topics (Purpose, Summary of Provisions, Justification, Fiscal Implications, and Effective Date) are written in the bill each with a clearly distinguished justification or provision of each topic. All topics are clearly organized and written correctly in the proper bill format with miniscule or no errors. There are also little to no spelling or grammatical errors

4 points: All 5 topics (Purpose, Summary of Provisions, Justification, Fiscal Implications, and Effective Date) are written in the bill with a clearly understood provision or justification of each topic. However there may be little or some disorganization in writing the topics in the correct format, with a few errors. There may also be various spelling or grammatical mistakes.

3 points: There may be one topic missing from the bill. The bill may be written in the improper format with topics out of place or order. The bill also has disorganized errors as well as various spelling or grammatical errors.

2 points: There may be 1 or 2 topics missing from the bill with little description for each topic. The bill is in improper format with disorganization and errors evident, while there are multiple spelling errors.

1 point: There may be multiple topics missing or with little to no description or justification for each topic while format be completely out of place or disorganized.

Criteria 2 – Evidence of Preparation

5 points: Bill sponsors are able to provide a necessary and informative answer to all technical questions demonstrating an extreme depth of knowledge on all aspects of the topic. Authors present the bill with clear organization and with an understandable or intriguing demeanor and behavior that quickly engages the other delegates in debate and discussion.

4 points: The Bill sponsors are able to provide a necessary or informative answer to almost all technical questions. The Authors present the bill with organization and an intriguing demeanor and an attention grabbing behavior that engages the other delegates.

3 points: The bill sponsors are able to provide solid answers to almost all questions with some error or hesitation with some difficulty. The bill sponsors present with a demeanor or behavior that may be intriguing to the other delegates but may not be to other delegates.

2 points: The sponsors aren't able to provide an informative answer to all technical questions or do so with difficulty or hesitation. The authors may present difficulty speaking to a public in order to get their knowledge of the topic across due to inability or absence of knowledge of the topic.

1 point: Authors clearly do not have a necessary knowledge of the topic and aren't able to present with an intriguing demeanor. Technical questions may not be answered or presented as well as opening remarks or closing summations.

Criteria 3 – Importance to the State

5 points: Bill topic or issue explained is extraordinarily essential in connection to the current issues New York Faces in the present day and must be presented and debated upon to bring about the most positive change in the state.

4 points: Bill topic or issue explained is essential but other issues the New York has may surpass the specific the importance of the concern of the bill.

3 point: Bill topic would be beneficial to New York State at the time, but is not that essential to bring about the most change in the state government.

2 points: The Bill topic is not that important but is still a concern of the people in NYS and will bring about some change in the NYS government.

1 point: Bill topic is not related to current issues facing NYS and is irrelevant to the importance of NYS and the change within the current status of the state.

Criteria 4– Feasibility

5 points: The bill topic will be extremely able to be enforced or carried out once passed. Its ability to pass and to be executed is undeniably unproblematic.

4 points: The bill topic will be able to be enforced and carried out but there may be minimal possibilities of difficulty to pass or be executed in the future.

3 points: The bill might have the ability to pass but there may be various difficulties to enforce its purpose upon its passage in the future.

2 points: The bill does not have the ability to pass or to be enforced due to some complications or difficulties from the possible turnout of the bills implications.

1 point: The bill topic would be extremely difficult to carry out and to enforce to make its concern for the state in the future and would not work.

Criteria 5 – Debatability

5 points: The bill topic sparked incredible debate where motions were carried out to extend debate or to continue discussion. There were no moments where not a placard was raised. The issue addressed can clearly relate to both opposing positions on the issue of the bill. There are an equal number of different standpoints on the issue addressed.

4 points: The bill topic has active, engaged debate from members of the Committee, with many volunteers to speak on both sides. The issue addressed can clearly relate to multiple opposing positions on the issue of the bill.

3 points: The bill topic has little debate due to the weighted standpoints of on the issue. The bill may only address a certain aspect of the law which may either hinder the people to entirely agree with the bill or entirely disagree resulting in a weighted standpoint debate.

2 point: The bill topic has little to no debate due to the weighted standpoints of on the issue. The bill may only address a certain aspect of the law which may either hinder the people to entirely agree with the bill or entirely disagree resulting in a weighted standpoint debate. Chairs had to encourage debate

1 points: The bill topic is not debatable at all and should either be instantly passed, or instantly failed depending on the consensus of the legislative chamber due to the issue that may be addressed. Or the topic may not hinder debate for any reason pertaining to importance, presentation, or feasibility.

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Ranking of Bills

Bill Number: _____

After the Bill Sponsor's presentation in Committees, Please rank this Bill according to the following:

- Ranking is on a scale from 1-5 for each category (1= bad, 3= good/average, 5= excellent).
- Each Bill Group will receive ONE ranking sheet.
- Bill sponsors will NOT rank their own bill.
- Refer to the *Bill Ranking Rubric* for details on each criteria

Criteria		Score
Communication of Purpose	(1-5)	
Evidence of Preparation	(1-5)	
Importance to the State	(1-5)	
Feasibility	(1-5)	
Debatability	(1-5)	

TOTAL SCORE (5-25): (Total Here)

SAMPLE

Bill Ranking Worksheet

Bill	Communication of Purpose	Evidence of Preparation	Importance to the State	Feasability	Debatability	Total

Notes

Youth and Government Veto Override Script

Chair: Will the bill sponsors for bill # please come forward?

Chair: Will the Clerk please read the An Act to

Chair: The designated cabinet member can come forward. You will have one minute to give an explanation as to why the bill was vetoed and you may begin when ready.

Chair: Thank you cabinet member. Seeing that the time for the cabinet member has elapsed we will move into a period of opening statements. The bill sponsors have 1 minute to prove why the veto should be overturned. Bill sponsors you may begin when ready.

Chair: Thank you bill sponsors. Now that the time for opening statements have elapsed, we will now move into a period of con/pro debate. (1 pro and 1 con)

Chair: Is there a pro statement on the floor?

Chair: Is there a con statement on the floor?

Chair: Thank you. Now that the time for con/pro debate has elapsed we will move into a period of voting.

Chair: All those in favor of the override of the veto please raise your placard and say aye (I) in your normal speaking voice. All those in opposition of the override please raise your placard and say nay in your normal speaking voice.

Chair: (If the Veto is overridden) Due to the consensus of the chamber this veto has been overridden and will be signed in law.

Chair: (If the Veto Stands) Due to the consensus of the chamber, this veto stands

PROCEDURE FOR VETO OVERRIDES

When bills are passed in chambers they go through the Governor's Cabinet. In this process, the Governor has the option to sign or veto a bill. In the event that a bill is vetoed, any delegate may move to make a motion in chambers to override it. The chair will then ask if the bill sponsors second the motion.

What does this mean exactly?

- Overrides can occur at anytime in any chamber, but there **must be a motion made by a delegate in order to occur.**

When making a motion to override a veto, the sponsors have the opportunity to re-present their bill in chambers and have it automatically passed into law, but according to special procedures.

- Before the bill sponsors present again, the Presiding Officer will ask if there are any cabinet members present thus leading to a cabinet member being allotted one minute to deliver an explanation as to why the bill was vetoed.
- In lieu of having four minutes for opening statement and closing summation, the sponsors will only have one minute for an opening with no closing summation.
- Debate is also altered in this matter as well.
    - In this scenario, debate only lasts for the duration of three con statements and two pro statements
    - **No** technical questions can be asked.

How do the chairs tell if the veto stands or is overridden?

When a veto override occurs, the bill will **need two-thirds (2/3) of the chambers vote to have the veto overridden.**

- In order to determine if the override stands or not, the Presiding Officer will count the total number of the delegates in the chamber and multiply it by two-thirds.
- The number that the Presiding Officer gets after doing that equals the number of votes that are needed for the bill to pass.
- If the votes don't add up or surpass to that number than the override stands and the bill remains vetoed.

What happens in chambers during a veto override?

All individuals that are not delegated to that chamber (i.e. Lobbyists, Advisors, Press etc.) will be asked to remove themselves from the floor when time for voting occurs.

1) A designated Cabinet Member will deliver a brief one minute explanation as to why the bill was vetoed. (ex: if the bill topic was under education, the Commissioner of Education would deliver the explanation.)
2) After the cabinet member speaks, it is now time for the bill sponsors to give a final opening statement to prove why their bill should pass and will only have one minute to do so.
3) Now that opening statements has elapsed, the chamber will then move into a period of con/pro debate, lasting only three cons and two pros.
4) When the period for debate has ended, the chamber will move into a period of voting.

At the time of voting, the Presiding Officer will ask all delegates in favor of the bill to stand and will count and record the number of delegates in favor, and will do the same for those who oppose.

- If the veto is overridden the Presiding Officer will announce, "Due to the consensus of the chamber this veto has been overridden." And the bill will be signed.
- If it is not, the Presiding Officer will say, "Due to the consensus of the chamber, this veto stands." And the bill will remain in its vetoed state.

****All rules that are applied during usual chamber sessions are also applicable during veto overrides.**

Assembly Excelsior

Jibran Akaloo,

Speaker of Assembly Excelsior

Committee Chairs

Lydia Phelps	**Assembly Excelsior 1**
Riley Huck	**Assembly Excelsior 1**
Arabella O'Reilly	**Assembly Excelsior 2**
Sophie Valentine	**Assembly Excelsior 2**
Logan Slawson	**Assembly Excelsior 3**
Brynn Loomis	**Assembly Excelsior 4**

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:1

Sponsors: Ella Fager, Emma Corona, Brielle Scott, and Sophia Huanca

An Act To: Amend Article 6 § 398 of the Social Services Law for public welfare regarding the responsibility of the ward of the state children and teens by adding a provision regarding monetary assistance to those who have recently aged out of the care system, by including it in their transition plan.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To provide recently aged-out Ward of the state youths with monetary assistance, while requiring such youths to partake in mandatory seminars to qualify.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Mandatory Seminars: A set of educational workshops teaching life skills applicable to their adulthood. These would include various classes on independent living skills, teaching them their own self-reliance.

Ward of the state: A legal term for minors who lack competent guardians or parents for a variety of reasons, or an incapacitated adult placed under care by a court and government protection.

Transition Plan: Otherwise known as a Discharge plan or a Transition to Adulthood Plan. It is a legally required youth-driven document covering the concrete steps put in place to protect and ensure a smooth transition to adulthood. A transition plan starts 180 days before the minor turns 18 or when they're expected to be discharged. It details life skills, financial literacy, and plans for the minor's future.

Age out: In New York, a youth ages out at 18; however, in some institutions, they may remain until 21.

Section 2: Provisions §398. Additional powers and duties of commissioners of public welfare and certain city public welfare officers in relation to children.

17. The youth who recently aged out of the ward of the state at 18, beginning on their birthday, will receive monthly checks of $1,500, which would decrease by $200 a year. To be eligible for the checks, the youth must go through mandatory weekly seminars that would cover skills necessary for independence.

Justification: Many recently aged-out minors who were wards of the state struggle as they do not have family support nor the guidance to be independent. This amendment provides assistance to help those minors avoid the risk of homelessness, substance abuse, and financial struggle in early adulthood, as well as having the opportunity to learn skills needed to traverse the world of modern-day adulthood. Through this bill, homeless youth would get off the streets, benefiting the environment, as this will create healthier and safer communities. Physically, the program will require some resources such as energy and materials in order to facilitate such workshops. This will also provide them with time to find jobs to keep themselves afloat. Through monthly monetary funds, which decrease as they grow older, wards of the state youths have the opportunity to make their own advancements beyond financial barriers.

Fiscal Implications: The state will need to fund this program through already allocated OCF (Office of Children & Family Services) Funds. OCFS currently has an annual budget of $661 Million for the 25-26 fiscal year. Once a youth ages out of the ward of the state, they will receive a monthly check of $1,500, which decreases by $200 each year until they turn 23. The first cohort of youths eligible for this fund would cost a maximum of $15 million annually. As this first cohort ages, the fund would be decreased by $2 million annually till the age of 23. With a new cohort being eligible each year, the estimated annual cost for these stipends is around $45 million. There would not need to be an increase to ocfs, the budget would just be reallocated to this program.

Effective Date: 2 years after the date of passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:1

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:2

Sponsors: Gabby Montalbano and Sophia Viola

An Act To: Amend section 476-A of the Judiciary CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE 15 by adding paragraph 3 to eliminate the use of artificial intelligence in lawyers and attorneys briefs.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To eliminate the use of artificial intelligence in lawyers and attorneys briefs.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Artificial Intelligence: The application of computer systems able to perform tasks or produce output normally requiring human intelligence, especially by applying machine learning techniques to large collections of data.

Attorney: A lawyer/a person appointed to act for another in business or legal matters

Disbarment: The permanent revocation of a lawyer's license to practice law. This is reserved for the most serious misconduct, such as misappropriating client funds, accepting bribes, or committing serious crimes.

Supervising Attorney: A supervising attorney is a senior lawyer who oversees the work and professional development of junior attorneys, paralegals, and other support staff. They are responsible for managing caseloads, ensuring quality representation, providing mentorship and training, and ensuring compliance with ethical and professional standards.

Section 2: Provisions

§ 476-a. Action for unlawful practice of the law. 1. The attorney-general may maintain an action upon his or her own information or upon the complaint of a private person or of a bar association organized and existing under the laws of this state against any person, partnership, corporation, or association, and any employee, agent, director, or officer thereof who commits any act or engages in any conduct prohibited by law as constituting the unlawful practice of the law. The term ""action"" as used in this subdivision shall be construed to include both civil actions and criminal actions.

3. If an attorney is proven guilty of using any artificial intelligence in their bill, they will be subject to a fine of $20,000 and if they continue this they may be subject to a higher fine or even disbarment.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:2

The supervising attorney will have the authority to determine if the brief was written by artificial intelligence or not via consultation of materials including but not limited to detectors, misinformation, and switching writing styles. If a supervising attorney suspects the use of artificial intelligence they will go to court for further investigation.

Justification: There's a growing amount of legal reports that reveal important problems, primarily concerning lawyers who use artificial intelligence tools without proper oversight, leading to untrue legal citations and inaccurate reasoning. In June 2023, a federal judge in New York State fined two lawyers $5000 for submitting a legal brief that cited over half a dozen nonexistent court cases designed by ChatGPT. In a May 2025 case, a well-known law firm was punished for using artificial intelligence to file a brief with 27 incorrect and at least two non-existent citations.Banning artificial intelligence will lead to a dramatic decrease in false evidence in attorney briefs. This will make things significantly more accurate. People will also feel more comfortable with a real person supporting their cases rather than a robot. Many people aren't even aware that artificial intelligence is being used for their cases. Banning artificial intelligence would improve courtrooms by limiting false citations

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications in this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:3

Sponsors: Lydia Phelps, Riley Huck, and Presley Huck

An Act To: Amend Section 1182 Vehicle and Traffic law, to raise the punishments for both first and second offense highway racing

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To heighten the severity of the punishments for both first and second offenses of highway racing

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Exhibitions: A display of excessive speed or reckless maneuvers that deliberately intend to "show off" a vehicle's power or speed.

Highway: Any road that is publicly maintained and open to the public for vehicular travel in New York State.

Section 2: Provisions § 1182. Speed contests and races. 1. Except as provided in section eleven hundred eighty-two-a of this article or section sixteen hundred thirty, sixteen hundred forty, sixteen hundred forty-two or sixteenhundred sixty of this chapter, no races, exhibitions or contests of speed shall be held and no person shall engage in or aid or abet in any motor vehicle or other speed contest or exhibition of speed on a highway. Such event, if held, shall be fully and efficiently patrolled for the entire distance over which such race, exhibition or contest for speed is to be held. Participants in a race, exhibition or contest of speed are exempted from compliance with any traffic laws otherwise applicable thereto, but shall exercise reasonable care. A violation of any of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and be punishable by imprisonment of not more than ~~thirty days~~ fifty days or a fine of not less than ~~three hundred dollars~~ five hundred dollars nor more than five hundred twenty-five dollars, or both such fine and imprisonment. In addition to the fine and/or imprisonment an additional 5 points will be added to the persons license.

2. A second conviction within twelve months of a violation of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment of not more than ~~six months~~ 9 months or a fine of not less than five hundred twenty-five dollars nor more then ~~seven hundred fifty dollars~~ one thousand one hundred and twenty five dollars, or both such fine and imprisonment. In addition to the fine and/or imprisonment the person's license will be suspended for one full year following the charges.

Justification: This issue endangers not only the lives of the persons participating in it but also every single person on or around the activity so it seems only fitting that the punishment match the magnitude of the crime.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:3

Fiscal Implications: The cost of housing the extra inmates would be roughly 9,000$ per inmate but this number would be almost entirely offset by the increased fines.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #: 4

Sponsors: Silas Edla, Brandon Kharran, Kieran Ucker, Anthony Kirwin, and Ethan Mandell

An Act To: Amend the public health law, in relation to the legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic beverages

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To make possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages legal for those above the age of eighteen

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

§ 65-c. Unlawful possession of an alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume by persons under the age of eighteen years. 1. Except as hereinafter provided, no person under the age of ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years shall possess any alcoholic beverage, as defined in this chapter, with the intent to consume such beverage.

2. A person under the age of ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years may possess any alcoholic beverage with intent to consume if the alcoholic beverage is given:

(a) to a person who is a student in a curriculum licensed or registered by the state education department and the student is required to taste or imbibe alcoholic beverages in on-campus or off-campus courses which are a part of the required curriculum, provided such alcoholic beverages are used only for instructional purposes during class conducted pursuant to such curriculum; or

(b) to the person under ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years of age by that person's parent or guardian.

3. Any person who unlawfully possesses an alcoholic beverage with intent to consume may be summoned before and examined by a court having jurisdiction of that charge; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall authorize, or be construed to authorize, a peace officer as defined in subdivision thirty-three of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law or a police officer as defined in subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of such law to arrest a person who unlawfully possesses an alcoholic beverage with intent to consume. If a determination is made sustaining such charge the court may impose a fine not exceeding fifty dollars and/or completion of an alcohol awareness program established pursuant to section 19.25 of the mental hygiene law and/or an appropriate amount of community service not to exceed thirty hours.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #: 4

4. No such determination shall operate as a disqualification of any such person subsequently to hold public office, public employment, or as a forfeiture of any right or privilege or to receive any license granted by public authority; and no such person shall be denominated a criminal by reason of such determination, nor shall such determination be deemed a conviction.

5. Whenever a peace officer as defined in subdivision thirty-three of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law or police officer as defined in subdivision thirty-four of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law shall observe a person under ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years of age openly in possession of an alcoholic beverage as defined in this chapter, with the intent to consume such beverage in violation of this section, said officer may seize the beverage, and shall deliver it to the custody of his or her department.

Justification: The purpose of lowering the drinking age is to protect and acknowledge personal freedom and make the law more consistent for young adults. Eighteen year olds in the United States are legally considered adults. They have the ability to vote, serve on jury duty, sign contracts and forms, and most importantly, they can join the military to protect our country. Someone who is old enough to serve in the military and risk their life for our country should be able to be trusted to drink responsibly. If eighteen year olds are recognized as adults when it comes to major responsibilities, then they should also be recognized to have the same rights that come with adulthood. Lowering the drinking age to 18 years old would make the US law fairer to its citizens and would also be more generally consistent. In addition, several major countries in Europe, such as France and Germany allow individuals to drink at 18. Alcohol being introduced earlier can lead to it having more controlled use, greater supervision, and to be used in responsible ways. In the United States, the drinking age is 21 and this was all because of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. This doesn't help to suppress underage drinking, instead it pushes young people to drink secretly in unsafe, uncontrolled, and unsupervised environments. A prime example of this is on college campuses, where most people are underage but they still drink without fully knowing possible risk because they weren't introduced to alcohol responsibly. By lowering the legal drinking age to 18, the government could start to promote safer, controlled, and regulated drinking. This can reduce the “forbidden fruit” effect, which is alcohol being more tempting because it is illegal.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #: 4

Fiscal Implications: Alcohol tax revenue from the 18-21 age group would bring in an extra 24 million dollars each year.

Effective Date: 1/1/27

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:5

Sponsors: Rad Regidor and Sophia Ross

An Act To: Mandate the AI Transparency Act to require companies to disclose when algorithmic systems are used to significantly influence decisions that can affect an individual's opportunities, rights, or access to services.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Requiring companies to disclose this information allows the population to understand, challenge, or appeal decisions that may be unfair.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Disclosure Requirement: Companies must clearly notify when algorithmic systems are used to make or greatly influence decisions that affect their rights, opportunities, or access to services.

Section 2: Provisions

Clear Explanation Requirement: People have the right to a simple, clear explanation of the role of AI in the decision-making process.

Penalization: Companies found to repeatedly or willingly violate this act may face civil penalties enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, which includes monetary fines or additional enforcement actions.

Justification: AI is increasingly used in decision-making that can limit a person's opportunities and affect careers, education, housing, etc. This transparency protects civil rights and increases accountability. It offers more transparency for the public and anybody interacting with AI. This will also provide a job market for future members of society that choose to study computers.

Fiscal Implications: The Federal Trade Commission will need additional funding to enforce the law. The costs include funding staff and reporting systems to ensure companies follow the rules and regulations. These costs are expected to be moderate and could be offset by the possible civil fines.

Effective Date: 01/01/2027

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:6

Sponsors: Alberto Bouloukos, Brahm Terbeek, Ben Wells, Griffin Byers, and Murphy Dumas

An Act To: Amend Article 22, section 603, of the NYS personal income tax law to require that 30% of the taxes of individuals who make over $250,000 yearly income be allocated for school lunches.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Tax the wealthy more to aid in funding for school lunches.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Personal income tax : A government levy on an individual's earnings, including wages, salaries, investments, and other income, used to fund public services.

Wealthy: People who make $250,000 or more.

Section 2: Provisions Section 603. Separate tax on the ordinary income portion of lump sum distributions and take 30% of their taxes and donate it to ingredients for better quality lunches.

Justification: There are people and companies who have too much money to know what to do with, this could help kids in school all around the U.S., kids will have full bellies and good food.

Fiscal Implications: Little to none.

Environmental Implications: There wouldn't be any environmental effects when this law takes place.

Effective Date: December 31st, 2026

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:7

Sponsors: Dorian Martinez, Debora Aguirre-Lopez, Emily Segarra, and Priscila Almanzar

An Act To: Amend Section 365-a of the New York Social Services Law, in relation to mandating automatic coverage of evidence-based preventive cardiovascular and metabolic screenings for high-risk Medicaid recipients

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to amend Section 365-a of the Social Services Law to require the Medical Assistance Program to provide automatic coverage, without prior authorization barriers, for evidence-based preventive cardiovascular and metabolic screenings for Medicaid recipients identified as clinically high-risk. This act aims to reduce preventable cardiac events, lower long-term Medicaid expenditures, and address health disparities among low-income populations in New York State.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

High-risk Medicaid recipient: A high-risk Medicaid recipient shall mean an individual enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program who has been diagnosed with at least one of the following conditions as documented in their medical record: hypertension, obesity, diabetes, elevated cholesterol levels, or a family history of premature cardiovascular disease as defined by Department of Health clinical guidelines.

Preventive cardiovascular and metabolic screenings: medically recognized diagnostic services including lipid panels, hemoglobin A1C testing, advanced blood pressure monitoring, and non-invasive cardiac risk assessments recommended by the American Heart Association or the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

Medical Assistance Program: the Medicaid program authorized under Title 11 of Article 5 of the Social Services Law.

Managed Care Organization: an entity certified under Article 44 of the Public Health Law and contracted with the New York State Department of Health to provide services pursuant to Section 365-a of the Social Services Law.

Section 2: Provisions (a) Section 365-a of the Social Services Law will require the Medical Assistance Program to provide coverage for preventive cardiovascular and metabolic screenings for high-risk Medicaid recipients, as defined in Section 1 of this act, without the imposition of prior authorization requirements, step-therapy protocols, or administrative pre-approval barriers when such screenings are ordered by a licensed primary care provider, cardiologist, endocrinologist, or other qualified healthcare practitioner acting within their lawful scope of practice.

(b) Covered preventive screenings will include one annual lipid panel, one annual hemoglobin A1C test when clinically indicated, blood pressure monitoring consistent with Department of Health guidelines, and any non-invasive cardiac risk assessment recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force with an "A" or "B" rating for the relevant risk category.

(c) The Department of Health shall issue standardized clinical eligibility criteria within one hundred eighty days of enactment to ensure uniform identification of high-risk Medicaid recipients across all Managed Care Organizations and fee-for-service Medicaid programs. Such criteria shall be evidence-based and consistent with nationally recognized preventive care guidelines.

(d) Managed Care Organizations shall be prohibited from denying coverage for the screenings defined in subdivision (b) when the enrollee meets the high-risk definition established in Section 1 and the screening is ordered by an authorized provider.

(e) Managed Care Organizations and the Department of Health fee-for-service program shall submit annual reports to the Department of Health detailing the number of high-risk Medicaid recipients receiving preventive screenings under this section, cardiovascular-related hospital admissions among high-risk recipients, and thirty-day readmission rates for cardiovascular events.

(f) Nothing in this act shall expand Medicaid eligibility categories or create a new benefit classification beyond the preventive services authorized under Section 365-a; rather, this act standardizes access and removes administrative barriers for high-risk populations.

Justification: Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in New York State and disproportionately affects low-income communities. Preventive screenings are often delayed due to administrative barriers, resulting in higher rates of emergency cardiac admissions and long-term disability costs. By ensuring automatic coverage for evidence-based preventive screenings, this bill promotes early detection, reduces preventable hospitalizations, and strengthens the fiscal sustainability of the Medicaid program. Preventive investment reduces catastrophic care expenditures, which average over $25,000 per cardiac hospitalization in New York.

Fiscal Implications: The average cost of annual preventive cardiovascular screening ranges from $100 to $300 per high-risk enrollee. If applied to an estimated 500,000 high-risk Medicaid recipients statewide, projected gross annual expenditures would range from $50 million to $150 million. However, a 5% reduction in cardiac-related hospitalizations, which exceed $25,000 per admission, would generate offsetting savings estimated at over $200 million annually. Long-term cost neutrality or net savings are projected within five years of implementation.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:7

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 1 Bill #:8

Sponsors: Leyna Greenberg, Leily Garcia, and Surey Delgado
An Act To: Increase the minimum wage to $23 an hour for people employed by a business not classified as a "micro business"

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Increasing the minimum wage will provide a living wage covering necessities such as food, rent, and utilities including internet services and cellular services, necessities in today's technology driven society.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Micro businesses: A company with fewer than 10 employees.
Necessities: Something being required or needed for basic survival or well being to maintain a minimum standard of living.
Section 2: Provisions The current minimum wage is not a living wage, leaving workers struggling to survive in an increasingly costly society. The current minimum wage is $17.00 in NYC, Long Island, and Westchester, and the rest of New York State is $16.50. The minimum wage has not kept pace with the skyrocketing cost of living.

Justification: This bill increases minimum wage to $23 per hour for all employees except micro businesses with fewer than 10 employees. The purpose of this bill is to increase the minimum wage to a living wage, sufficient to cover basic needs, and the cost of living, increasing, on average, 4% each year. Minimum wage increases have not kept pace with increasing living costs. Minimum wage employees are entitled to a living wage. The age limit for people getting this new minimum wage would be 18 and over and 17 years and below would get the minimum wage that is here now. Exempting micro business will avoid excess impact on small business where compliance may not be economically feasible.

Fiscal Implications: This bill should be revenue neutral, utilizing existing Labor Department enforcement. The burden falls squarely on private businesses with an excess of 10 employees, more than equipped to handle an increase in wages as proposed.

Effective Date: January 1st 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:9

Sponsors: Jaymi Cruz, Andrea Portillo, Jazly Perez, and Nicole Saravia
An Act To: Amend the assembly bill 2025-A9112A to limit criminal background checks on domestic violence victims.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to provide housing and employment stability towards domestically violated victims.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Domestic Violence: Violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner.
Criminal Record: a list of a person's previous criminal convictions.
Background Checks: a process of verifying a person's past by examining public and private records, such as criminal history, employment history, education, and credit history.
Dually Arrested: when a law enforcement officer arrests both individuals involved in a single incident, most commonly in the context of a domestic violence report.
Recidivism: the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.
Coerced Criminal Acts: using threats or force to make someone commit crimes.
Section 2: Provisions Assembly bill 2025-A9112A states that a landlord shall not request, obtain, or consider a consumer credit report or credit history for a prospective tenant who provides documentation (includes photographs and documented patterns of abusive behavior) that they are a victim of domestic violence or recipient of rental subsidies, and shall not deny an application for rental housing on the basis of credit history when the applicant is a victim of domestic violence or receives rental subsidies. The amendation of assembly bill 2025-A9112A will not only accompany just credit check scores of tenants but as well as the addition of their criminal background. Assembly bill 2025-A9112A only prevents credit history, although criminal background also takes part in a huge struggle undergone by victims. Criminal background checks affect victims because many have their own criminal records due to the abuser's actions. For example, coerced criminal acts such as extortion and the victim being dually arrested with their abuser in response to self-defense are added to the victims' criminal background but shouldn't be a liability to the victims' future. Criminal background checks may also include records of arrests or protective orders. Even if the victim was not convicted, it could lead to housing, employment, and other barriers. Additionally, landlords have access to their background checks that include, finance, income/employment verification, housing history, documentation of abuse, and

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:9

eviction records to have an idea of who they are renting their home to. Our bill is to only limit their criminal background which was negatively impacted by their abuser.

Justification: On NCBI databases, it states that housing instability is a critical concern for domestic violence survivors. Due to the fact that prior research has revealed about 77% of victims have acquired criminal records and it has become a major barrier for them to obtain stable housing. The current exploratory study included 305 unhoused domestic violence victims who had sought out domestic violence support services but have been denied due to overpopulation in institutes. According to www.criminaljustice.ny.gov approximately every 40 seconds a victim reports their abuser offence wanting to be found with help from authority. If the victim wants to purchase a home, he/she/they should implement the following situation to the landlord and provide the landlord with details of the case if it was taken to court. If not, they should document their injuries of the abuse and bring the case to the state of New York to confirm their acquiring property by replying in the affirmative saying that the survivor did in fact partake in the abuse and that is the reason for said charge.

Fiscal Implications: There are no negative fiscal implications being implemented in this bill. Instead, it will bring forth a positive benefit towards the economy because there will be less individuals/victims in need of governmental aid. This results in reduced numbers of cases in the justice system to handle, causing a reduction in the amount of money necessary for court, lawyers, and other handling expenses.

Effective Date: January 1, 2028

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:10

Sponsors: Annabelle Najdzion, Julianna Najdzion, Sam Šarocký, and Tony Garcia Tello

An Act To: Amend Public Service Law by creating Article 12 §231-235 in relation to setting standards of review for water usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centers.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to provide a comprehensive statewide structure policy for review and siting of AI data centers. This bill will regulate the operation of AI data centers so they do not put strain on state wide water usage that would lead to increased water costs on residents that reside within a community impacted by (a) new or current data center(s).

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Artificial Intelligence Data Center: (A) A structure, group of structures, or infrastructure within an existing structure for the central housing of server racks that are used for the interconnection and operation of information technology and network communications equipment for the provision of data storage, data processing, or data transport services for Artificial Intelligence. (B) All related facilities and infrastructure for power distribution, environmental control, cooling and security required to deliver the desired service with respect to the specific data center.

Artificial Intelligence: Also known as AI, a program or other software that can perform tasks or produces output normally requiring human intelligence.

Section 2: Provisions §231: Current data centers will be mandated to regulate water usage to under 40 million gallons/year if they use over 50 million gallons/year by January 1st, 2035. Data centers that use less than 50 million gallons a year will be required to decrease water usage by 20% by January 1st, 2035.

§232: Future data centers must plan and determine what classifies as "excessive" by determining if water is expected to increase more than 3% within 3 months after construction by January 1st, 2027. If the center is classified as "excessive", the construction will be denied until data centers prove that they will consume below the regulated of water. Data centers will be required to provide (a) person(s) to determine the expected water bill increase in the surrounding area.

§233: Zoning Regulation Laws will be determined by county [zoning] officials that will require these newly planned constructions of data centers to abide by the new water laws above.
§234: If data centers are found to be in violation of Article 12, §231 and §232, shall be subject to penalties not to exceed $100,000 per day; until compliance is achieved or until January 31st of the year of implementation, and on the first day of the second month, operations will be forced to shut down until proven that usage is below the limit within §231 and §232.
§235: Mandate all data centers in New York State to report total water usage as public records that are accessible.

Justification: This bill focuses on the growing strain that AI data centers place on local water resources across NYS. According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons per day, equivalent to the water use of a town populated by 10,000 to 50,000 people ("Data Centers…" 1). Data centers are depleting local water supplies for their cooling systems, increasing water bills and further worsening climate change. This exemplifies the need for additional regulations in New York State communities, to prevent the increased cost of living, and make New York State more affordable. In Rockland County (an area with a significant amount of Data Centers) the average residential water bill in Rockland increased roughly 9.1% from 2015 to 2025. This was during the time period of AI data centers being built around the community (Rockland Water Study Committee). In conclusion, New York State must implement additional regulations for AI data centers or risk imposing long-term financial hardship and permanent environmental damage on communities.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will have minimal fiscal implications, as this bill focuses on adding more regulations towards already existing zoning laws surrounding AI data centers. Therefore, administrative oversight will be absorbed into existing regulatory structures.

Environmental Implications: This bill would impact the environmental conditions of the New York majority as the overall carbon footprint and environmental impact of data centers will be significantly reduced due to the new zoning laws. Furthermore, the bill will protect the environment in communities by preserving water. AI data centers drain around 731 to 1,125 million cubic meters of water per year ("Roadmap…" 1). By regulating these AI data centers out of communities, we

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are saving millions of cubic meters of freshwater from being polluted in one-time use cooling mechanisms, and conserving the supply for residents.

Effective Date: This bill will be in effect July 1st, 2026.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:11

Sponsors: Charles Jeudi and Julian Larcombe

An Act To: "Amend paragraph 16 of §1266, Special powers of the authority, of title 11 of article 5 in chapter 43-A of the Public-Authorities Law, by allowing those who have a yearly income of less than $30,120 gain a half fare rate on the Long Island Rail Road, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, and the Capital District Transportation Authority.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To increase the amount of people in poverty in NYS who can get a half fare rate. This will save many people a lot of money and allow them to afford more important expenses like food or rent.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Half Fare Rate: A half fare rate is a special price for a bus or train ride that costs exactly half of what a regular passenger pays. For example, if a standard ticket is $3.00, the half fare would be $1.50. This discount is meant to make travel cheaper for certain groups of people, such as seniors over age 65, children, students, and people with disabilities. Many cities also offer it to people with low incomes so they can afford to get to work or school.

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority: The NFTA is a New York State public-benefit corporation responsible for public transportation in Erie and Niagara counties, primarily serving the Buffalo–Niagara Falls metropolitan area.

The Capital District Transportation Authority: The CDTA is the regional transportation provider for New York's Capital District, serving Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Montgomery, Warren, and Washington counties.

Section 2: Provisions §1266. Special powers of the authority. In order to effectuate the purposes of this title: 1. The authority may acquire, by purchase, gift, grant, transfer, contract or lease, any transportation facility other than a transit facility or, subject to subdivision two of this section or any transportation facility constituting a transit facility, wholly or partially within the metropolitan commuter transportation district, or any part thereof, or the use thereof, and may enter into any joint service arrangements as hereinafter provided. Any such acquisition or joint service arrangement shall be authorized only by resolution of the authority approved by not less than a majority vote of the whole number of members of the authority then in office, except that in the event of a tie vote the chairman shall cast one additional vote. 16. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority and any of its subsidiary corporations shall establish and implement a half fare rate program for

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persons with serious mental illness who are eligible to receive supplemental security income benefits as defined pursuant to title sixteen of the federal social security act and section two hundred nine of the social services law. This half fare rate program must also be available for riders of the LIRR, NFTA, and the CDTA that have a yearly income of less than 200% of the current poverty level.

Justification: Many people who live in NYS face poverty, around 50-60%, our bill is trying to benefit those in poverty. People in NYS have to spend approximately $3,500 to $4,000 a month for basic necessities like rent, utilities, and transportation, with a comfortable lifestyle potentially requiring a $10,000+ monthly post-tax income. But, the average person in NYS only gets approximately $5,300 to $6,700 a month after taxes. This means that even average paid workers can't live comfortably. Our bill is going to allow people in New York State with a yearly income of under 200% of the current poverty level, or as of right now under $30,120, receive a half fare rate on the LIRR, NFTA, and the CDTA. Also, this half fare rate has been implemented in many other cities, for example, Denver has a half fare rate for citizens with a yearly income of under $39,125 and even New York City implemented a half fare rate for citizens with a yearly income of under $22,692 on multiple transit systems throughout the city. This will greatly benefit people in poverty living in NYS because they only have a few thousand dollars to spend on things other than bills, and spending hundreds of dollars on transportation is not ideal. This is why 50% off of NYS transportation is essential to those living in poverty.

Fiscal Implications: Though the half fare rates will be paid by the transit, in turn it will increase the ridership by around 30% or more, resulting in the income for the companies being relatively the same if not more.

Environmental Implications: This bill gives people an incentive to take public transportation, and will cause less cars to be on the road, which are one of the biggest sources for greenhouse gas emissions making up about 25-28% of all greenhouse gases in New York State. In result, this will decrease greenhouse gas emissions, as well as contribute to less traffic so cars won't spend as much time idling. Especially in places like Buffalo and Long Island that tend to have large sums of traffic.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passing.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:12

Sponsors: Madeline Cherubin, Icilda Chen, Kailyan Perez, Allison Stuart, and Mya Desir

An Act To: Amend Section 804-B Article 17 of the Education Laws of New York to add puberty education to the health class curriculum

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: NYS health class curriculum lacks the proper education on puberty for the youth so students can be informed about a natural process they experience.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Puberty (male) - significant physical and hormonal changes driven by testosterone, beginning with testicular growth, followed by penis enlargement, pubic/body/facial hair, voice deepening, muscle gain, and the ability to ejaculate (spermarche) and reproduce

Puberty (female) - include breast budding, body hair, growth spurts, and the start of periods, driven by estrogen and androgen hormones, with emotional shifts like irritability and a push for more independence also common.

Section 2: Provisions

The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish a curriculum for instruction regarding child development and parental skills and responsibility for the welfare of pupils and the community to be available in school districts. The contents may be varied to meet the needs of particular school districts, or portions thereof, and need not be uniform throughout the state; such curriculum may include instruction relating to inform students upon the proper education of puberty, not limited to both hormonal and physical changes the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome, which may include the viewing of a video presentation for students in secondary schools.

Justification: Given the stats and explaining how they are affected in NYS puberty education is a fundamental part of supporting young people's health, development, and well-being. According to Sex Education for social change in New York State, schools are only required to provide HIV/AIDS instruction", and district-by-district variation in health and sex education has left significant gaps in students' understanding of puberty and adolescent development. This means that many students enter puberty without accurate, age-appropriate information about the physical and emotional changes they will experience. National data highlights the consequences of this lack of education. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fewer than half of U.S. middle schools provide

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comprehensive instruction on puberty and adolescent development, leaving many students unprepared for normal puberty changes. Additionally, a study by the Guttmacher Institute found that over 60% of adolescents reported feeling confused or anxious about puberty-related changes, often because they lacked reliable information from schools. This confusion can contribute to increased stress, lower self-esteem, and negative mental health outcomes during a critical stage of development.

Fiscal Implications: The state may have to pay for products that would be used for demonstrations in the lessons. The state would also have to pay for teachers' training if necessary.

Environmental Implications: Minimal environment implications due to curriculum being taught verbally. Unless products are used (such as condoms) contributing to a surplus of waste.

Effective Date: The effective date would be one year after bill passage.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:13

Sponsors: Chloe Monroe, Quintin Stewart, Grace Terwilliger, and Sophie Valentine

An Act To: Amend the Consolidated Laws of New York by adding the subsection d. to subdivision (1) Article 6, §196-b, Chapter 31, discussing the Payment of Wages in Labor.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To provide a safeguard for employees regardless of the duration of their employment and to guarantee their tenure of their position under any unforeseen circumstances.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Unpaid leave: a leave of absence that allows an employee to take time off from work without receiving pay, while allowing the employee to retain their job and benefits.

Paid leave: a benefit that allows employees to take time off from work without losing their wages.

Net income: money left over after a business or individual pays all their expenses

Tax year: 12-month time period used to track your income and expenses for the purpose of calculating taxes.

Private-sector employer: individuals or organizations that own and operate businesses for profit

Pursuant: in a way that agrees with or follows (law)

Accrual: the increase of something over time, especially payments or benefits.

Probationary period: designated timeframe during which new employees are evaluated to determine if they meet performance expectations and fit within the company culture.

Section 2: Provisions

1. Every employer shall be required to provide its employees with sick leave as follows:

a. For employers with four or fewer employees in any calendar year, each employee shall be provided with up to forty hours of unpaid sick leave in each calendar year; provided, however, an employer that employs four or fewer employees in any calendar year and that has a net income of greater than one million dollars in the previous tax year shall provide each employee with up to forty hours of paid sick leave pursuant to this section;

b. For employers with between five and ninety-nine employees in any calendar year, each employee shall be provided with up to forty hours of paid sick leave in each calendar year; and

c. For employers with one hundred or more employees in any calendar year, each employee shall be provided with up to fifty-six hours of paid sick leave each calendar year.

For purposes of determining the number of employees pursuant to this subdivision, a calendar year shall mean the twelve-month period from January first through December thirty-first. For all other purposes, a calendar year shall either mean the twelve-month period from January first through December thirty-first, or a regular and consecutive twelve-month period, as determined by an employer.

d. Every private-sector employer shall be required to provide their employees with thirty-two hours of additional unpaid safe/sick leave in each calendar year and provide the 32 hours of safe/sick leave to each employee immediately upon hire. The thirty-two hours of additional unpaid safe/sick leave are eligible for all employees in a workplace where an employer has 5+ employees. This time will be given regardless of employment duration. In addition to reasons for use of paid leave, the 32 hours of safe/sick unpaid leave are also permitted for reasons including, but not limited to, (i)caregiving for a child or care recipient, (ii)during public disasters (e.g. school closures), (iii) legal/housing proceedings.

Justification: New York's labor laws aim to protect the safety of all workers, avoid discrimination in the workplace, and regulate working conditions as well as ensure proper payments. However, there are still many gaps. The State's current law sets the accrual rate at 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, meaning that part-time employees or those that have recently been hired do not have enough time accrued in the event of immediate need for leave. During the probationary period, if an employee finds themselves in an unexpected situation where they need time off, NYS law does not protect their job tenure. Instead, the decision falls to the employer's judgement whether to allow some unpaid leave, potentially extending their probationary time, or even termination in the event that the employer does not approve unpaid time off. Approximately 62% of New Yorkers report annually using all of their paid time off. This is among the highest rates in the country. COVID-19 Sick Leave once protected the job of any employee that had fallen sick specifically due to COVID-19. Although, the decline in COVID-19 in recent years has meant this law has been used much less. Nearly 60% of workers say they feel some form of PTO anxiety when it comes to taking time off from work,

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even though 45% receive more than two weeks of PTO per year. If private-sector employers are required to give additional unpaid leave to their employees, it will ease job leave related stress as well as fill in the gaps that otherwise might put an employee's job at risk.

Fiscal Implications: Payroll systems must be updated by the employers. The typical cost of updating these systems can range anywhere from $0-$100. Additional costs for any employer that uses printed handbooks are foreseen.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect January 1, 2027.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #: 14

Sponsors: Rosalia Vargas, Cadence Banks, Eli Weah, Nhiylani Jennings, and Xavier Davis

An Act To: Give more breakfast & lunch options in public school for those that have different needs and are unable to eat school lunches because of such needs.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To address the important and different dietary needs of people by providing more accessible options.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Dietary Needs/Restrictions- The needs of someone who only eats certain types of food, or who needs to avoid certain foods

Healthy Food- Food that has to be nutrient dense and low fat containing a meaningful amount of food from one of the major groups. Not including raw fruits, vegetables, and water.

Section 2: Provisions ~~Section 1. Subdivisions b and c of section 5 of chapter 537 of the laws of 1976, relating to paid, free and reduced price breakfast for eligible pupils in certain school districts, subdivision b as amended by section 32~~

~~b. Notwithstanding any monetary limitations with respect to school lunch programs contained in any law or regulation, for school lunch meals served in the school year commencing July 1, 2022 and each July 1 COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025, AND EACH JULY 1~~ Subdivisions b and c of section 5 of chapter 537 of th laws of 1976, relating to paid, free, healthy, and reduced price breakfast for eligible pupils in all public school districts, including addressing dietary needs

b. Notwithstanding any monetary limitations with respect to school lunch programs contained in any law or regulation, for school lunch meals served in the school year commencing July 1, 2027 and each July 1

COMMENCING JULY 1, 2027, AND EACH JULY 1

Justification: "New York State recognizes the vital role that healthy and nutritious meals play in supporting the wellbeing and academic success of school children. Providing healthy school lunches will help students reach their academic potential, promote their overall growth and enhance their long term health. To achieve these goals" we should start to become more diverse with what we are suffering to children and students. To be able to make sure all students are getting their proper nutrients we should start by making sure all children are being included when making these lunches, even some students can not eat in school because of dietary restrictions which we should help them with, some students even without dietary restrictions would like to have more food options as to what they are currently

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serving as school could make them sick and they are unable to eat heavy food because of a sport (ex:wrestling when they are trying to make weight)

Fiscal Implications: This bill will be funded by using state tax dollars or corporations that wish to donate money to state schools.

Effective Date: If the bill gets passed it should take effect around July 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:15

Sponsors: Arabella O'Reilly and Savvy Guinto

An Act To: Amend Article 2-A § 50 to make a requirement that in all homeless housing contracts occupants must participate in one of the following programs: mental health assistance, addiction recovery, degree equivalency, or job training.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to provide self-sufficiency to those who struggle with keeping a stable income and a stable home. With the different options of programs, we are fighting the underlying causes of homelessness. Many programs that are currently in place to help are optional and many people will choose to not do them. By mandating these programs, we are providing the resources needed to combat the homelessness crisis in New York State.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

DHS: Department of Homeless Services

City Tax Levy :The total of property tax revenue that is allowed to be collected for an annual budge

SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Section 2: Provisions 2.The commissioner shall require eligible applicants to submit operating plans in order to receive funding pursuant to this article. such plan should included:

(a) a description of the homeless intervention services to be provided, including procedures for intake,referral,outreach,the provisions of services, the completion of required programs for well-being and economic self reliance, follow up and anticipated out comes;

(b) the specific population that will be served and how the services provided will address the population's special needs;

(c) a description of the of the manner in which coordination with other federal,state,local and private funded services will be achieved;

(d) a description of how the services will be designed to assist households transition from a reliance on outside interventions and move toward housing stability and economic self reliance.

Justification: With more than 770,000 homeless people, the homelessness crisis in New York State is not something to be overlooked. That increased over 18% between 2023 and 2024. According to SAMHSA, approximately 30% of this population has a serious, untreated mental health condition, while two-thirds have a substance abuse problem or other chronic health condition. Without support, it will be hard to break the cycle of homelessness and allow themselves to get better.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:15

This will quell the leading causes of homelessness and also provide a smooth transition to self-sufficiency.

Fiscal Implications: The DHS states that, as of 2026, New York State allocates 3 billion dollars to their department. 76% of this budget goes to New York city and 5% goes state wide. In New York City the city's tax levy 62% of DHS's budget which is 3.6% of the city's yearly budget overall. For this bill it will not be necessary to raise taxes and the budget.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:16

Sponsors: Eva Lavi and Annabelle Park

An Act To: Amend § 60.45 of the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to the electronic recording of juvenile custodial interrogations.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure custodial interrogations of minors are electronically recorded to protect their civil right of Constitutional Protections Against Police Misconduct, prevent false or coerced confessions, and promote transparency and fairness in the criminal justice system.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Juvenile: any person under eighteen years of age.

Custodial Interrogation: questioning done by a public servant or law enforcement officer of a person in custody regarding their responsibility or lack of responsibility in a criminal offense.

Electronic Recording: the use of audio and/or video technology to capture the entirety of a custodial interrogation, including the administration of Miranda warnings and all questioning being done.

Section 2: Provisions

Any custodial interrogation of a minor ~~subject to custodial interrogation by a public servant at a detention facility~~ shall ~~the entire custodial interrogation, including the giving of any required advice of the rights of the individual being questioned, and the waiver of any rights by the individual, shall be recorded by an appropriate video recording device if the interrogation involves a class A-1 felony.~~ be electronically recorded in its entirety, including the administration of Miranda warnings and all questioning, as a condition of admissibility of any statement made by such person. A statement obtained in violation of this provision shall ~~not be admissible~~ be presumed inadmissible, unless the prosecution demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that one of the exceptions provided under this section applies, including: exigent circumstances, equipment malfunction, or concerns for public or officer safety.

Justification: This bill is justified and significant because juveniles are particularly vulnerable to coercion and false confessions during custodial interrogations. By requiring electronic recording of all interrogations involving minors, this law will ensure that statements used in court are accurate and reliable, protect constitutional rights, and promote fairness and transparency in the criminal justice system. Additionally, the bill will aid law enforcement and the courts by providing a clear and objective record of interrogations involving minors

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 2 Bill #:16

Fiscal Implications: Fiscal implications are expected to be minimal, as most law enforcement agencies in New York State are already equipped with electronic recording technology. Any additional costs for equipment, training, or maintenance are expected to be negligible and may be offset by reductions in litigation related to disputed or suppressed statements.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect six months after its passage to allow law enforcement agencies sufficient time to ensure compliance.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:17

Sponsors: Pablo Monzon-Lemus, Salma Sarhan, Stephanie Mizhquiri, Katherine Vasquez Guaman, and Samirah Frederick

An Act To: Amend §632, the general municipal law, in relation to oversight, transparency, community involvement, and humane standards at immigration detention facilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to strengthen oversight and accountability of immigration detention facilities that operate within New York State. Although the current law requires legislative approval for the construction and/or expansion of such facilities, it fails to ensure transparency, enforceable humane standards, or community involvement once facilities are operational. By being transparent and codifying humane standards, this legislation promotes responsible accountability while protecting the rights of people in custody.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Immigration Detention Facility: Any facility operated by or used by a federal agency for the civil detention of individuals based on immigration law.

Municipality: Any county, city, town, or village within the State of New York

Independent Third-Party Inspector: An entity or individual not affiliated with or employed by the operator of the immigration detention facility

Humane detention standards: This shall include, but not be limited to, access to adequate medical and mental health care, access to legal counsel, interpretation services, and conditions consistent with federal civil detention standards.

Public hearing: A noticed meeting conducted in the impacted community, providing residents an opportunity to present comments prior to legislative approval.

Section 2: Provisions Section 2 amends the general municipal law by adding a new section 99-x.

Section 99x subsection 1 amends the general municipal law to prohibit the use of municipal funds or resources for the construction or expansion of immigration detention facilities without approval from the legislature.

Section 99x subsection 2 amends the general municipal law to prohibit the use of municipal lands, buildings, or other resources for the construction of any new federal or private detention facilities within its jurisdiction and limits municipalities from expanding upon and entering into current or new agreements to detain noncitizens for civil proceedings unless such municipality has obtained legislative approval.

Section 99x subsection 3 establishes a committee on immigration detention oversight consisting of six members, sets parameters for the review of existing

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:17

immigration detention facilities, allocates funding for the committee on immigration detention, sets baseline standards for review, and adds reporting requirements for the established committee.
Section 99x subsection 4 requires the state to publish an annual report detailing all state and municipal spending related to immigration detention facilities, including contracts and payments to private entities.
Section §99x subsection 5 requires the municipality to conduct at least one publicly noticed hearing within the impacted community prior to granting legislative approval. Such hearing shall provide members of the community the opportunity to present comments and concerns.
Section §99x subsection 6 states that any immigration detention facility operating within the jurisdiction of a municipality shall ensure access to adequate medical and mental health care, access to legal counsel, interpretation services, and conditions consistent with federal civil detention standards.
Section §99x subsection 7 asserts that immigration detention facilities shall be subject to annual inspections that will be conducted by an independent third-party inspector (not affiliated with the facility operator or federal immigration authorities). Inspection reports would then be made publicly available and submitted to the governor and legislature.
Justification: The previous bill establishes legislative oversight of immigration detention facilities, requiring an approval before constructing or expanding them and creating a review committee. However, it does not address community input, humane standards, or full transparency in operations. Without these safeguards, detention facilities operate with limited accountability, violating individuals' rights and mismanaging public funds. The amended bill acknowledges these gaps by requiring public hearings, codifying humane standards, and maintaining independent inspections with publicly available reports. For example, a recent Human Rights Watch study reported that inadequate medical care in detention results in 30% of preventable health complications. By implementing clear standards and independent oversight, human dignity is prioritized alongside a safely operated facility. Moreover, requiring annual reporting on state and municipal spending perpetuates accountability for taxpayer dollars. Detaining 200 individuals at $133 per day costs about $9.7 million annually, so transparent reporting allows lawmakers to prevent misuse of public resources. Overall, this amendment strengthens legislative oversight, safeguards immigrant rights, empowers communities, and ensures that detention facilities operate with both accountability and humane treatment.

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Fiscal Implications: This will require modest funding to support independent inspections and public reporting along with committee operations. Preliminary estimates suggest annual costs of $500,000-$750,000, which is based on oversight programs of similar scale in New York State. However, they are expected to be offset by long-term savings: reduced litigation costs for detainee rights violations, allocatively efficient resource usage, and improved management of contracts with private facilities. By increasing transparency, public funds will be spent accordingly, maximizing taxpayer value.
Environmental Implications: Requiring legislative approval and public hearings before constructing prevents haphazard and disruptive development within local communities. Thoughtful planning reduces environmental impact from land modification while promoting sustainable urban development practices; this act is socially accountable with careful environmental oversight.
Effective Date: This bill shall take effect immediately after passage

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:18

Sponsors: Jibran Akaloo and Edward Phillips

An Act To: Amend Section 3612 of the New York State Public Health law to establish an office of hospice and palliative care.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure that all citizens have equal access to quality palliative care to developing an office specialized in accessible palliative care.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Palliative and Hospice care: a team-based medical specialty which provides symptom relief, comfort and support to patients with serious illnesses like heart disease or cancer.

Section 2: Provisions Section 63612 of the Public Health Law: (d) All reports shall be certified by the owner, administrator, chief executive officer, or public official responsible for the operation of the provider. The cost report form shall include a certification form, which shall specify who must certify the report. 9a. The commissioner shall appoint a director of the office of hospice and palliative care and may employ such assistants and personnel as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this article. The office shall have the following powers and duties: to provide expertise and input on hospice and palliative care policy development and regulation; to ensure hospice and palliative care providers, workers, and patients are considered when new policy or regulatory changes are contemplated, developed or implemented; to develop recommendations to improve patient care for individuals with chronic or life-limiting illnesses; to facilitate communication between the department and hospice and palliative care providers; to raise awareness and access to hospice and palliative care services; to provide resources and support for family caregivers and informal care networks; to identify and eliminate barriers to such services; to support models of care and service delivery that would assist in increasing utilization of hospice and palliative care services; and to work to develop and promote innovative health care delivery models for hospice and palliative care services. 9b. The office shall also establish and monitor quality and utilization metrics to promote increased access to high-quality end-of-life care; support community-wide efforts to promote advance care planning; work in collaboration with the state palliative care education and training council, centers for palliative care excellence, and palliative care practitioner resource centers to assist in providing education on hospice and palliative care to state, regional, and local personnel;and ensure equitable access to hospice and palliative care services

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by underrepresented communities across New York state. The commissioner, in conjunction with the director appointed pursuant to this section, shall prepare and submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, and post such report on the department's website, by no later than two years following the effective date of this section and annually thereafter, outlining the activities of the office established pursuant to this section, and recommendations on matters within the scope of the director's duties as set forth in this section.

Justification: New York State should implement a comprehensive palliative care program to address critical healthcare needs and fiscal demands. Research demonstrates that community-based palliative care reduces emergency department visits by 50% on average, with some populations experiencing up to 71%. One study found that palliative care enrollment resulted in 33% fewer hospital admissions, 38% fewer ICU admissions, and a 20% reduction in total medical costs. In New York state 4.6 million residents aged 60 and older, with the 65-plus population growing 31% over the past decade while the under-65 population declined by 2.6%. 18% of New Yorkers are now 65 and older, and this population will grow another 25% by 2040. Over 600,000 older adults in New York City are enrolled in Medicaid, representing 14% of all enrollees. Simultaneously, palliative care access remains severely inequitable, with rural areas, communities of color, low-income populations, and other underserved groups facing substantial barriers to care. Research shows patients in the most disadvantaged areas experienced 44% reductions in emergency visits with palliative care compared to 60% reductions for those in the least disadvantaged areas, demonstrating persistent disparities. This legislation would establish an office to coordinate services, eliminate access barriers, promote quality metrics, and ensure equitable access across all communities. Furthermore, leveraging existing Medicaid funding to offset costs through demonstrated savings while positioning New York as a national leader in patient-centered care for its rapidly aging and increasingly diverse population.

Fiscal Implications: New York's Medicaid program operates with a budget of approximately $111.2 billion in State Fiscal Year 2026, with federal matching funds comprising over half of total program costs. Hospice and palliative care services are reimbursed under Medicare rates, with FY 2026 daily rates ranging from $178 to $225 depending on care level, and an annual payment cap of $35,361 per patient. Palliative care consultations within three days of hospital admission save an

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average of $3,237 per patient, with total costs of $5,834 compared to $7,784 for usual care patients: a 25% reduction. This office would coordinate existing Medicaid-funded palliative care services, expand access, and promote quality metrics within current budget allocations, using demonstrated cost savings to offset operational expenses.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year following its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:19

Sponsors: Abel Keeney, Logan Slawson, Adam Simons, and Olivia Tucker

An Act To: Enforce and redefine Public Buildings (PBB) CHAPTER 44, ARTICLE 5 §146 "Prohibit Symbols of Hate" and add a fine of $5000 to ensure that businesses comply

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Prevent public buildings from freely flying flags that could potentially create a hateful environment to those in New York State by adding a $5000 fine to the bill "Prohibit Symbols of Hate"

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Hateful Flags – flags such as the confederate flag, Nazi flag, or flags that support the erasure or oppression of a group of people such as genocidal beliefs.

Confederate Flag – Flag of the defeated confederate states of America featuring the red, white and blue of the U.S flag with 13 stars instead of the usual 50. Flown to show support for the ideals of the Confederacy.

Nazi Flag – Flag of the Nazi party featuring a red background with a white disk encircling a swastika supporting the oppression and genocide of the Jewish people.

Public Property – Property owned by the government of New York, there are about 292 public businesses in NYS.

Genocide – The targeted destruction of a group of people based on different characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality

Ethnic Cleansing – A form of genocide that targets an entire group of people based on their ethnicity with the intent to wipe the group out of their native place of residence.

Section 2: Provisions

1. NO ENTITY WHICH RECEIVES ANY FUNDS FROM THE STATE SHALL SELL OR DISPLAY ANY SYMBOLS OF HATE OR ANY SIMILAR IMAGE, OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, INSCRIBED WITH SUCH AN IMAGE UNLESS THE IMAGE APPEARS IN A BOOK, DIGITAL MEDIUM, MUSEUM, OR OTHERWISE SERVES AN EDUCATIONAL OR HISTORICAL PURPOSE.

2. NO EVENT WHICH RECEIVES ANY FUNDS FROM THE STATE SHALL ALLOW FOR THE SALE OR DISPLAY OF ANY SYMBOLS OF HATE OR ANY SIMILAR IMAGE, OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, INSCRIBED WITH SUCH AN IMAGE UNLESS THE IMAGE APPEARS IN A BOOK, DIGITAL MEDIUM, MUSEUM, OR OTHERWISE SERVES AN EDUCATIONAL OR HISTORICAL PURPOSE, AT SUCH EVENT.

3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM ""SYMBOLS OF HATE"" SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, SYMBOLS OF WHITE SUPREMACY, NEO-NAZI

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IDEOLOGY, OR THE BATTLE FLAG OF THE CONFEDERACY, OR ANY FLAGS ASSOCIATED WITH GENOCIDAL REGIMES

4. STATE FUNDED ENTITIES FOUND GUILTY ARE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF $5000

Justification: A flag flown in the support of any type of hate speech has no place in NY. Additionally, by adding a $5000 fine to the preexisting law we will make it possible to crack down on violations of the new existing law while also generating revenue for the state by the fine being paid to a group set up to help the people targeted by each flag. The United Nations defines a genocide as," In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such Killing members of the group…". New York State will make a negligible amount of money from this bill because the fine is meant to work as a preventative measure to stop the flight of hateful flags to begin with.

Fiscal Implications: There will be a fine of $5000 for each offense of this bill made by businesses funded by the state. New York State will make a negligible amount of money from this bill because the fine is meant to work as a preventative measure to stop the flight of hateful flags to begin with but in the case that a hate flag is flown the $5000 fine will be paid to the group that was targeted by the flag.

Environmental Implications: There will no longer be hateful flags taking up space around New York.

Effective Date: 1/1/2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:20

Sponsors: Baaba Crayner, Carlos Zelaya, Emerson Vasquez, Susi Velasquez, and Summer Wilson

An Act To: An act to amend the penal law S.146; lengthen the minimum sentence for unlawful usage, publication and distribution of image depictions of minors through the digitalization of generative AI from 3 years to 6 years

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to restrict the production of Child Sexual Abuse Material made by generative AI by applying a stricter penalty that increases the minimum sentencing from 3 years in federal prison to 6 years.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Generative AI: Refers to a type of "deep-learning" models of artificial intelligence that contains the ability to create new content and ideas

AIG-CSAM: is child sexual abuse material that has been created or modified using artificial intelligence (AI).

Deep fakes: According to the Department of Homeland Security deepfakes refers to "the technology involved in creating this particular style of manipulated content (or "fakes") involves the use of deep learning technique"

CSAM – (Child Sexual Assault Material): Evidence of child sexual abuse; The creation, distribution, or possession of both real and synthetic content involving sexual images of children.

Sexual Assault: Any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit, voluntary, and conscious consent of the recipient; Involves forced, coerced, or manipulated unwanted sexual activity, including rape, attempted rape, and unwanted touching.

Sexual Harassment: Any unwelcome sexual behavior, advances, or request for sexual favors that make a person feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated.

Sextortion: Form of blackmail where an individual threatens to distribute private and sensitive material in exchange for images of a sexual nature, sexual favors, or money.

Consent: The term 'consent' means an affirmative, conscious, and voluntary authorization made by an individual free from force, fraud, duress, misrepresentation, or coercion.

Minor: The term 'minor' means any individual under the age of 18 years.

AI Generated Materials: Synthetic media, including images, videos, or audio, generated by artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Fiscal year (FY): "Financial year" a twelve-month period used by businesses and governments for budgeting and financial reporting.

Section 2: Provisions Penal law S.146 will be amended to change the minimum sentencing term from 3 years to 6 for individuals that are convicted of unlawful usage, publication and distribution of depictions of minors in sexual or inappropriate manners through the use of generative AI. Companies that utilized generative AI or artificial intelligence software that are able to modify, edit or create; store user's uploaded data and personal information, will receive a notice to implement minor-friendly safeguards that restricts potential child and predator interactions as well as implement security measures that prevents CSAM to be further distributed and exchanged. These measures should include an update in the companies' personal data policies, meaning companies can no longer store information of a user under the age of 18 for advertising, personalization, or operational functions. Information from the National Cyber Alliance states that in 2022, about 1.7 million children and adolescents fell victim to data breaches, which included sensitive personal information about the minor. Agencies like the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) are able to form cases against companies that use AI and comprise a fine or financial penalty that seems justifiable.

Justification: Since 2023, AI-generated CSAM has increased by 9,000% and continues to rise as generative AI is left in a state of unregulated control. The unregulated sphere of artificial intelligence and its generative AI capabilities give way for predators to flourish as it gives them both anonymity and accessibility to children. These two characteristics aid in sexual predators in a achieving a desire goal of obtaining CSAM, engage in sexual contact through technology and engaging in physical sexual contact (NCMEC 17) Adolescents and children that are potentially on platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and Facebook, are highly receptive to information and content - whether it be inappropriate or not, displayed on their feeds. Generative AI plays a significant role in taking advantage of this vulnerability, by manipulating teens to engage in high-risks behaviors and unwillingly engaging with CSAM. Severe category A type of content like child pornography accounted for 56% of illegal material compared to 2024 (41%). These AI pictures generated are usually made of unsuspecting minors and are used to threaten them. 11% of sextortion victims report that they did not send any sexual imagery and that they were being threatened with generated photos otherwise known as deep fakes. Although some generative AI's such as ChatGPT have slight restrictions, there are very easy ways to bypass them such as using different wording (MIT Review). On social media platform Twitter it is most common for people to request the AI model "Grok" to put women in see-through bikinis and depict them in a sexual manner. This type of content is found on common social media platforms as well as Meta's Instagram as well as TikTok. These social media platforms are used by 63% of minors in the United States, all while these same platforms commonly contain the most amount of deepfakes. Artificial intelligence in social media algorithms trains itself on engagement and topics it believes will have the greatest success in gaining traction. This faux method of learning pushes ai models to feed into potential CSAM trends to produce more abuse content and ultimately contaminating their production. As access to this technology increases, individual online safety is at jeopardy.

Fiscal Implications: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) and Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) oversee the expenditure and growth of federal and state prisons and would oversee any additional incarceration costs, including potential expansion within existing facilities. About 0% of prisons within New York State (NYS) are private prisons - as NYS prioritizes itself on safety, ethics and public management, meaning there will be no revenue for private facilities and those who own them. However, a majority of the funds needed for the growth of the new detention centers will be allocated from taxpayers within New York State. To calculate how much taxpayers and residents of NYS will spend on the potential increase in jails, prisons and other correctional facilities, the governor of New York State, through the Division of budget (DOB) will comprise the state budget for the fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st) which will take into consideration local counties, age and occupation including them for the budget of New York's Judicial Systems. In FY 2021, it took about $82,000 per year to house 1 inmate in a state facility and with an approximate 140% increase in cost in 2022, it is suspected that the expenses for the 2026 and 2027 FY to increase as well. Government agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are able to fine and give out financial penalties to companies that utilize artificial intelligence through a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)

Environmental Implications: This bill will have significant environmental implications, whether it be a social environment, physical environment or financial. Restricting the spread of CSAM produced by generative AI companies' abilities to upload data would help reduce the production of AI-Generated images and limit energy spent on AI image prompts. On

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average, to create a high-quality realistic photo it requires about four or five times the amount of energy needed for a typical search engine request. As well as restricting the Ability of Generative Ai companies, we could reduce the carbon footprint of AI databases. Different foundation models such as GPT-3 and GPT-4 also need copious amounts of freshwater resources that come from municipal water supplies. By restricting the prompts in Generative AI, datacenters would decrease the amount of water depleted when digitalizing AI prompts. Since these AI datacenters are so reliant on water sources, many local communities are suffering from lack of water distribution due to the priority of these databases. According to the U.S Energy department in 2023, over 17 billion gallons of water have been consumed by datacenters in local municipalities. Many data centers are being built or are currently targeting disadvantaged marginalized communities' access to freshwater, which when contaminated could not be recycled. Increasing the penalty would also decrease the recidivism rate and avert people from committing the same crime

Effective Date: Effective immediately one year after this bill is passed.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:21

Sponsors: Lucy Cannizzaro, Isabella Magyar, and Zoi Kosta

An Act To: Amend New York Education Law § 804 to require schools to provide instruction regarding the administration of naloxone in the form of nasal spray.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require training in administering naloxone in the form of nasal spray be given as a part of the high school health curriculum.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Naloxone: an opioid antagonist, a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids.

Opioid: a compound resembling opium in addictive properties or physiological effects.

Opioid antagonist: Medications that block the effects of opioids.

Opioid Overdose: a life-threatening medical emergency that occurs when a person consumes more of an opioid than their body can handle. Identified by a combination of three symptoms: Pinpoint pupils, unconsciousness, and difficulty breathing.

Naloxone nasal spray: Sometimes referred to by its brand name Narcan, Naloxone nasal spray is a non-addictive opioid antagonist that is also harmless if administered to a sober individual.

Fentanyl: a potent synthetic opioid drug approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin

Section 2: Provisions Add 6D to § 804 stating: All schools shall include, as an integral part of health education, instruction regarding the administration of Naloxone, in the form of a nasal spray. Students shall also learn how to properly execute pre-administration and after-care protocol.

Justification: Opioid overdose is a growing problem in the United States, driving high rates of addiction, causing deaths from synthetic opioids to surge. According to the CDC, nearly 80,000 of the 105,007 drug overdose deaths in 2023 involved opioids. A large portion of this statistic includes teenagers. Adolescents and young adults are increasingly vulnerable to drug use and overdose. An NYU study found that fatal drug overdoses among those aged 15 to 24 in the United States skyrocketed by 168% from 2018 to 2022. Because platforms like Snapchat and TikTok are making opioids more accessible than ever before, the likelihood of unknowingly consuming a pill laced with dangerous substances such as fentanyl is extremely high. Fake pills are often made to look identical to legitimate prescription

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medications like Percocet or Xanax, making it nearly impossible to tell the difference. This puts adolescents at even greater risk for overdose. DEA laboratory testing showed that 7 out of 10 fentanyl pills tested contain a potentially deadly dose.

Naloxone, specifically in the form of nasal spray, is a lifesaving opioid antagonist that is safe, easy to administer, and widely recognized as a critical tool in combating the opioid epidemic. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids by binding to them in the brain and displacing the opioid molecules. This blocks the opioids from connecting to the receptors and effectively reverses overdose within minutes. In the case of an overdose, the person affected will oftentimes have slowed breathing or lose the ability to breathe entirely. This is when the ability to administer naloxone becomes crucial. Instruction in health class for teenagers will be helpful in the long run as learning these skills could help them save someone's life.

The majority of overdoses occur in the presence of peers. Because the reaction window to intervene is often very short, it is critical that those nearby know how to respond quickly and effectively. Providing naloxone training in health classes ensures that more young people are prepared to recognize the signs of overdose and take immediate action. This preparedness could make the difference between life and death in an emergency situation.

Fiscal Implications: Schools may allocate funds and apply for official opioid prevention programs from the New York State department of health.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect the following school year.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:22

Sponsors: Anika Bhupati, Krista Fucile, and Annabelle Passineau

An Act To: Amend New York State Tax Law (TAX) Section 671, Chapter 60, Article 22, Part 5, § 671 to include minors as individuals who are exempt from being taxed on their respective wages until they reach the legal age of maturity.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To exempt individuals below the legal age of maturity from being taxed on their respective incomes by the New York State income tax ensuring economic fairness due to lack of representation.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Minor- An individual who has not yet reached eighteen years of age and is therefore under the legal age of maturity; eighteen years old.

Income- The payment any persons will receive in exchange for a labor of service

Legal Capacity- The limited abilities typically given to under age individuals regarding binding decisions, entering contracts, and or engaging in certain activities without an adult's approval.

Legal Age of Maturity- The age of which a person is recognized as a legal adult and therefore gains legal rights and responsibilities. The state of New York acknowledges eighteen years old as such, however the purchasing power of tobacco products and alcohol are exemptions to this acknowledgement.

Section 2: Provisions § 671. Requirement of withholding tax from wages. (a) General. (1) Every employer maintaining an office or transacting business within this state and making payment of any wages taxable under this article to individuals eighteen (18) years of age or older shall deduct and withhold from such wages for each payroll period a tax computed in such manner as to result, so far as practicable, in withholding from the employee's wages during each calendar year an amount substantially equivalent to the tax reasonably estimated to be due under this article resulting from the inclusion in the employee's New York adjusted gross income or New York source income of the employee's wages received during such calendar year. The method of determining the amount to be withheld shall be prescribed by the commissioner, with due regard to the New York withholding exemptions of the employee and the sum of any credits allowable against the employee's tax. The commissioner shall publish any changes to such method of determining the amount of tax to be withheld on the website of the department of taxation and finance. The commissioner shall also cause notice of such changes to

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:22

be published in the section for miscellaneous notices in the state register and shall give other appropriate general notice of such changes.

Justification: According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13.2 percent of minors are currently employed in New York State, despite some individuals only working for recreational use of assets, this unfortunately isn't the case for all minors who are employed in New York state. It's estimated approximately 30 to 35 percent of young adults work as a means to support their families especially in such times of economic uncertainty. These children are not only juggling things such as school, or extracurriculars but also the addition of societal pressures and the difficulties that come with being teenagers. Therefore the addition of familiar pressures and further economic difficulties only make their situations worse as the majority of families are dependent on their children to stabilize their households and provide extra fiscal means to help make ends meet. These individuals are already taking on a plethora of responsibilities and filing taxes can be an expensive and daunting task therefore changing tax laws to exempt individuals from state income tax until the legal age of maturity makes far more sense than the current system we have, especially as the typical student will receive the vast majority of the deducted taxes back, therefore its an entirely unnecessary process to go through when it could have been exempt from the start. This point is only further expanded on as these individuals pay into a system that they cannot vote in and or have any say in, raising the question of why we had such individuals paying in the first place.

Fiscal Implications: The exact data regarding the monetary amount that minors contribute to New York State's income tax is not publicly available information, however based on generalized tax structures its estimated to be significantly less than 1%, and New York as a whole paid $53.8 billion in income taxes during the tax season of 2024 and minors account for approximately 2% of such therefore minors contributions can range from $538 million to $538 hundred thousand.

Effective Date: One calendar tax year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:23

Sponsors: Deysi Diaz Hernandez and Marion Sesay

An Act To: Amend the Education Law, in relation to requiring STEM-integrated Academic Intervention Services for Special Education students in grades 2 through 12.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to create a strong foundation for Special Education Students in STEM subjects to enhance academic development, extra curricular activities and work force readiness. Workforce, government, and academia strongly demand STEM competence for career success. Enhanced STEM offerings as academic intervention services will compliment existing AIS in English and Math. In an increasingly computerized society STEM is essential for success and will better prepare students receiving AIS services for success in undergraduate and graduate studies, and career advancement.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

STEM Enrichment - A supplemental instructional program integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through project-based and hands-on activities, designed to reinforce concepts covered in the students enrolled science course.

Courses - The entire program of study on a particular subject.

Extracurricular - Outside the regular curriculum or program of course.

Foundation - The core principles, theories, and essential skills that underpin learning and teaching.

Special Education - Instruction that is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

AIS - Academic Intervention services

Curriculum - The subject comprising a course of study in a school or college.

At-Risk Students - A student identified as not meeting or at risk of not meeting NYS learning standards in science or mathematics, consistent with the criteria under Commissioner's Regulations §100.2 (ee).

Section 2: Provisions This bill will mandate all New York state Special Education students will be required to take STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) classes that correlate with the science course they are enrolled in. This will help students enrolled in grade 2 to 12th by providing them with hands-on learning opportunities. Special education students are more successful with hands-on learning because it takes abstract concepts and puts them into tangible experiences improving comprehension and application skills.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:23

Under the current NYS Education Law, specifically Commissioner's Regulations §100.2(ee), mandates that schools provide Academic Intervention Services (AIS) to students at risk of not meeting NYS learning standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. AIS includes supplemental instruction and student support services, such as counseling or tutoring, designed to improve performance on state assessments and, in high school, ensure passing of required Regents courses.

Data collected from 2024 NYS Living Environment Regents, 76% of General education students who took the exam were proficient with scores of a level 3 or higher.

Data Collected from 2024 NYS Living Environment Regents, 42% of Special Education students who took the exam were proficient with scores of a level 3 or higher.

Data collected from 2024 NYS Living Environment Regents, 14% of General education students who took the exam scored a level 1.

Data Collected from 2024 NYS Living Environment Regents, 43% of Special Education students who took the exam scored a level 1.

Data collected from 2024 NYS Earth Science Regents, 69% of General education students who took the exam were proficient with scores of a level 3 or higher.

Data Collected from 2024 NYS Earth Science Regents, 33% of Special Education students who took the exam were proficient with scores of a level 3 or higher.

Data collected from 2024 NYS Earth Science Regents, 19% of General education students who took the exam scored a level 1.

Data collected from 2024 NYS Earth Science Regents, 49% of Special education students who took the exam scored a level 1.

Justification: In New York State, a student's proficiency or mastery of a subject is determined by the Common Core or Regents assessments.The NYS Science assessments are administered in 5th and 8th grade. After middle school students must pass at least one of the following exams, Living Environment, Earth Science. Despite some improvements in passage rates, special education students remain significantly less likely to achieve proficiency on required Regents science exams than their general education peers. STEM-integrated AIS provides a targeted intervention to close this gap. In the State of New York, students that have not passed their Regents exam are required to take AIS in math and science. This bill adding STEM Enrichments, as core academic intervention courses, supports special education students and implements a diverse learning system that can improve the special education NYS curriculum to serve students receiving Academic

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Intervention services in an increasingly technology driven society. This law is intended to boost academic learning diversity and improve the recruitment and retention of students with learning disabilities. This bill can enhance the NYS education system and revolutionize special education schooling.

Fiscal Implications: To enforce this law we are going to create effective methods including determining essential and strategic standards for NYS districts. The NYS government existing curricular spending provides a fixed amount of various categories including $37.4 billion in all for instructional materials and specialized grants annually for learning tech grants. Instead of the NYS curriculum finances going to the existing class courses, half of the spending will be reallocated towards the implementation of stem enrichment core courses.

Environmental Implications: This bill is a routine administrative action and while priorities are significant, there is no negative environmental impacts. The allocation of resources is maintained in serving special education students enhancing education, proficiency and workforce readiness furthering the ultimate purpose and goals of Academic Intervention Services.

Effective Date: September 2, 2027

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 3 Bill #:24

Sponsors: Olivia Pesso, Gavin Espinal, Isabella Reidy, and Max Towle

An Act To: Amend act 50.20 Compulsion of evidence by offer of immunity

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To amend New York Penal Law and Criminal Procedure Law to ensure survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence can safely report crimes without fear of arrest, prosecution, or penalization for minor, unrelated offenses such as underage alcohol use, small-quantity drug possession, or other low-level violations.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Survivor: shall mean any person reporting, cooperating in the investigation of, or participating in the prosecution of sexual assault or domestic violence as defined in Articles 130 and 120 of the NY Penal Law.

Low-level offense: shall mean non-violent violations or misdemeanors, including, but not limited to: underage alcohol possession/use, personal-use possession of cannabis below the criminal threshold, loitering, possession of small quantities of controlled substances, or other minor violations not involving violence, property damage, or an immediate safety threat.

Survivor Immunity: shall mean non-arrest, non-prosecution, dismissal of pending charges, and prohibition on bringing new charges for low-level offenses directly revealed during the survivor's reporting of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Safe Harbor: shall mean the requirement that law enforcement shall not arrest or detain a survivor for unrelated low-level offenses during the act of reporting unless there exists an independent, serious warrant or threat to public safety.

Minor offenses: shall mean non-violent, low-level violations or misdemeanors that do not pose a threat to public safety and are unrelated to the act of reporting sexual assault or domestic violence. This includes, but is not limited to, simple possession of small quantities of controlled substances, underage alcohol possession or consumption, loitering, trespassing without intent to commit a crime, and other comparable violations. The term specifically excludes any felony, violent offense, or offense involving harm or risk of harm to another person.

Section 2: Provisions Any witness in a legal proceeding, other than a grand jury proceeding, may refuse to give evidence requested of him on the ground that it may tend to incriminate him and he may not, except as provided in subdivision two, be compelled to give such evidence. Such a witness may be compelled to give evidence in such a proceeding notwithstanding an assertion of his privilege against self-incrimination if:

(A) The proceeding is one in which, by express provision of statute, a person conducting or connected therewith is declared a competent authority to confer immunity upon witnesses therein; and

(B) Such competent authority (i) orders such witness to give the requested evidence notwithstanding his assertion of his privilege against self-incrimination, and (ii) advises him that upon so doing he will receive immunity.

(C). A witness who is ordered to give evidence pursuant to subdivision two and who complies with such order receives immunity. Such witness is not deprived of such immunity because such competent authority did not comply with statutory provisions requiring notice to a specified public servant of intention to confer immunity.

(D). A witness who, without asserting his privilege against self-incrimination, gives evidence in a legal proceeding other than a grand jury proceeding does not receive immunity.

(E) The rules governing the circumstances in which witnesses may be compelled to give evidence and in which they receive immunity therefor in a grand jury proceeding are prescribed in section 190.40.

(F). A person who reports being a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence shall not be required to assert the privilege against self-incrimination in order to receive immunity for low-level, non-violent offenses directly and solely revealed as a result of such report. Such immunity shall apply automatically upon the making of a qualifying report and shall include non-arrest, non-prosecution, dismissal of pending charges, and a prohibition on the commencement of new charges for such offenses.

Justification: Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence often choose not to report their victimization because they fear being arrested or penalized for unrelated, low-level, non-violent offenses discovered during the reporting process, such as minor drug possession, underage drinking, or immigration-related concerns. This fear directly suppresses reporting and leaves some of the most dangerous offenses in New York unaddressed.

Establishing immunity and safe-harbor protections removes that barrier and encourages survivors to seek help without risking punishment. When more survivors feel safe coming forward, law enforcement can identify serial offenders, collect evidence sooner, and intervene earlier, improving public safety across the state.

Fiscal Implications: This bill is expected to have minimal additional cost to New York State. The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), which currently has an

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annual operations budget of over $120 million in State operations and provides statewide law enforcement training, already incorporates updates to guidance and training within existing appropriations.
Because DCJS and local districts regularly update curricula and issue bulletins to law enforcement at no additional direct charge, integrating trauma-informed survivor immunity materials into these existing programs could cost approximately $25,000–$75,000 one-time for curriculum development and dissemination, a fraction of DCJS's overall training budget. Annual ongoing costs would likely be under $10,000, absorbed within normal training cycle updates. Support and administration by prosecutors' offices and victim-services providers would similarly be integrated into existing professional development activities at negligible incremental expense.
Effective Date: To go into effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:25

Sponsors: Steven Lin, Alexander Nogacki, Muhammad Umair, and Owen Canales
An Act To: Amend § 1110 of New York Public Health Law to change lead water concentration testing in all Public Schools from triannual to annually, and implement a fine for non compliance.
The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:
Purpose: To ensure public schools are regulated, specifically their filters, to ensure water is not contaminated by high levels of lead.
Summary of Provisions
Section 1: Definitions
Unsafe Lead Contaminated Water: Any water source that exceeds 5ppb in lead concentration
Potable Water: Any water that is safe for human consumption.
Water Fountain: Device that offers drinking water, typically found in public areas
School Safe Water Compliance Fund: A state fund used to collect penalties and support lead remediation and safe drinking water compliance in public schools.
Section 2: Provisions
§ 1110. School potable water testing and standards. 1. In addition to school districts already classified as a public water system under parts 141 and 142 of title 40 of the code of federal regulations, as such regulations may, from time to time, be amended, every school district and board of cooperative educational services shall conduct triennial first-drawn tap testing of potable water systems and annual first-drawn tap testing of water fountains to monitor for lead contamination in each occupied school building under its jurisdiction as required by regulations promulgated pursuant to this section. The testing shall be conducted and the results analyzed by an entity or entities approved by the commissioner. 2. Where a finding of lead contamination is made, the affected school district have 30-days and shall: (a) continue first-drawn tap water testing pursuant to regulations promulgated pursuant to this section; (b) provide school occupants with an adequate supply of safe, free to the school occupants, potable water for drinking as required by rules and regulations of the department until future tests indicate lead levels pursuant to regulations promulgated pursuant to this section; and (c) provide parents or persons in parental relation to a child attending said school with written notification of test results. Any school district or board of educational services that fails to comply with the potable water testing requirements of this section, or that permits continued use of potable water source found to contain lead concentrations exceeding the legal action level, shall subject to a civil penalty of two hundred fifty

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:25

dollars ($250) per violation following the 30-day period until action and remediation are completed in accordance with regulations of this section. Penalties collected shall be deposited into the School Safe Water Compliance Fund, used exclusively to support lead remediation, replacement of outdated plumbing, and installation of filtration systems in public schools.

Justification: Many schools fail to provide their students with clean water, and with lead being such a hazardous metal, there should be no chance that the water we drink in schools is contaminated with it. A research project conducted in the Glenn Cove School District tested water quality in drinking water fountains. In 2016, 149 out of 313 (48%) water fountains were found to contain excessive lead ppm. In 2020 and 2023, fountains that exceeded the lead action level were 19 out of 83 (23%) and 10 out of 19 (53%), respectively. Furthermore, recent reports on lead water quality in schools indicated over 60 districts with exceeding concentrations in Long Island, more than 40 in Suffolk County and over 20 in Nassau County. Lead water quality is not solely affected by the corrosion of pipes, it is also affected by fountain filters. It can take as short as 3 months for lead to start building up in water fountain filters.Filters need to be replaced every 6 to 12 months and restricting fountain examination to every 3 years prevents proper water quality. With the introduction of annual lead quality testing in water fountains, schools are able to provide students with adequate drinking water, maintaining a proper learning environment for students.

Fiscal Implications: Testing water fountains typically ranges from $50 to $60 per source. Schools would be held accountable for paying for testing and restricting potable water sources with excessive lead concentrations. Schools are able to apply for federal and state funding programs. The NYSED grants funding for schools to test water quality along with the WIIN program which finances schools for testing and remediation. If schools fail to take action before the next inspection after discovering an excessive concentration of lead, they shall be subject to a $250 fine per water source.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect three years after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:26

Sponsors: Jacqueline Flores, Nataly Pineda, Denise Bernal Mendoza, and Brian Schrage III

An Act To: Amend section §14-106 of Election Law to regulate the use of artificial intelligence-generated content in political campaign advertisements.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to address the increasing use of materially deceptive media, including artificial intelligence-generated content, in political communications. This Act seeks to protect the integrity of elections by ensuring transparency when materially deceptive media is used in political communications, establishing clear and conspicuous labeling requirements, and providing mechanisms for timely correction. By strengthening disclosure standards and enforcement provisions, this legislation safeguards voters from deception while preserving lawful political expression.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Artificial intelligence: any machine-based system capable of generating text, images, audio, or video that imitates human-created content.

Materially deceptive media: any image, video, audio, text, or other technological representation that: Appears authentic and is indistinguishable from reality to a reasonable person; depicts events or speech that did not occur or were significantly altered; and is created or modified using artificial intelligence, machine learning, or other technological means.

Artificial intelligence-generated content: any text, image, audio, or video that has been wholly or substantially created, altered, or synthesized using artificial intelligence.

Political communication: any paid or unpaid communication, delivered via media like TV, radio, print, or digital platforms, that is intended to influence the outcome of an election or the political views of voters.

Written notice: shall consist of identification of the materially deceptive media at issue; a statement explaining why the media is materially deceptive; and sufficient information to allow the recipient to remove the communication.

Section 2: Provisions §14-106 5. (b) (i) A person, firm, association, corporation, campaign, committee, or organization that distributes or publishes any political communication that was produced by or includes materially deceptive media and has actual knowledge that it is materially deceptive shall be required to disclose this use. (ii) (1) For visual media the disclosure shall be printed or typed in a legible

font size easily readable by the average viewer that is no smaller than other text appearing in the visual media and in the same language used on the communication to read as follows: ""This (image, video, or audio) has been manipulated"". The disclosure statement required under shall remain visible for the full duration of the communication; the disclosure shall be displayed in a color and contrast that is easily distinguishable from the background; the disclosure shall not be obscured, minimized, or otherwise presented in a manner that a reasonable viewer would fail to notice. (2) For communication that is auditory, such as radio or automated telephone calls, clearly speaking the statement at the beginning of the audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the audio is greater than two minutes in length, interspersed within the audio at intervals of not greater than two minutes each and in the same language as the rest of the audio used in the communication, and in a pitch that can be easily heard by the average listener satisfies the requirements of clause one of this subparagraph. (iii) For digital images or text-based communications, the disclosure shall appear immediately adjacent to the materially deceptive media and shall not require additional action (such as clicking or expanding) to be viewed. (iv) Failure to comply with the enhanced labeling standards set forth in this subdivision shall constitute a violation of this section, regardless of whether disclosure language is technically present. (v) This paragraph shall not apply to the following: (1) materially deceptive media that constitutes satire or parody; (2) materially deceptive media distributed by a bona fide news reporting entity for the purpose of news reporting or coverage, if the reporting clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner that can be easily read or heard by the average listener or viewer, that there are questions about the authenticity of the materially deceptive media; (3) a radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable television, satellite television or streaming service operator, programmer, producer or other similar entity, that broadcasts a political communication when the station or streaming service is paid to broadcast the political communication if the station or streaming service can show that it has disclaimer requirements that are consistent with the requirements provided in this paragraph and that it provided those disclaimer requirements to each person or entity that purchased the broadcast or streaming of the advertisement; or (4) initial dissemination by a platform or service including, but not limited to, a website, regularly published newspaper, or magazine, where the content disseminated is materially deceptive media provided by another information content provider; or

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(5) if the entity removes or disables access to such materially deceptive media within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving written notice alleging a violation of this section. (vi) A candidate whose voice or likeness appears in materially deceptive media in violation of this subdivision may seek reasonable court costs and attorneys' fees and injunctive relief prohibiting the distribution, publication or broadcasting of any materially deceptive media in violation of this subdivision against such individual or entity who disseminated or published such media without the consent of the person depicted and who knew or should have known that it was materially deceptive. An action under this paragraph shall be initiated by filing an application for an order to show cause in the supreme court where the materially deceptive media at issue could deceive and influence electors in an upcoming election. Such action shall be entitled to an automatic calendar preference and be subject to expedited pretrial and trial proceedings. (vii) In any action alleging a violation of this subdivision in which a plaintiff seeks preliminary relief with respect to an upcoming election, the court shall grant relief if it determines that: (A) plaintiffs are more likely than not to succeed on the merits; and (B) it is possible to implement an appropriate remedy that would resolve the alleged violation in the upcoming election. (viii) In any action commenced under this subdivision, the plaintiff bears the burden of establishing the use of materially deceptive media by clear and convincing evidence.

Justification: As artificial intelligence continues to grow and become more advanced, it brings a great deal of advantages and disadvantages for those who utilize the tool. However, despite possible benefits that artificial intelligence may bring to democracy, AI perpetuates the rapid spread of misinformation. The Journal of Democracy stated that "the most problematic aspect of generative AI is that it hides in plain sight, producing enormous volumes of content that can flood the media…with meaningless drivel at best and misinformation at worst." This threatens the quality of the democratic representation and harms the efforts to monitor what elected officials do and say, resulting in the public being purposefully tricked by political candidates. Our bill aims to address this problem by expanding upon the existing regulations set forth by New York State by adding specific requirements for AI-generated material in political advertisements. By ensuring disclosure is conspicuous, clearly visible, and present for the full duration of the advertisement, we prevent campaigns from finding loopholes and continuing to deceive the public. Furthermore, a twenty-four-hour grace period for taking down content gives

campaigns a chance to fix errors in, or remove entirely, deceptive media that violates the outlined guidelines without immediately incurring severe legal penalties, thus protecting low-budget campaigns. Artificial intelligence must be kept out of the realm of democracy as much as possible to ensure that each political party's campaigns run properly and neither party is put at a disadvantage when running due to AI manipulation. By regulating the deceptive AI-generated campaign content this helps voters have a free and fair election, protecting the foundation of American democracy.

Fiscal Implications: It will be up to the New York State Courts to decide proper penalties and/or issue injunctions to election candidates who are caught utilizing deceptive artificial intelligence content in campaign materials; therefore, there may be an increase in legal/financial fees when such instances are brought in as a court case.

Environmental Implications: Addressing the usage of artificial intelligence in political campaigning helps minimize the amount of non-environmental energy (from wind and water energy) that is utilized in AI data centers to produce deceptive generated content. Therefore, this bill will, minimally, help the environment.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect before the next midterm election, June 1st, 2026

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Sponsors: Michael Henry-Gordon, Raisa Shaba, and Lávonnie Seymore

An Act To: Amend §215.40 of the New York State Penal Law to include intentional deactivation of body-worn cameras by law enforcement as tampering with evidence, while raising the penalty from a class E to a class D felony.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure the integrity of evidence by making it a felony for law enforcement officers to intentionally turn off body cameras during official duties.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Tampering With Evidence: when an entity makes, alters, devices, or prepares false physical evidence, against any person. This also includes implying force, intimidation or deception during the collection and processing of evidence.

Intentional Deactivation: consciously turning off, disabling, or otherwise interfering with a body worn camera during active duty.

Felony: means an offense is made that results in imprisonment that can extend for a year or longer.

Class E Felony: considered the lowest level of a felony, the court makes the decision on the term of the sentencing, cannot exceed 4 years.

Class D Felony: more severe than a class E felony, the court makes the decision on the term of the sentencing, cannot exceed 7 years.

Section 2: Provisions

§ 215.40 Tampering with physical evidence. A person is guilty of tampering with physical evidence when:

1.With intent that it be used or introduced in an official proceeding or a prospective official proceeding, he (a) knowingly makes, devises or prepares false physical evidence, or (b) produces or offers such evidence at such a proceeding knowing it to be false, or (c) intentionally deactivates, alters, conceals, or withholds media or digital footage while serving as a member of law enforcement; or

2. Believing that certain physical evidence is about to be produced or used in an official proceeding or a prospective official proceeding, and intending to prevent such production or use, he suppresses it by any act of concealment, alteration or destruction, or by employing force, intimidation or deception against any person.

Tampering with evidence is a class ~~E~~ D felony.

Justification: Tampered evidence remains a major concern amongst law enforcement across the nation. Despite the fact that New York State mandates that all law enforcement officers wear a body camera, a growing number of criminal

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #: 27

proceedings involving hate crimes are heavily impacted from the "lack of evidence" due to missing or unavailable body cam footage. Reported incidents such as the 2022 Kevin Martin case, where police officer, Kevin Martin, planted evidence after an arrest, and the death of Robert Brooks in 2024, where correctional facility officers got away with assaulting inmate Robert Brooks, demonstrate that the tampering of police body cameras, or "evidence", is impacting criminal proceedings across the state. This is especially concerning when considering minorities such as African Americans make up 22% of the population, yet account for 47% of general arrests in the state, in which over half are felony arrests. Redefining the penal law on the tampering of evidence to include all footage held by law enforcement while raising the penalty from a class E to a class D felony will aid in decreasing the number of undocumented hate crimes, hold law enforcement accountable, and stress the severity of misusing or altering crucial body camera footage. Class E felonies require 1 to 4 years in jail, while Class D felonies require being in jail from 4 to 7 years, an indication that with the felony going up would prevent law enforcement from getting a short term punishment, and showcase the true severity of the crime they have committed.

Fiscal Implications: This bill does not pose any significant fiscal implications, aside from the assumption that the number of convictions may increase.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:28

Sponsors: Ronan Corr, Jacqueline San Antonio, and Norah Caselli

An Act To: Amend § 8462 to prevent on duty Law enforcement, Authorities, and Officers from covering their faces, ensuring they are visible and identifiable

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust in Law enforcement and immigration enforcement (ICE). By prohibiting officers from covering their faces while on duty, the bill makes it easier to identify officials, prevent misconduct, and protect individuals from abuse or impersonation.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Accountability: Officers are responsible for their own actions and can be held against them if they do something wrong.

Identification: Being able to recognize who a person is, usually through their face, name, or badge.

Misconduct: An officer behaves in a way that breaks rules or abuses their power.

Transparency: The actions of law enforcement are open and visible so the public can clearly see what is happening.

Public Trust: The confidence of people that law enforcement will act fairly, honestly, and responsibly.

Section 2: Provisions 1. Face coverings make it harder for the public to confirm an officer's identity, which can cause confusion or allow misuse of authority. This bill still allows proper reasons to wear a mask, such as medical masks for health and safety, and religious headwear worn for legitimate religious purposes.

2. Professional standards in many jobs require workers to keep their faces visible while on duty. Applying the same expectation as law enforcement keeps things flowing. This bill still allows proper exceptions like medical masks for health needs and religious headwear worn for religious purposes, keeping the rule fair.

Justification: This bill would help make policing in New York more transparent and accountable by requiring officers to show their faces while on duty. When law enforcement is unidentifiable, especially during protests, public-facing duties, or everyday encounters, it becomes harder for people to report misconduct and harder to trust that officers are being held responsible. Requiring visible faces reminds everyone that law enforcement should be open, professional, and trustworthy. This bill is fair and balanced, with exceptions for undercover work, emergencies, and safety needs. It is a step towards trust in law enforcement and lowering tensions between them and the public.

Fiscal Implications: There are no Fiscal Implications

Effective Date: Immediately upon passage

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:29

Sponsors: Peyton Parkes, Melia Megill, Mia Gosnell, and Olivia Parker

An Act To: Amend Section 33-0905 of Article 33 of the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to prohibiting or further restricting the use of toxic lawn pesticides on or near school grounds and educational facilities to protect children from harmful chemical exposure.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect children's health and promote safe learning environments by prohibiting the use of toxic lawn pesticides on or near school grounds and establishing enforceable restrictions to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Pesticides: Substances used to kill, repel, or control pests, including insects, weeds, fungi, and rodents.

Toxic Lawn Pesticides: Pesticides classified by the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Environmental Protection Agency as hazardous or harmful to human health.

School Grounds: Property owned, leased, or used by a school for educational, recreational, or athletic purposes.

Educational Facilities: Public and private schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds.

Designated Safety Zone: The distance surrounding an educational facility in which the application of toxic lawn pesticides is prohibited, as defined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Section 2: Provisions Amend Section 33-0905 of Article 33 of the Environmental Conservation Law, to add the following: The application of toxic lawn pesticides is prohibited on school grounds, playgrounds, childcare centers, and within a designated safety zone surrounding educational facilities. This prohibition applies to school employees, private contractors, landscaping companies, and any individuals or entities responsible for grounds maintenance. The designated safety zone shall be defined by the Department of Environmental Conservation by regulation. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) shall enforce this section through inspections, reporting requirements, and penalties. Violators may be subject to fines and corrective actions. The DEC may establish limited exemptions by regulation to address immediate threats to public health or safety

Justification: Studies show that children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure, with about 45% of reported poisoning cases involving children (National Library of Medicine). Their developing bodies and higher skin-surface-area-to-bodyweight ratio cause them to absorb toxins more readily during outdoor activities such as recess and physical education. In New York, pesticide use remains widespread. New York City has reported hundreds of thousands of pesticide applications on public property in a single year, demonstrating the prevalence of chemical use in environments where children live, learn, and play (NYC Pesticide Use Report). This underscores the need to limit exposure in school settings. Research links pesticide exposure to asthma, endocrine disruption, neurological harm, and increased cancer risk, including leukemia and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (National Library of Medicine; Environmental Working Group). The American Academy of Pediatrics associates childhood exposure with long-term effects such as learning disabilities and behavioral disorders and recommends limiting pesticide use in schools and childcare settings. The Environmental Protection Agency similarly recognizes children's heightened vulnerability due to developing organ systems and greater exposure relative to body size. Many states and local governments have adopted school pesticide restrictions or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, proving safer alternatives are feasible and effective. By aligning New York policy with established medical and environmental guidance, this bill prioritizes children's health, reduces preventable exposure, and keeps school grounds safe for learning and development.

Fiscal Implications: School districts may face modest transition costs of $500–$2,000 annually, though many already use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), limiting added expenses. This bill reduces health risks and liability, making it a preventative investment in student health rather than a financial burden.

Environmental Implications: This bill reduces chemical runoff near schools and playgrounds, promoting cleaner ecosystems and safer outdoor environments for children.

Effective Date: July 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:30

Sponsors: Alexa Garcia Gudiel, Brissia Andrade, Kelly Minchala, and Estrella Vasquez

An Act To: Amend section 492, Article 28, Chapter 20 of the general business law to add Section E allowing taxi and delivery drivers to access restroom facilities.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require restaurants in New York State to allow taxi and delivery drivers to have access to their restroom facilities. Ensuring restroom access for taxi and delivery drivers addresses a basic human need that supports their health, dignity, and comfort.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Taxi drivers: Individuals who operate licensed vehicles to transport passengers from one location to another, typically on a fare-based system (a method of public transport that calculates collect payment for rides).

Livery drivers: Individuals who are licensed and transport goods, food, packages, and materials from one location to another.

Restrooms: Public bathrooms provided in public spaces for personal hygiene.

Class E license: A standard drivers license for non-commercial vehicles like taxis, limos, vans, and for-hire vehicles carrying up to 14 people

Section 2: Provisions

(e) NY state taxi driver, delivery drivers, for hire registered vehicles and any registered class E license holder shall have access to registered establishments in the state of New York employee or public restroom.

Justification: Providing restroom access in restaurants for taxi and delivery drivers across New York State addresses ongoing issues both taxi and delivery drivers face everyday. Drivers often spend long working shift hours on the road and do not have easy access to clean, safe restroom facilities. Which can negatively impact their health, job performance, and comfortability. According to Taxi and Limousine Commission data, more than 82,000 drivers go behind the wheel in the city streets and hundreds more throughout the state. By providing access we help protect their health and comfort, reduce unnecessary discomfort, support their dignity, and recognize the service they provide to our communities. Through this bill we will show New York State's commitment to supporting others that contribute to our society everyday.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:30

Fiscal Implications: There may be minor costs associated with the increase of restroom usage such as purchasing cleaning supplies, restroom maintenance, consumable supplies such as:toilet paper, hand soaps, and paper towels.

Effective Date: This bill will be put into effect after one year of its passage.

Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:31

Sponsors: Brynn Loomis, Mia Knight, and Elizabeth O'Donnell

An Act To: Amend Correction Law Chapter 43, Article 7, §187 to create a minimum wage for incarcerated workers.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To create a minimum wage for incarcerated workers to help stop the recidivism cycle.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Excise tax: An indirect tax imposed on specific goods or services, usually at the point of manufacture or sale

State correctional facility: A secure institution operated, managed, and funded by a state government to confine individuals convicted of state-level crimes, excluding juvenile detention centers and reformatories.

Section 2: Provisions § 187. Earnings of incarcerated individuals. 1. Every incarcerated individual confined in a state correctional facility, subject to the rules and regulations of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and every incarcerated individual confined in a local correctional facility, in the discretion of the sheriff thereof, may receive compensation for work performed during his or her imprisonment. Such compensation shall be graded by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision with regard to incarcerated individuals employed in prison industries, ~~based upon the work performed by such prisoners~~ for prisoners confined in state correctional facilities, and by the sheriffs in all local correctional facilities for incarcerated individuals confined therein. All incarcerated individuals confined in state correctional facilities shall receive hourly compensation in the amount of the national minimum wage. There shall be a ten percent tax on the incarcerated individual's earnings that is required to be spent by the state on improvements to state correctional facilities, including, but not limited to, healthier meal options, providing basic necessities, and improving overall living conditions. There shall also be compensation provided for victims if declared necessary by the judge, and the amount of this compensation shall also be decided by the judge at the sentencing.

Justification: Currently, there is no established minimum wage for incarcerated workers, so they earn an average of $0.33 per hour. This money is deposited into a Personal Prisoner Trust Fund, which they can access on Commissary Day. Their family also has access to the fund, allowing family members to deposit money for the incarcerated individual to use. It also allows the individual to help support their family.

By establishing a minimum wage for incarcerated individuals, not only will conditions in prisons improve because a 10% tax is required to be spent by the prison on facility improvements, but the recidivism cycle will be reduced because incarcerated individuals will have access to their earnings after they are released, ensuring they have the money and job skills to support themselves.

Fiscal Implications: For the fiscal year of 2026, the state prisons budget was set to $4.34 billion through the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. It rose $523 million since the fiscal year 2025 and continues to rise each year. To help fund this bill, an excise tax of 10% will be put on guns and ammunition sold in New York State.

Effective Date: One year after the passage of this bill.

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Assignment: Assembly Excelsior 4 Bill #:31

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Casey Farrell	Assembly Freedom 4

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:32

Sponsors: Mar De Las Heras Dominguez, Jessie Peters, and Katlin Fifield
An Act To: Add § 7 to Chapter 71, Title 5, Article 19, Section 501 of Vehicle and Traffic law.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Require individuals 75 or older to re-take their driving tests

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): A government program which researches, implements, and evaluates different issues in our country, to find ways to best prevent diseases and health threats.

Driver's test: A motor vehicle operation test individuals must take to receive or keep their driver's license.

Section 2: Provisions

7. All driver's licenses will expire for an individual on the date of their 75th birthday. Starting a year prior they will be able to re-take their drivers test before they turn 75, therefore their driving privileges do not coincide. If someone does not retake the test, they will be driving or using an invalid/expired license.

Justification: In 2022, the CDC reported a total of 9,100 adults over the age of 65 who were killed, and over 270,000 were treated for injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents. These statistics do not include the others who were killed or injured in these accidents involving older adults. Most accidents which are caused by people ages 65 or older are caused by things such as limited eye sight, or decreased reflex speed. This bill is not meant to discriminate against any age group, but to better protect everyone on the road, especially the elderly, by making sure they are not putting themselves in danger. By passing this bill, we can help people of all age groups in New York to be safer on our roads.

Fiscal Implications: Minimal Fiscal Implications related to driver's tests.

Effective Date: "This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2027.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:33

Sponsors: Alishiya George, Daniela Mazariego, Emily Benson, and Shayna Urrutia
An Act To: Amend Senate Bill S1371 by providing English language assistance classes to all New York State residents who do not speak English

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to provide non-English New York speakers with free English classes. Under this bill, a curriculum where non-English speakers can enhance their ability to communicate through the English language. By engaging in this bill, many non-English speakers will learn how to speak the language and use it in their daily lives.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Classes: People who are grouped together and work together.

Non-english speakers: A person who cannot speak or understand English because they speak another language.

Curriculum: A course of how the class will study for the whole year.

Testing: This is a process of evaluating a student or an individual.

Language: Method of verbal communication necessary for all.

Online class: Courses people take through computers

Volunteers: People who dedicate their time to help others without pay.

Native: A person born in a specific place or associated with a place by birth would be considered native to that location.

English: Language spoken predominantly in the United States.

Culture: A form of expression from a group of individuals. It represents their beliefs, values, practices, manners, and fashion.

Section 2: Provisions This bill aims to provide approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers with the opportunity to learn the English language. It will ensure they are showered with the resources and opportunities needed for their success in a country they are foreign to. Apart from stabilizing their life, it will contribute to the success of our economy.

Justification: Approximately 30 percent of New Yorkers speak a language other than English at home. That translates to 5.8 million people, which is greater than the populations of Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Delaware combined.

Additionally, around 2.5 million New Yorkers do not properly speak, write, or understand English. This bill will ensure that the resources needed for their understanding of the English language are provided. Although English is not the official language of the United States, it is the most prioritized and utilized language by school districts, companies, and to build connections with those outside their

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:33

culture. Passing this bill will not only contribute to the rise of our economy, but it will better qualify native language speakers for higher professions, improving our economy.

Fiscal Implications: Most of these classes will be run by volunteers who are professors or student volunteers. We will need approximately $100,000 for additional teaching resources like books, paper, and other teaching devices. These resources will be funded by taxing people in New York State.

Environmental Implications: Although there won't be any direct effects to our environment, it would increase the amount of gasoline used, contributing to global warming and pollution. In addition, as these courses continue, if students choose to complete assignments on paper they will promote the consumption paper.

Effective Date: November 20, 2028

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:34

Sponsors: Johnatan Mejia-Vasquez, Mikael Sanon, John Montfleury, and Hudley Narcisse

An Act To: Amend §2801-c, of the Education Law to allow NYS students to use their cellphones during lunch and free periods.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to provide students in New York State with a way of allowing easy contact between students and parents in an emergency or serious situation or just to check in with them, and to alleviate boredom during free periods.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Wireless communication devices - Devices such as cell phones and smart watches that you can use to contact someone else.

Section 2: Provisions 2801-c Cellphone usage during lunch or non-instructional periods. School district will adapt cell phone usage during lunch and non-instructional periods as approved by administration. Limited access will still be enforced as per school districts discretion. School districts can still enforce students to be subject to disciplinary action as per school district guidelines

Justification: Smartphones can and are a distraction in classrooms, but it should not be up to the NYS government to legislate students not being able to use their phones in school even when they are on lunch break or have a free period. This bill would allow students from accessing all types of devices only during free periods or lunch breaks during the school day. Phones would need to be turned off and properly stored when no condition is met. This would allow parents to be able to make sure their child is safe and protected while in school, without causing major distractions during regular class periods.

Fiscal Implications: This bill should have minimal amount of fiscal impact as cell phone usage would be charged to student's personal accounts.

Environmental Implications: This may have environmental implications with cellphone usage, affecting the amount of data centering being used.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect on the first of September succeeding the date on which it shall have become law.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:35

Sponsors: Alexis Dawson, Eliza Sawyer, Eliza Andersen, and Zoey French

An Act To: Amend section 2 article 56 section 1501 subsection 5 to New York State Education Law to mandate that no secondary schools start before 8:30am.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To change the start time of secondary schools to start at eight thirty a.m. instead of eight a.m.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Secondary school: a school for children between the ages of about eleven and sixteen or eighteen.

School district: a geographical unit for the local administration of schools.

Section 2: Provisions § 1501. Existing school districts continued. 1. All school districts organized either by special laws or pursuant to the provisions of a general law are hereby continued.

2. a. Common school districts and union free school districts so organized may be altered or dissolved as provided in this article.

b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or of any other general or special law to the contrary, all school districts which do not maintain a home school on March first, nineteen hundred sixty-six, and had not prior to October first, nineteen hundred sixty-five voted to reopen such home school and expended monies for construction or rehabilitation of such home school, provided that they are contiguous, either directly, or through other such districts, to a union free, central or city school district maintaining a twelve grade school system (not counting kindergarten) and with which such school districts are scheduled to be reorganized pursuant to the state plan for school district reorganization under section three hundred fourteen of this chapter, are hereby abolished as of July first, nineteen hundred sixty-nine, and are hereby made a part of such contiguous union free, central or city school district. The provisions of section fifteen hundred fourteen, fifteen hundred seventeen and fifteen hundred eighteen of this chapter shall apply in all such cases.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph b of this subdivision, any such district desiring a change in such state plan may petition the commissioner for such change as provided in section three hundred fourteen of this chapter. The status of such district shall be maintained pending such proceeding, and if any other such district or districts is or are contiguous to a union free, central or city school district only through such petitioning district, then and in that event, the status of such other district or districts shall also be maintained pending such proceeding. The petitioning district and such other district or districts contiguous with a union free, central or city school district only through such petitioning district shall become a part of such other union free, central or city school district as the commissioner or the court may order; in such case the provisions of paragraph b of this subdivision shall become applicable, and the abolition of such school districts shall become effective as of July first next following the final determination of the petition; if, in such case, any other school district or districts indirectly contiguous to such union free, central or city school district loses its contiguity therewith, the commissioner or the court, as the case may be, in the order, shall make an appropriate disposition of such district or districts.

3. Central school districts may be organized under and are subject to the provisions of article thirty-seven.

4. Central high school districts may be altered under and are subject to the provisions of article thirty-nine.

5. No secondary school shall start any earlier than eight thirty a.m.

Justification: To prevent high school students from lack of sleep, students tend to stay up late working on homework because of no time after late after school practices for sports or after school activities. This change in time will also help with working parents with nine to five jobs, also making time for practices before school starts.

Fiscal Implications: This bill has no fiscal implication.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect September 1st of 2026.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:35

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:36

Sponsors: Ash Lintner and Gabby Plummer-Brown

An Act To: Amend to Article 17 of the Education Laws of New York to add § 819 outlining instruction in Black History within K-12 settings.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill will promise aid to the ignorance pertaining black history and the generational trauma that education systems have neglected to teach.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Black History- The study and celebration of experiences, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent.

Racial Trauma- The transmission of historical, systemic, and racialized stress from one generation to the next; causing psychological and physiological impacts (rooted in colonialism, slavery, and systemic oppression).

Colorism- Prejudice and/or discrimination against individuals with a darker skin tone, usually within ethnic groups.

Redlining- The illegal and discriminatory process of systemically denying financial practices to residents of specific neighborhoods, usually based on race or ethnicity rather than creditworthiness.

Colonialism- The policy and/or practice of exerting political control over a country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

Genocide- The intentional systemic destruction–in part or as a whole–of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious demographic.

Section 2: Provisions The Board of Education of every school district shall create a curriculum on the education of Black History–in addition to developing recommendations on additional curriculum and instruction for grades kindergarten through twelve that incorporate the contributions and achievements made by African Americans throughout American and New York State history. School districts will implement all of the following topics, but not limited to, those included in Section 1.

Justification: The state's negligence to provide training for educators in crucial historical events impacts our generations causing lack knowledge in slavery, segregation, colonization, genocide, and redlining. A 2022 national survey found that about 23% of U.S. high school students could correctly identify slavery as a central cause of the civil war. The main origin of this problem revolves around how less then 10% of U.S. history standards explicitly mention Black contributions outside of slavery or the civil rights movement, forming a distorted understanding

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of American history. Unlike subjects such as math or English, there is no federal curriculum requiring Black History integration– meaning states and districts can choose to include it or not. This leads to systems minimizing lessons focused on slavery and many teachers training being trivialized regarding these topics.

Fiscal Implications: Being that this enforces a new curriculum it will cost the state money to upskill educators and required updated resources.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:37

Sponsors: Edlianny Escobar, Laii Mondesir, and Broseph Fray

An Act To: Amend NY Dom Rel L § 171 making forgiveness an invalid reason to deny divorce after adultery is proven.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To hold partners responsible for their actions when it comes to unfaithfulness within their marriage and rightfully entitle the plaintiff to divorce after adultery has been proven.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Marriage: The formal and legal union of two people as partners in a personal relationship.

Adultery: Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse.

Plaintiff: A person who brings a case against another in a court of law

Section 2: Provisions Paragraph (b) of NY Dom Rel L § 171 reads as follows "Where the offense charged has been forgiven by the plaintiff. The forgiveness may be proven, either affirmatively, or by the voluntary cohabitation of the parties with the knowledge of the fact." This bills passage will strike this from New York Law as the ability to remain amicable does not provide strong enough standings to continue a ruined marriage.

Justification: When someone forgives, that does not mean they forget. This bill provides safety to those in divorce court allowing them to separate from their unfaithful spouse even if they have granted them forgiveness; as that forgiveness does not provide definitive reason to continue a marriage if not desired. Denying a divorce under circumstances such as this may do unnecessary harm and wastes the money already spent by the plaintiff on procuring lawyers to go to divorce court. Spouses should be entitled to a divorce at all instances during a marriage and this amendment would protect that right.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications to this bill.

Effective Date: 6 months after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:38

Sponsors: Stephanie Arriaga, Sabrina Bonelli, Asher Nerenberg, and Maximilian Mui

An Act To: Amend Section 486 of Article 14-H of the General Municipal Law to permit individuals aged sixteen to seventeen to play licensed bingo under adult supervision.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To permit individuals aged sixteen and seventeen to participate in licensed bingo games under adult supervision.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Adult supervision: continuous oversight by a person twenty-one years of age or older who is physically present on the bingo premises and responsible for ensuring compliance with this article.

Ancillary non-gaming activities: tasks not directly related to the operation or conduct of bingo games, such as selling refreshments, cleaning, or assisting with seating.

Minor: any person under eighteen years of age

Section 2: Provisions Participation by persons under the age of eighteen~~. No person under the age of eighteen years shall be permitted to play any game or games of bingo conducted pursuant to any license issued under this article~~. Persons sixteen or seventeen years of age may play bingo conducted pursuant to any license issued under this article, provided they are under adult supervision as defined in this article. No person under the age of eighteen years shall be permitted to conduct, operate or assist in the conduct of any game of bingo conducted pursuant to any license issued pursuant to this article. Nothing in this section shall prevent a person sixteen years of age or older from performing ancillary non-gaming activities conducted in conjunction with any game of bingo conducted pursuant to any license pursuant to this article.

Justification: According to national surveys examining social well-being, approximately 40% of teens report feeling lonely on a regular basis. Community-based activities such as bingo foster social interaction, provide structured opportunities for limited income, and facilitate engagement between younger and older participants. Intergenerational interaction has been shown to improve empathy, communication skills, and a sense of community belonging among adolescents. Allowing supervised participation in licensed bingo games offers a safe

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:38

and accessible means for sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds to build social confidence while remaining within a regulated and supervised environment.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of this bill is expected to be net neutral to slightly positive, with any minimal administrative costs offset by potential gains in games of chance revenue and strengthened charitable fundraising.

Effective Date: One year after passage

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:39

Sponsors: Danny Cory and Liam Walsh

An Act To: Amend Chapter 45 of the public health law in relation to nurse ratios

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To provide a greater number of nurses to patient ratios in order to provide better care to patients without being overworked.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Critical Care Unit: A designated section of a hospital dedicated to patients who are dealing with severe illnesses or injuries, needing constant attention and care.

Trauma/emergency room: a specialized, 24/7 hospital department equipped to provide immediate, comprehensive care for life-threatening, critical injuries.

Section 2: Provisions §2805-s*2 Nurse to Patient Ratio (a) The documented staffing plan shall incorporate, at a minimum, the following direct-care nurse-to-Patient ratios: (i) Two nurses to one patient: operating room and trauma emergency units and maternal/child care units for the second or third stage of labor; (ii) Two nurses to two patients: maternal/child care units for the first stage of labor, and all critical care areas including emergency critical care and all intensive care units and post anesthesia units; (iii) Three nurses to three patients: antepartum, emergency room, pediatrics, step-down and telemetry units and units for newborns and intermediate care nursery units; (iv) one nurse to three patients: postpartum mother/baby couplets (maximum six patients per nurse); (v) one nurse to four patients: non-critical antepartum patients, postpartum mother only units and medical/surgical and acute care psychiatric units; (vi) one nurse to five patients: rehabilitation units and subacute patients; and (vii) one nurse to six patients: well-baby nursery units

Justification: This bill will improve patient safety, clinical outcomes, and workforce sustainability by increasing the number of nurses assigned per patient in Critical Care Units, Intensive care units, and trauma/emergency room units. Critically ill individuals are at significant risk for sudden deterioration, and evidence consistently shows that higher nurse to patient ratios are associated with lower mortality rates, fewer medical errors, reduced hospital acquired infections, shorter lengths of stay, and improved overall outcomes. Adequate staffing also enhances communication with patients and families, supports interdisciplinary collaboration, and promotes a more patient centered approach rather than task-driven care. Furthermore, excessive workloads contribute to nurse burnout, moral distress, and high turnover, all of which undermine care quality and increase organizational costs. Although

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:39

increasing staffing levels requires initial investment, the long term financial benefits make it a fiscally responsible decision. Ultimately, this legislation represents a critical investment in healthcare quality, ensuring that critically ill patients receive vigilant, timely, and lifesaving care while supporting the nurses who deliver it.

Fiscal Implications: $1,866,150,000 to provide the salaries for the amount of nurses needed to increase the nurse to patient ratios.

Environmental Implications: This bill may require more nurses to commute, thus resulting in more fossil fuels.

Effective Date: Effective one year after passage of the bill to provide the state time to gain proper funding for the nurse's salaries.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:40

Sponsors: Mia Cartelami, Kamille Thompson, and Lily Quinn

An Act To: Amend § 529-B Article 19-g of Executive Law to mandate vocational programs in public juvenile detention centers.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To mandate that well-behaved high school-age individuals in juvenile detention centers be provided an education through a vocational program for a specific career to help lower recidivism rates.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Vocational Programs: Provides focused, hands-on training for a specific job.

Vocational teachers: A teacher that teaches vocational programs.

Good Behavior: Inmate is following rules and regulations and complying with any instructions from staff.

Recidivism: the likelihood of a criminal to reoffend.

GED: an acronym for General Education Diploma, a high school equivalency test that certifies an individual has high school-level academic skills in four subjects.

Section 2: Provisions

(d) provide post-release support within the youth community, including, but not limited to, aftercare services; or (e) reduce arrest rates or recidivism. (f) Public juvenile detention centers must provide two or more vocational programs for inmates (i) Only inmates on good behavior may participate in such program (ii)The detention facilities will choose a program based on their resources and must provide a space for the classes to take place (iii) Specific programs include but are not limited to: culinary, cosmetology, barbering, carpentry, and automotive

Justification: 80% of youth who are incarcerated will be rearrested within 3 years of release due to the lack of community supervision. This decreases the likelihood of high school students graduating by 13% to 39%, and increases the chances of adult imprisonment by 23% to 41%. Furthermore, GED is provided, which is not nearly enough support. Vocational schools give them a better chance, as they should be mandatory to allow these children to have a real opportunity to get on their feet and create a living for themselves. Due to these programs being optional, along with not often ever being a choice, many students leave prison with no experience or skills, which in turn increases their likelihood of recidivism. Meanwhile, these programs will allow the youth to have great knowledge, experience, and a certificate, which makes it easier for that individual to secure a job as well as steer their life on the right track. If we do not act now, then the rate of recidivism may never shrink and will only grow.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:40

Fiscal Implications: There is a $1.7 billion budget for the Raise the Age law; 40% has been used, but there is still $1 billion to this day. This pays for new inmates caused by the juvenile sentencing age being raised to 17. This also pays for other programs for these inmates; therefore, it will also pay for these programs. Putting a minimum of two programs in all 15 public detention centers is projected to cost under 1 million dollars.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect three years after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:41

Sponsors: Genesis Valdez, Dylan Rios, Ryna Cenord, Keiry Vasquez, and Yaritsa Rossil

An Act To: Amend Article 5, Chapter 16, of the Education Laws to add § 286 in relation to restricting library and library systems from banning books based on partisan, doctrinal or disapproval.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect the public's right to access diverse literature by prohibiting libraries and library systems from restricting books. The implementation of the bill will protect free speech and expression of the public, ensuring that public libraries and library systems don't restrict access to a variety of topics just because of different perspectives/ideologies.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Partisan - Beliefs, policies, or actions strongly aligned with a specific political party, ideology, or group.

Doctrinal - A set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other groups.

Book Banning - The removing and restricting access to books from libraries, schools, or public collections due to objections to their content, themes, or idea.

Section 2: Provisions §286 Restriction on libraries banning books § 286. A library or library system established or operating pursuant to this article, including school libraries and school library systems, shall not ban, restrict, or remove any books, reading materials, or educational materials solely on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Justification: Book banning and challenges to library materials have risen sharply in the United States in recent years. In 2023, library groups reported that more than 4000 book titles were targeted for censorship in public and school libraries, the highest number ever recorded since tracking began over 20 years ago. This was an increase of about 65 percent compared to 2022. In that year, around 2,000 were challenged, nearly double the number reported in 2021. Much of this growth was driven by organized groups seeking to remove large numbers of books at once, rather than individual parents objecting to a single title. Challenges affect both school libraries and public libraries, meaning students and everyday readers face limits on what they can borrow and read. Many of the books targeted for removal include works that feature LGBTQ+ characters or people of color.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:41

This bill protects New Yorkers by stopping libraries from removing books based on someone's political beliefs, religious views or objections to LGBTQ+ themes. It ensures that decisions about library books are based on value to readers and literary merit rather than personal or political bias. The legislation reinforces the role of libraries as places where people of all ages can learn, think critically and explore diverse ideas without unfair limits. By safeguarding access to a wide range of books this bill supports education and respect for all members of the community throughout New York State.

Fiscal Implications: Implementing this bill may cost libraries money for staff training and revising library policies to ensure compliance. Some libraries might need to update software or cataloging systems to track challenged books or provide guidance for staff. Costs will vary depending on the size of the library system but are expected to be minimal compared to the benefit of protecting public access to information.

Environmental Implications: There may be a small increase in paper and digital resource use as libraries provide materials and guidance on challenged books.

Effective Date: This bill will be in effect one year after its passed

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:42

Sponsors: Jace Cortes, Sarah Foley, and Cameron Talal

An Act To: Amend the penal law § 130.05 Sex offenses;in relation to prohibiting the use of the intoxication of a victim as a defense to a criminal charge for sex crimes.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prohibit victim intoxication from being used as a defense for sexual assault

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Sexual misconduct: any non-consensual sexual behavior ranging from sexual harassment to non-consensual sexual contact and penetration.

Third degree rape: sexual intercourse with somone who is incapable of giving consent.

Intoxicant: any substance that alters a person's judgment or decision making ability.

Intoxication: drunk or under the influence of drugs that causes someone to lose control of their behavior. Starts at blood alcohol content of 0.08.

Section 2: Provisions § 130.05 Sex offenses; lack of consent. 1. Whether or not specifically stated, it is an element of every offense defined in this article that the sexual act was committed without consent of the victim. 2. Lack of consent results from: (a) Forcible compulsion; or (b) Incapacity to consent; or (c) Where the offense charged is sexual abuse or forcible touching, any circumstances, in addition to forcible compulsion or incapacity to consent, in which the victim does not expressly or impliedly acquiesce in the actor's conduct; or (d) Where the offense charged sexual misconduct as defined in subdivision one, two and three of section 130.20, is rape in the third degree as defined in subdivision seven, eight or nine of section 130.25, or a crime formerly defined in subdivision three of section 130.40 of this article, in addition to forcible compulsion, circumstances under which, at the time of the act of vaginal sexual contact, oral sexual contact or anal sexual contact, the victim clearly expressed that he or she such victim did not consent to engage in such act, and a reasonable person in the actor's situation would have understood such person's words and acts as an expression of lack ofconsent to such act under all the circumstances. (e) where the offense charged is sexual misconduct as defined in subvdividion one, two and three of section 130.20, rape in the third degree as defined in subdivision seven, eight or nine of section 130.25, or a sex crime formerly defined in subdivision three of section 130.40 of this article in addition to forcible compulsion, circumstances under which at the time of the act of vaginal sexual contact, oral sexual contact ot anal sexual contact , the victim was

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:42

under the influence of any drug, intoxicant, or any other substance to a degree which rendered the victim temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling such person's conduct and such condition was known or reasonably should have been known to the offender. 3. A person is deemed incapable of consent when he or she is: (a) less than seventeen years old; or (b) mentally disabled; or (c) mentally incapacitated; or (i) under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other substance or intoxication that alters the victims ability to think clearly or make clear decisions (d) physically helpless

Justification: When someone takes their sexual assault case to court, the job of the court is to preserve the autonomy the victim has over their body. By allowing intoxication as a defense, the victim is stripped of all autonomy over their body and the possibility of ever receiving full justice for what happened to them. There are almost 5,000 reported cases of rape in New York State each year, this isn't including the thousands of assaults that go unnoticed. Yet out of all these cases, only about 50 of them lead to an arrest and a big reason for that is intoxication being used to defend an assaulters actions.90% of rapes involve intoxication, and around 63% of people don't report their assault in fear of being blamed for their assault because they were under the influence. Prohibiting the use of intoxication as a defense for sexual assault is the least we could do to provide these victims with the reassurance that intoxicated or not, their assault will be taken seriously.

Fiscal Implications: There would be no fiscal implications.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:43

Sponsors: Toria Scott, Brianna Perez, Yelaina Rodriguez, and Melahel Sylvain

An Act To: Section 70.80 article sentences of imprisonment for conviction of a felony sex offense to change the minimum number of years served for a felony sex offense to 10 years instead of 5

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to change the class b for felony sex offense for the minimum to be changed to 10 years instead of 5 years

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

Felony sex offense is a serious crime involving no consensual acts or contact often with aggravating factors like force,weapons, or victim incapacitation, resulting in severe penalties including long term prison sentence and mandatory sex offender registration

(i) for a class B felony, the term must be at least ~~five~~ ten years and must not exceed twenty-five years;

Justification: A longer minimum sentence ensures that the offenders are incapacitated for an extended period of time, preventing potential future offenses. A study shows that 197 child molesters were released from prison and 42% of those who were just released were reconvicted for sexual crimes. Sex offenses inflict lasting trauma on victims, often leading to long-term psychological emotional damage. A ten year sentence would more accurately reflect the weight of these crimes and acknowledges the extensive healing process required for victims.

Fiscal Implications: Increased prison population,strain on prison resource and potentially leading in a decrease in sex offenses

Efective Date: 1 year from passage

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:44

Sponsors: Abbey Perryman, Sofia Hodgson, and Elena Gonzalez Mota
An Act To: Amend Labor Law § 293 to include Menstrual products be provided in all public buildings

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill requires menstrual products to be provided for free in all public buildings.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Menstruation: The monthly, natural, bodily process in a female's body where the uterus sheds its lining, resulting in a flow of blood and tissue
Menstrual products: devices used to absorb or collect blood, facilitating hygiene and daily activity during a period. These include pads, tampons and menstrual
Section 2: Provisions All public buildings in New York State will provide menstrual products to be available for free in all female and gender neutral restrooms. Each restroom will supply pads and tampons.

Justification: This bill would make it mandatory to provide menstrual products free of charge in all state government-funded buildings. Over half of the population experiences menstrual cycles, which are a basic bodily function. Most people experience their cycle every month starting from 10-12 years old until about 40 years old, which is more than half their lifespan. Menstrual products are essential to all women. They maintain hygiene, prevent leakage, prevent infection, and provide a more comfortable experience. Without access to these amenities, many could face physical health risks and social ridicule. It is only plausible that they are provided free of charge, the same way that other amenities such as toilet paper, soap, and paper towels are provided. They are just as necessary and would help citizens who don't have access to these products and those who struggle to afford them.

Fiscal Implications: Providing free tampons and pads in every restroom would have only minor financial impacts. Individual agencies would need to spend money to buy menstrual products, and they would have to make sure that the products get restocked almost every day. The costs would be covered by the owners of the buildings.

Effective Date: January 1st 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:45

Sponsors: Ryan Byers, Ben Birkholz, Carson Foran, Samuel Foy, and Tucker Smith
An Act To: Remove section c and amend section 1-b to make minimum wage even with NYC.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Raise minimum wage for the rest of New York state making it even with that of New York City and counties of Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions
Section 2:1-b. Annual minimum wage increase beginning on January first, two thousand twenty-seven. (a) New York city state On and after January first, two thousand twenty-seven, every employer regardless of size shall pay to each of its employees for each hour worked in the city of New York, a wage of not less than the adjusted minimum wage rate established annually by the commissioner. Such adjusted minimum wage rate shall be determined by increasing the then current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of change in the average of the three most recent consecutive twelve-month periods between the first of August and the thirty-first of July, each over their preceding twelve-month periods published by the United States department of labor non-seasonally adjusted consumer price index for northeast region urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W) or any successor index as calculated by the United States department of labor, with the result rounded to the nearest five cents.
~~(c) Remainder of state. On and after January first, two thousand twenty-seven, every employer shall pay to each of its employees for each hour worked outside of the city of New York and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester a wage of not less than the adjusted minimum wage rate established annually by the commissioner. Such adjusted minimum wage rate shall be determined by increasing the then current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of change in the average of the three most recent consecutive twelve-month periods between the first of August and the thirty-first of July, each over their preceding twelve-month periods published by the United States department of labor non-seasonally adjusted consumer price index for northeast region urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W) or any successor index as calculated by the United States department of labor, with the result rounded to the nearest five cents~~.

Justification: It will be good to change the minimum wage of the working class because it helps and provides struggling families with money and it will provide

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:45

more financial stability for families that are in need. Right now in 2026 minimum wage is $16 and we want to raise it to $17 throughout all of New York State. Also, we are trying to make the minimum wage even throughout all of New York State, not just New York City. It's just not fair that workers in New York City get a higher wage than other workers throughout of New York State.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications for New York. However, there will be fiscal implications for the employer.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:46

Sponsors: Rizzi Medina, Zillah Thornton, Dina Gottlieb, and Valery Villatoro

An Act To: Create A New York State program that helps DACA recipients pay the cost of renewing their status.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This act assists eligible DACA recipients pay the expensive fee to renew their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. By covering renewal fees, the state helps young immigrants stay authorized to work, attend school, and contribute to New York's economy and communities.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

DACA - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a U.S. immigration policy that grants temporary protection from deportation; this policy allows recipients to legally work in the U.S, as well as being able to obtain a social security number (SSN), have better access to healthcare and other opportunities. DACA is a renewable two-year permit; however, recipients must pay the current renewal fee of $555 for an online filing, and $605 for paper filings each time a recipient renews their deferred action.

Deportation - Deportation is when the government removes a foreigner from the country for violating immigration laws. This occurs when a foreigner has no legal permission to be in the U.S. forcing them to return to their country of origin.

Immigrant - An immigrant is an individual who resides in a country other than their country of birth for many different reasons, such as economic opportunities, education, and family reconciliation. However, In the United States of America the individual is legally not allowed to be in the U.S unless they have proper documentation.

Eligible Recipient - An eligible recipient is an individual who complies with all the required rules and meets qualifications to receive a benefit, such as money or services. For example, an eligible DACA recipient may be an individual who maintains an active DACA status and has resided in New York State for an extended period of time.

Administering Agency - An administering agency is a government department or organization that is responsible for administering and overseeing a law or a specific program. It ensures that rules and regulations are followed and that the program operates as intended. This agency is responsible for applications, allocating funds, and making decisions related to the program. For example, for a program providing financial assistance to DACA recipients, the administering agency shall be the New York State Office for New Americans. This agency shall manage applications, verify eligibility, and distribute funds to qualified DACA recipients.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2 Bill #:46

Section 2: Provisions This bill reduces the financial burden that DACA recipients face when having to renew their paperwork every two years. The program shall help eligible individuals maintain a valid DACA status. This act establishes the New York DACA Renewal Assistance Program within the New York State Office for New Americans to provide financial assistance for renewal fees. Individuals with household incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level shall receive a 50% fee reduction. Individuals with household incomes between 151% and 200% shall receive a 30% reduction. DACA recipients must submit an application through the Office for New Americans demonstrating their active DACA status and documentation of household income and New York State residency.

Justification: DACA recipients are residents of New York State who contribute to the workforce, economy, education, and their communities as well as through civic engagement and entrepreneurship. Despite these contributions, recipients must renew their status every two years, paying a renewal fee of $555 for online filings or $605 for paper filings. For many low-income recipients, this fee creates a significant economic challenge with approximately 43% living in households earning below 200% of the federal poverty level. Providing income-based financial assistance for renewal fees will help eligible DACA recipients pursue their education and careers without being limited by the cost of renewal. This support will also allow recipients to continue contributing to their communities and the workforce, benefiting both the individuals and New York State as a whole.

Fiscal Implications: This bill establishes a program in New York State to provide financial assistance to eligible DACA recipients renewing their status. Eligible recipients shall receive a reduction of 30% to 50% of the renewal fee based on household income level. Currently, the DACA renewal fee ranges from $555 to $605. Funding for the program shall be derived from civil penalties collected from labor or immigration-related enforcement actions. New York State has approximately 86,000 DACA recipients, with about 43,000 renewals occurring annually. Approximately 30,000 recipients are expected to qualify based on household income and receive an average subsidy of $200 per renewal. The estimated annual cost of the program is approximately $6 million.

Effective Date: February 13, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:47

Sponsors: Leo Perl, Nate Perl, Patrick Reilly, and Mynor Chacon-Fuentes

An Act To: Amend New York State Public Health Law § 3002 to include lifeguards as first responders.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To give town and state ocean lifeguard organizations access to the NYS Recruitment and Retention Grant Program.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Lifeguard: A lifeguard is a trained rescuer who ensures water safety at pools, beaches, or waterparks by preventing incidents and performing rescues, requiring physical fitness (like swimming 300 yards) and certification in CPR/First Aid, typically starting at age 15 for pool jobs and 16 for beaches, with duties including surveillance, administering first aid, and maintaining facility safety.

First Responder: First responders include police, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and dispatchers who provide immediate life-saving care during emergencies. Requirements include specialized training (EMT/police academy), high physical fitness, and strong mental resilience, with average salaries varying significantly by role and region

BLS (Basic Life Support) Certification: BLS certification trains healthcare professionals and first responders to provide high-quality CPR, use an AED, and manage choking/breathing emergencies for adults, children, and infants, building critical thinking and teamwork for real-world scenarios, offered by organizations like the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Red Cross, with courses combining online learning and hands-on skills, typically valid for two years.

Section 2: Provisions § 3002: Thereby created in the department of health the New York state emergency medical services council. The state council shall consist of thirty-two members. Fourteen members to the state council shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall be representative of each geographic area of the state. At least one member shall be representative of the interests of the general public. Other members shall be knowledgeable in various aspects of emergency medical services and shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of voluntary ambulance services, advanced life support first response services, ambulance services operating for profit, municipal ambulance services, hospitals, a statewide organization representing volunteer fire services, municipal tax districts providing ambulance services, physicians, and nurses, and open water ocean lifeguards serving as emergency first response personnel. The commissioner shall also appoint

a representative from each regional council, from nominations received from the appropriate regional council. The members of the state council shall elect a chairperson from among the members of the state council by a majority vote of those present, who shall serve for a term of one year and until a successor is elected.

Justification: Lifeguards serve as frontline emergency response personnel in aquatic environments throughout New York State. Each day, they risk their personal safety by entering dangerous water conditions, including strong surf, rip currents, and hazardous weather, in order to rescue individuals in distress. Their role requires physical endurance, specialized training, and the ability to provide immediate emergency medical care.

Despite the critical public safety function they perform, municipal and state lifeguarding organizations often face recruitment and retention challenges due to limited funding and seasonal workforce constraints. Expanding grant eligibility under Article 30 of the Public Health Law to include town, village, city, and state-operated lifeguarding organizations would provide these agencies with access to funding for recruitment, training, and operational support.

Providing such funding will strengthen aquatic emergency response capacity, improve public safety outcomes, and ensure that the highest quality and most highly trained lifeguards are protecting New York's beaches and waterways.

We are currently seeing an outflux of town lifeguards towards private clubs. To stop this loss, action needs to be taken to keep our beaches safe, secure, and clean.

For these reasons, this legislation is necessary and appropriate.

Fiscal Implications: Recruitment and Retention Grant Program:
The SFY2025-2026 Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Grant Program is a state-funded $1,000,000 competitive grant program that supports volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel by providing funding for recruitment and retention efforts for eligible organizations. Eligible applicants can apply for up to $25,000 for projects related to health and wellness initiatives, leadership training, educational programs, community outreach programs, special events, and certain marketing and advertising campaigns.

Environmental Implications: This bill will lead to cleaner beaches, further regulated habitats, and safer wildlife areas due to increased lifeguard quality and vigilance.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:47

Effective Date: This bill will take effect on January 1st, 2027.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:48

Sponsors: Alexa Green, Mia Grigg, and Ayla Thompson

An Act To: Amend § 263.16 by increasing the punishment of owning child pornography from a class E to a class C felony.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To increase the punishment for people who have possessed child pornography get a longer punishment that will prevent them from committing the crime instead of getting off easy, and so that the children will get justice.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions Child Pornography: Photo or video depiction of minors engaging in illegal sexual actions

Class E Felony: A crime in which receives 1-4 years in jail

Class C felony: A crime in which receives 10-15 years in jail

CSA: Child sexual abuse

Section 2: Provisions § 263.16 Possessing a sexual performance by a child. A person is guilty of possessing a sexual performance by a child when, knowing the character and content thereof, such person knowingly has in such person's possession or control, or knowingly accesses with intent to view, any performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than sixteen years of age, including a performance created or altered by digitization as defined in section 245.15 of this part. Possessing a sexual performance by a child is a class ~~E~~ C felony.

Justification: To better punish the people who possess this type of content, preventing more people from owning child pornography. This will also give the children and family closure by knowing that the person is detained for a reasonable amount of time and make people feel more safe in their community. There were 1,375 reported cases in 2024 which is only one year out of the many others. This has been done with fully generated images and videos and images and videos of real children as well. Lots of children have had to deal with photos being leaked/released, which affects their time in school and it can also affect their future.Those kids can release severe backlash from this which damages their mental health. The lives of many other victims will also be greatly affected in many ways, such as PTSD, depression, and many other kinds of mental health issues. 87% of child pornography survivors were under the age of 12. 29% of the victims for child porn were not believed and 10% received retaliation or backlash from those close to them. Girls who are victims of child pornography have a higher probability of being cyberbullied than their peers, which can severely impact a child especially at a young age.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:48

Fiscal Implications: There will be no effect on government spending or funding.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #: 49

Sponsors: Anjali Eastman-Persaud, Rohan Eastman-Persaud, and Katie Cummings
An Act To: Amend: Chapter 45, Article 30, Section 3000-D, of New York State Public Health law to require access to two epinephrine auto injectors in public places.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require all restaurants and mercantile businesses to keep two epinephrine auto injectors on the premises.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Epinephrine auto injector: A disposable delivery device designed for the automatic injection of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.
Public place: A restaurant, bar, theater or health club.
Section 2: Provisions 2. The owner or operator of a public place shall have available in such public place resuscitation equipment in quantities deemed adequate by the department. This shall include at least two epinephrine auto injectors. Such equipment shall be readily accessible for use during medical emergencies. Any information deemed necessary by the commissioner shall accompany the resuscitation equipment. Resuscitation equipment shall be discarded after a single use.

Justification: This bill addresses a safety issue that is occurring in our public places. Currently places that serve food are not required to have an epinephrine auto injectors on site. One in ten adults have food allergies, and 50% of Americans experience severe reactions due to those food allergies. By requiring epi pens in public places ensures a quick response to any crisis that may arise. This bill will make sure there is no delay in care for individuals potentially affected by anaphylaxis.

Fiscal Implications: None, since the cost of purchasing the epinephrine auto injector will fall on the businesses.

Effective Date: One year after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:50

Sponsors: Manny Negron, Amelia Kovaci, and Lofia Zhu
An Act To: Reform ARTICLE 2 of SECTION 5, CHAPTER 64-B Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit so that it provides free therapy and other mental health resources.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reform CHAPTER 64-B Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit so that it provides free therapy and other mental health resources.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Emergency medical services (EMS) - A system that responds to emergencies in need of highly skilled pre-hospital clinicians
EMS agency - A state authorized organization that provides emergency medical services.
Hypertension - A common condition where the force of blood against your artery walls is consistently too high, making your heart work harder to pump blood and potentially damaging arteries over time.
Lieutenant - A junior commissioned officer in armed forces or a supervisory rank in police/fire departments, ranking below a captain.
Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) - A mental health condition triggered by experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, leading to intense, intrusive symptoms such as nightmares, severe anxiety, intrusive memories, and flashbacks, which significantly impact daily life.
Trauma therapy - A specialized, evidence based form of psychotherapy designed to help individuals process distressing events, reduce symptoms, and manage emotional and physical impacts.
Volunteer ambulance worker - An active, unpaid member of a registered ambulance company or department, recognized for insurance and benefit purposes, who perform emergency medical services.
State Wellness Grants - Funding opportunities provided by state agencies (e.g., Department of Health or Mental Health) to organizations for projects that promote, protect, and improve public health. These grants support community-based initiatives, such as mental wellness, preventative services, and addressing health disparities for underserved populations
Federal Assistance - The U.S. government, provided through programs, grants, loans, or services, to help individuals, organizations, or other governments with needs in areas such as education, health, or infrastructure, often requiring repayment for loans but not for grants. It's distributed via various methods like grants, work-study, and loans.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:50

Public Safety Trust Funds - Specialized government-established, dedicated funding accounts designed to invest in local law enforcement, emergency services, and violence prevention efforts

Section 2: Provisions

Volunteer ambulance workers will receive therapy at any time.

Justification: Volunteer ambulance workers experience personal traumatic events daily, including violent crime scenes, severe accidents, and death. In New York State, roughly half of all EMS agencies rely exclusively on volunteers, with about 33,000 volunteer EMS responders supporting the system. Nearly thirty percent of first responders experience PTSD, and roughly sixteen percent have reported suicidal thoughts, which is four times higher than the general population. Many other mental health issues such as anxiety (52%), depression (53%), and physical health issues like hypertension are prevalent among volunteer ambulance workers. Trauma therapy in New York State typically costs between $150 and $300+ per session for private pay. This cost is often unaffordable to many volunteer ambulance workers, which creates a barrier between necessary care despite the critical services they provide. Without the proper support, trauma can lead to burnout, workplace shortages, and decreased public safety. Providing funded therapy to volunteer ambulance workers would improve responder well being, reduce long term healthcare costs, and ensure effective and efficient emergency services.

Fiscal Implications: No fiscal implications are predicted for taxpayers. Money will be received by State Wellness Grants, Federal Assistance, Public Safety Trust Funds, etc.

Effective Date: This bill will be put into effect six months after implementing the bill.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:51

Sponsors: Carla Hilaire, Drew Morgan, Luciana Cherubin, Naelle Raymond, and Yari Henriquez

An Act To: Amend § 424-3 Chapter 55, Article 6 of the Social Services law to 5 shorten the time upon receipt of initial reporting.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Cases of abuse like this need to be addressed as soon as possible. Changing seven days to five days will aid in bringing more awareness and urgency to this issue. The passage of this bill will allow for written reports by CPS to be sent in with less time which will allow children in abusive households to reach safety sooner.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Maltreatment- cruel, inhumane, or improper treatment of a person or animal. This includes both abuse (acts of commission, such as physical, sexual, or emotional harm) and neglect (acts of omission, such as the failure to meet basic needs).

Child abuse- the mistreatment of a child by a parent or caretaker, which can include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and neglect. Physical abuse involves bodily injury, sexual abuse includes any sexual activity, emotional abuse causes mental suffering, and neglect is the failure to provide basic needs like food, shelter, or medical care.

Preliminary- denoting an action or event preceding or done in preparation for something fuller or more important.

Section 2: Provisions Upon the receipt of each written report made pursuant to this title, transmit, forthwith, a copy thereof to the state central register of child abuse and maltreatment. In addition, not later than ~~seven days~~ five days after receipt of the initial report, the child protective service shall send a preliminary written report of the initial investigation, including evaluation and actions taken or contemplated, to the state central register. Follow-up reports shall be made at regular intervals thereafter in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner regulation to the end that the state central register is kept fully informed and up-to-date concerning the handling of reports;

Justification: According to childrensrights.org, 130,000 reports of child abuse or neglect were made in 2022 in New York State alone. New York is ranked 9th highest out of all 50 states for domestic violence in children's homes. This means thousands of children are living in unsafe conditions while waiting for help to arrive. When Child Protective Services takes up to seven days to respond, children may

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:51

continue to suffer abuse that could have been prevented. Choosing not to act sooner is choosing to leave a child in harm's way. Reducing the response time to five days could protect children faster and show that their safety is truly a priority. When children's lives are at risk, waiting an extra two days is a decision that can have lasting consequences.

Fiscal Implications: More cases workers will need to be hired to get reports done in a timely manner which in turn would mean more government spending for social worker salaries.

Environmental Implications: The environment will be affected by more cars in use by case workers and increased paper production.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:52

Sponsors: Anushka Mallya, Layla Hanbali, Michelle Arias, and Lauren Rogers

An Act To: Amend § 263.05 of the Penal Law to ensure mandatory victim support and trauma-informed courtroom protection for minors.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To strengthen the protection of minors who are victims of sexual abuse by individuals in positions of trust by authorizing courts to use protective courtroom procedures when a minor is involved.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Minor: Any person under the age of eighteen.

Victim support services: State-funded or state-approved services, including, but not limited to, trauma counseling, mental health services, victim advocacy, and legal support programs made available to victims of sexual offenses.

Protective Procedures: Measures implemented by a court to reduce emotional or psychological harm to a minor victim, including but not limited to, closed courtrooms, testimony via electronic means, presence of a support person during testimony, etc.

Victim Advocate: A trained individual or organization designated to provide emotional support, information, and assistance to victims throughout the criminal justice process.

Person of Trust: Any individual who has a responsibility for, authority over, or regular access to a minor, including but not limited to parents, legal guardians, teachers, coaches, counselors, etc.

Sexual Performance: Any act of sexual conduct involving physical contact with the intimate parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification or to abuse, humiliate, or degrade.

Section 2: Provisions § 263.05 Use of a child in a sexual performance.

A person is guilty of the use of a child in a sexual performance if knowing the character and content thereof he employs, authorizes or induces a child less than seventeen years of age a minor to engage in a sexual performance or being a parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child, he consents to the participation by such child in a sexual performance.

Involving sexual performances of a minor by someone in a position of trust, in prosecution of a sexual89 charges are required to make sure that minor victims are informed about and referred to available state-funded support services. These include counseling and victim advocacy programs.

Use of a child in a sexual performance is a class C felony.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:52

Justification: Children who experience sexual abuse are at high risk for long-term psychological trauma, which can be worsened by a long, stressful legal process and a lack of support. This amendment addresses that by requiring courts to refer minor victims to state-funded counseling and mental health care, along with authorizing protective courtroom procedures. The bill also allows trauma-informed courtroom procedures to reduce psychological harm during legal proceedings. Once the bill is passed, this act will become part of the Penal Law and will apply statewide in all relevant prosecutions.

Fiscal Implications: Fiscal implications would include; adding more resources for minors in the courtroom such as advocates and counseling services. The average yearly salary for an advocate present in court is between $50,000-$67,000. The average yearly salary for a mental health counselor is between $62,070-$82,472. Annual funding allocated to this program remains indeterminate, as it depends on the number of cases and victims served. Funding will be sourced from the Department of Justice, specifically the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

Effective Date: This bill will be in effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:53

Sponsors: Caesar DeSantolo, Lexine Norbi, Jayla Geter, and Davis Gresham

An Act To: Amend the penal law in relation to establishing additional requirements to the safe storage of ammunition in a locked container separate from the firearm

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to protect children and adolescents by establishing a clear requirement for the secure storage of ammunition. This legislation will create a critical barrier, preventing minors from accessing ammunition to load and discharge firearms, which is a leading cause of accidental shootings and youth gun violence.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Section 1: Section 265.00 of the penal law is amended by adding three new subdivisions to read as follows:

37. ""Ammunition."" Means any cartridge, shell, or projectile capable of being fired from a firearm, but does not include muzzle-loading powder, ball, and cap.

38.""Locked Container."" Means a container, such as a gun safe, lockbox, or other similar device, secured with a key, combination lock, or biometric lock, designed to prevent unauthorized access to its contents.

39. ""Unauthorized Person."" Means any person who is not the legal owner of the ammunition and who does not have the express, direct consent of the owner to possess it. This includes, but is not limited to, minors (persons under the age of eighteen) and individuals prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition.

Section 2: Provisions Section 265.45 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. No person who owns or is custodian of ammunition who resides with an individual who: (i) is under eighteen years of age; or (ii) such person knows or has reason to know is prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition pursuant to a temporary or final extreme risk protection order issued under article sixty-three-A of the civil practice law and rules or 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) (1), (4), (8) or (9); or (iii) such person knows or has reason to know is prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition based on a conviction for a felony or a serious offense, shall store or otherwise leave such ammunition out of his or her immediate possession or control without first securely locking such ammunition in a secure storage container, separate from any firearm.

Justification: In 2024, the United States suffered an estimated 41,044 deaths from gun violence. While many factors contribute to this crisis, a preventable factor is unauthorized access to ammunition. A study published in the Journal of the

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:53

American Medical Association found that approximately 90% of firearm accidents involving children occur with guns that were found loaded and unlocked. By mandating that ammunition be stored in a locked, separate container, this bill prevents a curious child from loading a found firearm, deters impulsive suicide attempts, and renders stolen firearms useless to criminals, thereby enhancing public safety across New York.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal implications for this bill are negligible.

Effective Date: "This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:54

Sponsors: Oluwaferanmi Mabinuori, Nathaniel Pascale, and Caleb Corrado

An Act To: Reform the "New York Affordable Drug Act" so that medicinal and medical companies will be unable to markup their prescription and over-the-counter drug prices past a specific percentage.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Reforms the "New York Affordable Drug Act" so that medicinal and medical companies are unable to mark up their prices for medication more than 300% for prescription drugs and 400% for over-the-counter drugs.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

A generic prescription drug is a drug that is approved pursuant to an application submitted under subdivision (j) of section 355 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.), or a biosimilar, as defined under the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 262) that is not under patent.

Over-the-Counter drugs are drugs that refer to medicine that can be bought without a prescription from a medical professional.

The "New York Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act is an act that regulates the affordability of prescription and over-the-counter drugs in order to increase competition, affordability, and accessibility for the public.

A markup is the amount added to the price of goods in order to reach a selling price to ensure a profit.

Section 2: Provisions (6) Other initial start-up costs are mortgaged over five years.

(iv) Each drug shall be made available to providers, patients, and purchasers at a transparent price and without rebates, other than federally required rebates. To maintain a transparent price as stated, providers and medical companies will be prohibited from marking up their general prescription drug prices and over-the-counter drug prices by more than 300% and 400% of the original price, respectively.

(v) The department shall prioritize the selection of generic prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs that have the greatest impact on lowering drug costs to patients, increasing competition, and addressing shortages in the prescription drug market, improving public health, or reducing the cost of prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs to public and private purchasers.

(c) (i) In identifying generic prescription drugs to be produced, the The department shall consider prescription drug retail price lists made pursuant to section two hundred seventy-eight of this article.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3 Bill #:54

Justification: In 2025, approximately 66% of New Yorkers have reported experiencing a medical financial burden, including medical costs, 46% of New Yorkers have stated that they could not afford to pay off a medical bill without going into debt, and 51% of New Yorkers are apprehensive about the future pricing of medical drugs. Even with the state legislative reforms that have occurred, medicinal costs for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs have been on the rise, leaving more and more New York residents drowning in medical costs and living without easy accessibility to necessary medications for the betterment of their health. Not only that, but many pharmacies are not fully transparent with their prices, and some even do not fully comply with state law about price transparency. By limiting the markup of prescription drugs to 300%, and over-the-counter drugs to 500%, New Yorkers will have more of a fighting chance in paying their medical costs and maintaining their health.

Fiscal Implications: While the state itself will not be affected fiscally, medical companies will be responsible for reviewing and establishing new prescription and over-the-counter drug prices to meet the standards of the new revisions.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect on the first of January of next year, as it shall give time for medical and medicinal companies to adapt to the change.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:55

Sponsors: Casey Farrell, Elhani Armijos, Jennifer Santiago, Sebastian Rivera, and

An Act To: Amend §90 of Judiciary Law by adding subdivision 6-b requiring practicing attorneys in New York State to accept at least one pro bono case every five years, pursuant to the rules of the Court of Appeals.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to require all licensed and practicing attorneys in the state of New York to be assigned one pro bono case every five years to ensure an equal representation for all citizens across the state of New York.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Pro-Bono: Providing professional work, especially legal service, voluntarily and without payment for the public good, often for those who can't afford it.

Licensed Attorney: A law school graduate who has passed their state's bar exam and is officially admitted to practice law

Civil case: A legal dispute which does not involve criminal charges

Section 2: Provisions Section §90 of Judiciary Law is amended by adding subdivision 6-b to authorize the Court of Appeals to require, as a condition of continued licensure, that attorneys admitted to practice in New York State complete one qualifying pro bono case every five years after admission to the bar. Such requirements shall apply to both criminal and civil cases and shall be administered under rules promulgated by the Court of Appeals. Failure to comply may result in administrative penalties such as fines that will be determined by the court.

Justification: New York experiences a significant justice gap, with low-income households facing an average of more than two unresolved legal problems per year and millions of legal needs going unmet annually. Studies show that fewer than half of attorneys nationwide meet voluntary pro bono benchmarks, and a majority of lawyers report providing no pro bono services at all in a given year. At the same time, legal aid organizations in New York operate with attorney-to-client ratios far below what is required to meet statewide demand. Research demonstrates that legal representation significantly improves outcomes, including reductions in eviction rates of approximately 30 percent when counsel is provided. With over 180,000 licensed attorneys in New York State, requiring one pro bono case every five years would generate millions of additional hours of legal assistance. This policy distributes the responsibility equitably across the profession while measurably increasing access to justice statewide. The Legal Services Corporation reports that "low-income Americans do not receive any or enough legal help for 92 percent of their substantial civil legal problems," demonstrating the magnitude of unmet legal need nationwide (Legal Services Corporation 5). The New York County Lawyers

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:55

Association states that the justice gap has grown so severe that it has become an "ever-widening justice chasm" in which "millions of New Yorkers appear in court each year without legal representation" (New York County Lawyers Association 2). According to the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, "the current civil legal services system in New York falls far short of meeting the needs of low-income residents," even with existing public funding and voluntary pro bono programs (Permanent Commission on Access to Justice 7). The New York City Bar Association emphasizes that "access to legal representation can be the determining factor in whether a family remains housed, receives benefits, or avoids devastating legal consequences" (New York City Bar Association 4). The Legal Aid Society further confirms the scale of reliance on volunteer lawyers, noting that "thousands of clients each year depend on pro bono attorneys for critical legal assistance," underscoring the importance of structured and reliable participation from the licensed bar (Legal Aid Society 1). Collectively, these findings support the necessity of a mandatory pro bono requirement to ensure consistent, statewide access to justice.

Fiscal Implications: This bill is not expected to require major fiscal implications for the State of New York due to administrative and enforcement costs associated with assigning pro bono cases, monitoring attorney compliance, and addressing disciplinary actions for noncompliance. These costs will be covered through existing attorney registration and licensing fees, as well as administrative penalties imposed on attorneys who fail to meet the pro bono requirement, rather than through new taxes or general fund appropriations.

Effective Date: January 1st 2030

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #: 56

Sponsors: Sam Greene, Diana Hubschman, and Justine Vasquez

An Act To: Amend §260.10 of the New York State penal law to add Fetal Alcohol Syndrome under the definition of endangering the welfare of a child and to raise the punishment from a class A misdemeanor to a class C violent felony.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To hold parents accountable for actions that will harm an unborn child, specifically leading to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A condition in an infant that derives from the child being exposed to alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can result in the child having certain learning, behavioral, physical, and developmental disabilities.

Cryptic pregnancy: a pregnancy that goes undetected until late in the term or even at the time of delivery

Child abuse: Child abuse is physical, sexual, emotional and/or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child

Maltreatment: The abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of an individual, particularly a child. It is a range of harmful actions, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, that result in harm to the person

Class C Violent Felony: a serious crime with penalties that can result in a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

Section 2: Provisions

§ 260.10 Endangering the welfare of a child.

A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child when:

1. He or she knowingly acts in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental or moral welfare of a child less than seventeen years old before birth until the age of seventeen, or directs or authorizes such child to engage in an occupation involving a substantial risk of danger to his or her life or health; or

2. Being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with the care or custody of a child less than eighteen years old, he or she fails or refuses to exercise reasonable diligence in the control of such child to prevent him or her from becoming an ""abused child,"" a ""neglected child,"" a ""juvenile delinquent"" or a ""person in need of supervision,"" as

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #: 56

those terms are defined in articles ten, three and seven of the family court act.

Endangering the welfare of a child is a class ~~A misdemeanor~~. C-violent felony.

Justification: Of the roughly 200,000+ babies born in New York State, an estimated 11,000 babies have an Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a detrimental disorder caused by drinking throughout any trimester of pregnancy. Any alcohol is dangerous to consume during pregnancy, as there is no true "safe" amount to have. It is on the mother and the father to be responsible and consider the risks they pose their child at when they make the decision to drink, or supply alcohol to the pregnant woman. In the case of the rare occurrence of cryptic pregnancies, women who were not aware of their child and had indulged in alcohol during pregnancy will not face serious punishments, and the court would decide as to what will happen with parental rights and the care of the baby. Further, court-mandated AA meetings, both in and out of prison, will be mandated to mothers to confront their addiction. FAS(D) is a lesser known disability and not widely understood, which has led to no punishment nor fine for parents due to no laws being created. Babies born with FAS(D) will have deformities such as smaller than average head size, which comes with delayed developmental goals (i.e. walking, crawling, talking), learning disabilities, and social and behavioral issues caused by a smaller brain. This only scratches the surface as to what drinking while pregnant could do. By amending this law, we hold parents of these children accountable after no punishment is properly cited for these reckless and shameful actions taken by willful people.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications to this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:57

Sponsors: Khadidiatou Fall, Jae Kim, and Owen Vaughan

An Act To: Amend Environmental Conservation CHAPTER 43-B, ARTICLE 3 Title 3 to add §3-0308 to provide a one-time grant for the construction of Green Roofs in areas with a high building density.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To incentivize the construction of green roofs in high building density areas to promote a healthy environment in high traffic areas.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Green Roof: A building or roof partially or fully covered with vegetation and a growing medium over a waterproofing membrane

High Building Density: Many buildings are concentrated in a small area, using less land and offering benefits such as reduced driving and lower service costs. However, careful planning is necessary to avoid overcrowding, preserve green spaces, and ensure good design for livability.

One-Time Grant: A non-repayable fund for a specific need, often from foundations or the government, for projects

Evapotranspiration: The combined process of water moving from land to the atmosphere through evaporation

Section 2: Provisions The one-time grant for the construction of said green roof will be provided upon inspection by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The allocated funds for each green roof–which will come from the $1.5 billion grant for reducing air pollution and fighting climate change from the environmental bond act–will be decided by the square footage of the proposed green roof, as well as an estimated cost of labor. The Department of Environmental Conservation will cover a range of 50 to 80 percent of the construction cost. After the inspection, it will be decided if the funds will be applied. If these funds are approved, construction of the green roof will begin as soon as possible to ensure proper use of this grant.

Justification: Green roofs are highly beneficial to their local environments, providing effects such as improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, and enhanced biodiversity. By implementing this one-time grant to high population density areas–the areas that usually need it the most due to a high level of pollution–we will be helping the residents, tourists, and the local ecosystems. Incentivizing the construction of green roofs will enhance the overall environment in high-density building areas, thereby promoting tourism and stimulating local economies. Overall, the implementation of this bill will increase.

Fiscal Implications: Building a Green Roof costs roughly $10-$30 per square foot, and New York State is currently sitting on $1.5 billion for the purpose of reducing

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:57

air pollution and fighting climate change from the environmental bond act, which is where the funding for these one-time grants is expected to come from. Each grant will be administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation, and inspections will be used to determine the amount of money each building owner will receive for the construction of the green roofs. Green roofs are also economically beneficial, as they save money and time during natural disasters by regulating runoff and enhancing biodiversity, thereby strengthening ecosystems.

Environmental Implications: The benefits of a green roof act as a natural insulator and evaporative cooler, creating a more sustainable environment, especially where rooftop area is plentiful, but ground space is scarce. Evapotranspiration from plants cools the surrounding area, reducing air conditioning demand during the summer and reducing heating demand in the winter. Its absorption capabilities also help reduce runoff, especially in areas like NYC, which has limited drainage. Air quality and biodiversity will also improve, creating habitat for pollinators and birds and absorbing CO2.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect six months after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #: 58

Sponsors: Anthony Escobar, Danna Alvarez, Emily Deleg, and Meybelin Flores

An Act To: Amend the public health law of articles 13-E, in relation to restricting smoking in the presence of a minor in a public place or residency.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: It has been apparent that 40.6% of U.S children are exposed to secondhand smoke (SHS) from indoor air at home, in school, and in public places, such as stores, restaurants, hotels, automobiles, or on the street. It has been known that this causes various health problems in children and teenagers. Such as low birth weight, asthma, respiratory infections, and sudden infant death syndrome. According to the National Library of Medicine. Implementing this bill will reduce the chances of exposure to toxic chemicals in adolescents/children vulnerable to health problems.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Involves use of: Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, Vapes, and Smoking Marijuana.

Secondhand smoke (SHS): Smoke you don't intend to breathe in. Exposure to secondhand smoke comes from burning Tabacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, or pipes.

Bronchitis: Inflammation of the bronchial tubes.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS): Syndrome that leads to the sudden unexplained death of an infant.

Tabacco Smoke Exposure (TSE): Exposure in the involuntary inhalation of smoke from burning tobacco.

Section 2: Provisions In recent years the numbers of cancer deaths and heart disease in children has become increasingly apparent in the United States. According to the National Library of Medicine, there has been scientific research that over the last decade there has been an increasing amount of exposure to Secondhand smoke. That is not simply a nuisance, but it's deadly. This also has caused many diseases in children including asthma, pneumonia, sudden death syndrome, and bronchitis. It may cause lung cancer as well. There is no safe level of exposure. This bill aims to address these exposures by having a $250 fine on those who only smoke in the presence of a minor in a public space or residency. By doing so, this will not only protect the minors' mental and physical health and any type of diseases that would most likely form in the future. But also, this would simultaneously benefit the person since smoking isn't beneficial for your health. We are aware of the New York state clean Indoor act identified in articles 13-E of the public Health law, that prohibits smoking in most public spaces. Except Hotels,

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #: 58

automobiles, and homes which we believe should also be prohibited. We believe that the fine should be higher, not just $50.

Implementation of this policy will require that those that smoke in the presence of a minor will be fined $250 by any county or district police officer. This verification process will ensure that only those who smoke in public spaces as stated before will be fined. You can smoke just not when a child or individual under the age of 18 is with or around you. The anticipated outcomes of this policy extend beyond better health improvement. It is expected to also change social norms, help prevent the youth from smoking, reinforce parental responsibility, and promote general smoke-free environments. We are aware that yes, it's your property, but this causes harm to everyone, including yourself. Everyone deserves to breathe clean air and live in a safe environment even in their own home or car. Benefiting all of us.

Justification: This statute represents a new era of health and safety. The proposed changes will apply to New York State public locations and residences. Such as stores, restaurants, cafes, concert halls, homes, and on the street if in a public place where minors are. This comprehensive approach ensures that people are still able to smoke if they like. Just not where children are located. Many public spaces in New York are already required to have signs that prevalence smoking, according to the New York state clean air act. This will prevent many mental and physical altercations from occurring in minors. Including stress, depression, and suicidal ideation in children/young adults.

Fiscal Implications: A $250 fine on those who violate this law.

Effective Date: June, 2026.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:59

Sponsors: Caitlyn Gresham, Jasmine Jean Baptiste, Lexine Norbi, Kwame Moore-Boakye, and Kaylee Brabham

An Act To: Amend Bill 6456 of the New York State education law to provide opportunities to support foster care youth, who are interested in pursuing the career and technical route

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce the risk of homelessness unemployment and adverse mental health of outcomes among farmer foster youth, and to promote successful independence and society by providing other educational opportunities

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Foster Care System: A court-monitored, temporary service for children whose parents are unable to take care of them due to abuse, neglect, or other issues.

Mental Health: A person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being.

Homelessness: The state of having no home or a permanent residence, which includes living in places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, or transitional housing.

Trade School: A school that provides hands- on training for a specific career or skilled profession

Section 2: Provisions

Section 2 A program to provide foster youth the opportunity to enroll in trade school and college

Subject to a. appropriation, the commissioner shall allocate the funds available for the foster youth college success initiative for the purpose of providing support services to assist youth in foster care to apply for, enroll in, and succeed in college. Such grants shall be awarded to institutions of the state university of New York and institutions of the city university of New York, and the commissioner shall enter into contracts with degree-granting institutions in New York that are currently funded by the Arthur O. Eve higher education opportunity program pursuant to section sixty-four hundred fifty-one of this article for the purpose of providing additional services and expenses to expand opportunities for foster youth.

Justification: The purpose of this amendment is to expand educational opportunities for youth in foster care by ensuring access not only to four-year colleges and universities, but also to technical schools and trade schools. This amendment promotes equal access to career-focused education, workforce training,

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:59

and skilled professions, allowing foster youth to pursue pathways that align with their individual goals, strengths, and long-term financial stability.

Fiscal Implications: May require increased state funding, and grants. Partnerships with nonprofit organizations may support program expenses.

Environmental Implications: This amendment is not expected to have a direct environmental impact. Expanding educational opportunities for foster youth to include technical and trade schools primarily affects education policy and workforce development. Any indirect environmental effects would be minimal and related only to increased institutional operations or facility use.

Effective Date: This bill will go into affect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:60

Sponsors: Ariana Bazan, Daphne Fitzgerald, Sissy Kulp, Greyson Doubleday, and Isabella Felton-Gunn

An Act To: Amend Article 32, Section 3216 of the New York Insurance Law to further limit cost-sharing requirements for insulin under state-regulated health insurance plans in order to improve affordability and access for individuals with diabetes.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To improve affordability and access to insulin for individuals with diabetes by limiting out-of-pocket costs under state-regulated health insurance plans, particularly for lower- and middle-income New Yorkers who rely on insulin for survival.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Pancreas: An organ that produces insulin, which regulates blood glucose levels.

Diabetes: A chronic medical condition, including Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, in which the body does not produce sufficient insulin or cannot properly use insulin.

Insulin: A hormone and prescription medication required to regulate blood sugar and sustain life for individuals with diabetes.

State-Regulated Health Insurance Plan: Any individual or group health insurance policy governed by the New York Insurance Law.

Cost-Sharing: Any out-of-pocket expense required of an insured individual, including copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

Covered Individual: An insured person enrolled in a state-regulated health insurance plan with an annual household income of less than $80,000.

Section 2: Provisions Amend Article 32, Section 3216 of the New York Insurance Law, to add the following: Require state-regulated health insurance plans to limit cost-sharing for insulin for covered individuals.

For any covered individual, out-of-pocket costs for insulin shall not exceed $35 per month. Any amount exceeding $35 per month shall be covered by the insurer and shall not be imposed on the insured through copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

This provision shall apply only to state-regulated health insurance plans and shall not apply to Medicare, Medicaid, or other federally regulated health insurance programs.

Justification: The high cost of insulin places a significant financial burden on individuals with diabetes and can lead to serious health consequences when patients are forced to ration or forgo this life-sustaining medication. Because insulin is essential for survival, lack of access can result in severe complications,

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:60

emergency hospitalizations, or death. Income is strongly linked to diabetes risk and access to care. Adults earning $25,000 or less annually are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, with approximately 17.1% affected (New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System). As of 2023, about 1.7 million adults, or 10.6% of New Yorkers, are living with diabetes (NYS BRFSS), and lower-income individuals face greater barriers to nutrition, healthcare, and necessary medications, increasing the risk of Type 2 diabetes and limiting access to essential treatment. New York State has already recognized the importance of income-based healthcare affordability through Cost-Sharing Reduction (CSR) plans in the NY State of Health Marketplace, which reduce out-of-pocket costs for lower-income enrollees and demonstrate the effectiveness of income-adjusted cost-sharing (New York State of Health). This Act builds on that framework by establishing a clear and predictable insulin cost cap for covered individuals enrolled in state-regulated health insurance plans. By capping monthly out-of-pocket insulin costs at $35 for individuals earning under $80,000 annually, this Act improves access to essential medication, reduces preventable medical emergencies, and supports long-term healthcare cost savings. Ensuring affordable insulin protects public health, supports working families, and advances New York State's commitment to equitable healthcare access.

Fiscal Implications: This bill caps out-of-pocket insulin costs at $35 per month for covered individuals, with any remaining cost paid by state-regulated insurers rather than the patient. No new state appropriations or tax increases are required. The additional expense will be managed within existing insurance risk pools and reflected through standard premium structures.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:61

Sponsors: Loren Baez, Jayleen Palma, and Scarleth Vasquez

An Act To: Amend subdivision 2 of Section 667 of the Education Law to increase the maximum aggregate time that a student may receive Tuition Assistance Program awards from four to six years.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Relates to increasing the maximum years of study under the Tuition Assistance Program to an aggregate six years in order to better align TAP eligibility with the actual time students take to complete their degrees, reduce financial pressure on those who must attend part-time or take time off, and support higher graduation rates among low and middle income New Yorkers.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Tuition Assistance Program or Tap means the New York State Tuition Assistance Program pursuant to section 667 of the Education Law.

"Undergraduate student" means a student enrolled in an approved program leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree at a degree-granting institution in New York State.

"Aggregate years of study" means the total number of academic years for which a student receives any TAP award, as counted under section 667 of the Education Law.

Section 2: Provisions Subdivision 2 of section 667 of the Education Law is amended to increase the maximum aggregate time that a student may receive Tuition Assistance Program awards from four to six years. This amendment shall apply to all new and continuing TAP recipients beginning with the academic year immediately following the date on which this act shall have become a law.\

Justification: Currently, students are eligible for TAP awards for only four consecutive years. However, data from SUNY and CUNY institutions show that the average time to complete a bachelor's degree exceeds five years. Extending TAP eligibility to six years provides necessary financial flexibility for students who face personal, academic, or economic challenges that delay degree completion. This change will reduce dropout rates, support low- and middle-income families, and help New York achieve higher graduation outcomes.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact is expected to increase proportionally based on the number of additional TAP recipients qualifying for extended coverage. Implementation costs will depend on program participation rates and administrative adjustments determined by the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

Effective Date: This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:62

Sponsors: Maddy Scott, Arianna Anticola, and Nevaeh Bliven
An Act To: Amend NYS Penal Law §135.25 to create longer sentences and a fine for kidnapping in the first degree.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Prevent kidnappings and abductions to protect the citizens of NYS.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Abduct: Means to restrain a person with intent to prevent that person's liberation, either by secreting or holding him or her in a place where he or she is not likely to be found, or by using or threatening to use deadly physical force.

Kidnapping: Means the action of holding someone against their will and not letting them go.

Deterrent: Something that prevents people from doing something by making them afraid of what will happen to them if they do it.

Restrain: Mean to restrict a person's movements intentionally and unlawfully in such manner as to interfere substantially with his or her liberty by moving him or her from one place to another, or by confining him or her either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which he or she has been moved without consent and with knowledge that the restriction is unlawful.

Abuse: Treat a person with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly.

Consent: Consent is a voluntary and enthusiastic agreement to participate in an activity.

Kidnapper: A person who abduct someone and holds them captive, to obtain a ransom.

Ransom: Aa sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner.

Guilty: Means you are responsible for what you have done.

Trauma: a deeply distressing or disturbing experience.

Section 2: Provisions§ 135.25 Kidnapping in the first degree.

A person is guilty of kidnapping in the first degree when he abducts another person and when:

1. His intent is to compel a third person to pay or deliver money or property as ransom, or to engage in other particular conduct, or to refrain from engaging in particular conduct; or
2. He restrains the person abducted for a period of more than twelve hours with intent to:

(a) Inflict physical injury upon him or violate or abuse him sexually; or

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Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4 Bill #:62

(b) Accomplish or advance the commission of a felony; or

(c) Terrorize him or a third person; or

(d) Interfere with the performance of a governmental or political function; or Kidnapping in the first degree is a class A-I felony.

4. A conviction of kidnapping in the first degree shall carry a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment.

5. A conviction of kidnappings will cause a fine of 50,000 to 250,000 dollars.

Justification: In the past few years the number of children going missing by abduction, kidnapping, or child trafficking has increased worldwide. This is true in New York State as well. New York State must protect our children and the people we love. Anyone could be kidnapped or abducted at any time, such as late at night, when you are walking to school in the morning or after school, or even when you are at your house. Sometimes the missing person is never found. This could mean the person is being traffic or killed.

Laws in New York State need to be changed to make sentences longer and fines higher to deter the kidnapping of a child. Sentences of convicted kidnappers should be, at the minimum, from 10 years up to the max of life in prison.

While the cost of housing these criminals will be higher, fining them will help with the higher costs. Fines would be set high to act as a deterrent to other possible perpetrators. This money should also be used to help in the treatment of the child and his family for the trauma they faced.

Every day almost 2,300 kids get kidnapped, and almost 27,600 kids are kidnapped in a year. As these numbers continue to climb, things must be initiated in our state to help educate our children to be aware of the dangers they could be facing. Programs must be created to make children aware of ways to keep themselves safe.

Fiscal Implications: This will cause the jail inmates to have to longer sentences. But the fine will help cover the cost to house these inmates. Will help with keeping jobs for police. This will also help with less kidnappings cases with kids shown dead.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Assembly Liberty

Eghosa Ikhinmwin

Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Erin Chen

Dep Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Committee Chairs

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Reyli Rodriguez Cruz	Assembly Liberty 1
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Gabriel Villacis	Assembly Liberty 3
Mario Novello	Assembly Liberty 3
Nicholas Heckman	Assembly Liberty 4
Sabrina Guzmán	Assembly Liberty 4

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:63

Sponsors: Mitzy Rincon, Naomy Vigil, Matthew Pacheco, and Miley Perla Larios
An Act To: Deduct certain amounts of money from rent depending on certain qualifications.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To make rent more affordable for those who struggle to pay for rent.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Landlord: A person who rents land, a building, or an apartment to a tenant.
Tenant: A person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord.
Contractor: A person or company that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job.
Disabilities: A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities.
Pensions: A regular payment made during a person's retirement from an investment fund to which that person or their employer has contributed during their working life.

Section 2: Provisions This bill will make rent more affordable. This will happen by renting being based on age, disabilities, income, and if they receive government funds. As well as the number of people living in the household. Then depending on all of this, that will be the total outcome, and the price will be passed by the landlord, if he agrees then the tenant and landlord will sign the contract on the agreed price. The utilities listed under the "Warranty of Habitability" law will still be provided and not effected. Programs for people that provide medical, financial, and housing assistance will not be affected as well.

Justification: This bill will make renting houses, studios, rooms, etc. more affordable. This bill will ensure renters will be able to afford rent. The average monthly rent is around $3,000 and an average of $4,000. But some factors will be dependent on the age and number of people the households. If more than 2 people in the house are 18+ and do not have a disability, then it will depend on how much they make monthly if they have younger people than 18 then it would be dependent on their age and conditions. It will also depend on whether they have relatives/family to take care of and how much they give them monthly and the ages. As well as depending on how much they pay for taxes and/or personal insurance and pensions, which is at least 12.4% of their personal paycheck alone. They would need to show proof of income and as well as signing a contract on an agreed amount for the rent; this would be a separate form from the lease signed. Also, landlords will still need to follow the requirements that New York state has set for rentals and be up to health code standards. The requirements New York

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landlords must adhere to strict state and local regulations, prioritizing habitability, safety, and tenant rights. The deduction will only happen if the tenet qualifies for deduction or makes less than $2,700. The deduction would be $100-$1,000 depending on their qualifications. The Landlord would need to follow the following guidelines:

1.Checking monthly income
2. Number of people that will live in the household
3. Ages of the people in the household
4. Seeing if they qualify for the rent dedication
5. An official medical form/record of disability if they have disability.
6. Official documentation that they provide for relatives/family
7. Seeing how much help they get from government funds/programs.
8. Official documentation on how much they give for taxes, insurances, and pension.
9. Finalizing monthly deduction for rent.
10. Signing official contract for deduction.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will affect the landlord's income by however much the deduction is and how many tenants get the deduction. But majority of them have another job and with the job the money will be reimbursed overtime.

Environmental Implications: There will be no environmental implications due to the bill not/nor having any intention of changing or harming wildlife.

Effective Date: The affective date will take place on November 1, 2026.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:64

Sponsors: Kannon Davis, Phineas Pendergast, Emilia Harrington-Matros, David Meyers, and Allie Morales

An Act To: Amend New York Business Corporation Law to include §703-(c) by enforcing all New York State corporations above a 500 employee threshold to have 1/3rd of their board be made up by employee elected representatives.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Improve worker representation in New York by mandating large corporations over a certain threshold of current employees to have a mandated percentage of their board members be elected company employees.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Large Corporations: Any corporation with over 500 current employees.

Company employee: An individual hired to perform work for a company in compensation for a wage or salary, with taxes withheld, and who is typically integrated into the business's operations.

Part-Time Worker: An individual who works less than 30 hours per week in one company.

Full-Time Worker: An individual who works more than 30 hours per week in one company.

Company's Board (of directors/trustees): An elected governing body representing shareholders, responsible for overseeing legal and investment decisions in the best interest of the company to guide the company's long-term direction and financial health, or organizing charities, endowments, and non-profits. This bill's application into law recognizes boards of trustees and board of directors as the same as the distinction between non-profit and for-profit companies' boards is simply the difference in managing assets and fulfilling company objectives. Due to these limited distinctions, we find that regardless of board responsibilities, workers must maintain representation on such boards (whether non-profit or for-profit).

Worker Elected Representative: A board member who is an employee of the corporation at the time of election, is democratically elected by all current employees, has the same rights, duties, and term limits as other directors, except that their removal or recall is governed by procedures established specifically for worker representatives (rather than the commonplace removal from the board by shareholders).

Section 2: Provisions §703 - (c) Codetermination:

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Representative Thresholds: Any corporation with over 500 employees must enact the process of codetermination in which 1/3rd of the business's board is made up of worker elected representatives. However if the corporation has a board with 3 or less members, then codetermination will not apply (this will be most common with smaller for-profit corporations due to NYSE limitations). If for example a bank within New York State must enact codetermination (and are below the $2,000,000 Threshold to be eligible for a minimum of 7 board members and 20 max), then the either 5 minimum or 15 maximum board positions must be made up by 2, and or 5 worker elected representatives respectfully.

Rounding: If 1/3rd of a corporation's board happens to not be an integer then the number of required worker representatives must be rounded up. If a corporation has 5 eligible board positions, 1/3rd of that number is 1.67, therefore, 2 worker elected representatives are mandated.

Eligibility To Run For Board (Codetermination): To run for office, an individual must be (currently) employed full-time within the corporation, must be at least 18 years of age, & match predetermined company stated bylaws when it comes to eligibility of board membership.

Voting Processes: Once (in accordance with corporate bylaws) the tenure of a board of directors position has elapsed an election is to be held to fill the vacancy. Whether members are chosen through a voting process of majority, ranked choice voting, etc, will be determined by company bylaw. How elections are held, whether all positions are up for reelection at once or staggered is additionally up to established bylaw. If no election is held to fill the vacancy within the already established 13 months of the last annual meeting of the board, 10% of the employees may petition for a vote. If 10% or more of the employees petition to force a vote to fill the vacancy, the board must respond in 2 weeks to have an election in no less than 60 days & no more than 90 since the response to the petition. If this does not happen the employees are entitled to hold a vote themselves to force a replacement.

Removal Processes: The processes in which a worker-representative may be removed from their position must be performed in the same way as in already stated New York law & corporate bylaw. However if the bylaw states that the removal process is done through a vote by shareholders, the employees of the company will act as the body that carries out the removal vote.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:64

Justification: Currently in New York there is no law recognizing that any employees must be a part of the established board of directors/trustees for any corporation. Corporations play a significant role and have a substantial impact on the lives of their employees. Despite this, most corporations in New York State operate without the interests of the employees being held paramount. Companies have continuously made decisions that prioritize short term profit while actively sacrificing the well being and job stability of workers. By requiring businesses with over 500 employees to have 1/3rd of their board be made up by currently employed employees (workers with firsthand experience who will be directly impacted by the decisions made by the board) have a formal representative. If passed, this bill will affect over 20% of the entire New York workforce, and give increased representation to over 1.6 million workers.

Fiscal Implications: There are minimal fiscal implications for this bill.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:65

Sponsors: Aidan Otto, Millie Peraza, and Hannah Schultzer

An Act To: Amend §711 and §254 of Article 5 of the education law, in relation to the practice of banning books by libraries

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prohibit the banning of books by public and school libraries

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Public Library: Any community library open to the public, funded primarily bystate, city or county taxes.

School Library: Any school library part of a single school or school district. "

Section 2: Provisions

§ 254. Standards of library service. 1. The regents shall have power to fix standards of library service for every free association, public and hospital library or, with the advice of the appropriate tribal government and library board of trustees, Indian library which receives any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state to aid such libraries, or which is supported in whole or in part by tax levied by any municipality or district. In the case of a hospital library or a library serving a hospital, such standards shall be established in consultation with the commissioner of health. If any such library shall fail to comply with the regents requirements, such library shall not receive any portion of the money appropriated by the state for free, hospital or Indian libraries nor shall any tax be levied by any municipality or district for the support in whole or in part of such library. 2. No public library may ban or remove any materials due to disapproval of the content, ideology, or language in the text or images included in the material. A written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials within the library must be provided for the library to continue receiving funding. §711 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. No school district, board of education, trustees or such body of officers may ban or remove any materials from their school library due to board disapproval of the content, ideology, or language in the text of the materials.

Justification: Book bans, popularized in 2022, are a method of control, reducing and regulating the information available to the public. 41% of books banned include LGBTQ+ themes, 59% were children's books covering themes of diversity, and 39% of banned books were written by authors of color, even though only 10% of United States authors are of color. Even though books are typically banned with some complaint of inappropriate content, a lot of this "inappropriate content" is actually

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:65

historical events or texts, information relating to sexual health or puberty, or even just stories that include characters that use slurs or are LGBTQ+. Banning books that have slurs doesn't mean they don't exist, and banning stories of historical events doesn't mean they didn't harm people. Hiding the past actually functions the exact opposite, reducing the public's ability to discern dangerous trends, like movements towards fascism or immoral government acts. Information literacy decreased 13% from 2019 to 2023, because people are getting used to being told what is right, and what is wrong. Having books that present morally imperfect ideas is a crucial way to build skills in information literacy and allow people to form their own opinions. Those who want books taken out of the system often bombard libraries with requests to remove books from libraries, but are in the minority. No citizen is being forced to check out a book they do not want to read, so they have no right to control other people's access to education and public literature.

Fiscal Implications: If a library does indeed ban a book, New York State may reduce their funds as punishment until the book is unbanned. If every library follows this law, however, there will be no fiscal changes.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect six months after its passage

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:66

Sponsors: Dorian Alexopoulos, Gabriel Arias, and Erin Chen

An Act To: Amend Article 2 Section 214-A of the Civil Practice Law & Rules, to extend the statute of limitations to five years for medical malpractice.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To raise the statute of limitation for medical, dental, and podiatric malpractice from two years and six months, to five years to give victims more time to file a lawsuit.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Statute of Limitations: The maximum amount of time, starting from the time of the crime, that legal proceedings can begin

Medical Malpractice: When a medical or health care professional, through a negligent act or omission, deviates from standards in their profession, thereby causing injury or death to a patient

Dental Malpractice: A situation where a dental professional fails to meet the accepted standard of care, resulting in harm or injury to the patient

Podiatric Malpractice: When a podiatrist fails to provide care that meets the accepted standard of practice, resulting in harm or injury to the patient

Section 2: Provisions Action for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice to be commenced within ~~two years and six months~~ five years; exceptions. An action for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice must be commenced within ~~two years and six months~~ five years of the act, omission or failure complained of or last treatment where there is continuous treatment for the same illness, injury or condition which gave rise to the said act, omission or failure; provided, however, that: (a) where the action is based upon the discovery of a foreign object in the body of the patient, the action may be commenced within one year of the date of such discovery or of the date of discovery of facts which would reasonably lead to such discovery, whichever is earlier; and (b) where the action is based upon the alleged negligent failure to diagnose cancer or a malignant tumor, whether by act or omission, the action may be commenced within ~~two years and six months~~ five years of the later of either (i) when the person knows or reasonably should have known of such alleged negligent act or omission and knows or reasonably should have known that such alleged negligent act or omission has caused injury, provided, that such action shall be commenced no later than seven years from such alleged negligent act or omission, or (ii) the date of the last treatment where there is continuous treatment for such injury, illness or condition. For the purpose of this section the term

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:66

"continuous treatment" shall not include examinations undertaken at the request of the patient for the sole purpose of ascertaining the state of the patient's condition. For the purpose of this section the term "foreign object" shall not include a chemical compound, fixation device or prosthetic aid or device.

Justification: The current statute of limitations is too short and does not give victims enough time to file a lawsuit. Filing a lawsuit for medical malpractice can take anywhere from 18 months to 3 years due to factors such as delays from the detailed investigation required and resistance from insurance companies. It also takes a long time to get ready for filing a lawsuit. On average, it takes several months to gather medical records, with the pre-filing investigation phase alone often lasting 3-6 months. Lawyers need to gather all medical records and consult with medical experts to evaluate the case's strength. Additionally, preparing for a case can cost from $20,000 to $100,000. Many victims do not have the financial stability to file a lawsuit and hire a lawyer. Since the statute of limitations starts on the date of the malpractice or the end of continuous treatment, many victims do not find out about they were victims of medical malpractice until after the 2 years and 6 months passed and they run out of time to file a lawsuit and do not receive the compensation for the medical mistreatment. With the extension of the statute of limitations, victims will have more time to file lawsuits. Care providers make avoidable errors in 3% to 15% of all medical interventions. A 2023 study published in the British Medical Journal estimated that 795,000 Americans become permanently disabled or die across care settings due to misdiagnosis of dangerous diseases. Minnesota's statute of limitations for medical malpractice is 4 years, Maryland is 5 years, or 3 years after the injury is discovered.

Fiscal Implications: This bill has no fiscal implications.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:67

Sponsors: Lizset Sosa, Rey Rodriguez Cruz, Samarah Orleus, Madisyn Hall, and Natrai Morgan

An Act To: Amend Article 12 a Chapter 18 of the executive law of New York to add section 256 b allowing 18 year olds to apply for their parents citizenship.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to lower the minimum age at which a United States citizen may petition for their parent and spouse as an immediate relative from 21 years of age to 18 years of age.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Immediate relatives: for purposes of family-based immigration and exempts such individuals from worldwide numerical limitations on immigrant visas. The section includes spouses, unmarried children under twenty-one years of age, and parents of United States citizens.

Petitioner: A United States citizen who submits a legal application on behalf of their parent.

Parent: A biological, adoptive, or legal parent as recognized by law.

United States citizen: An individual who holds citizenship by birth or through naturalization.

Verified parent-child relationship: Legal documentation sufficient to establish a valid parental relationship, including but not limited to a birth certificate, adoption records, or court orders.

Lawful permanent resident status: The legal status granted to a non-citizen permitting them to reside and work permanently in the United States.

Sponsorship responsibility: The legal obligation of the petitioner to meet financial and support requirements established under existing immigration law.

Section 2: Provisions (b) A United States citizen may petition for their parent as an immediate relative from eighteen years of age. Eligible United States citizens who are eighteen years old or older can apply on behalf of their parent for lawful permanent resident status, provided all other federal and state eligibility requirements are met. Such as: be a United States citizen who is at least eighteen years of age; provide valid proof of United States citizenship; demonstrate a verified parent-child relationship through legal documentation including but not limited to a birth certificate or court order; meet all applicable federal and atet requirements related to background checks, documentation, and application

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:67

procedures; and accept full legal and financial responsibility as required under existing immigration sponsorship laws.

Justification: Lowering the petition age from 21 to 18 will reduce long periods of separation between parents and children, which can cause emotional stress, financial hardship, and academic difficulties. Many young adults depend on their parents for guidance and support, especially during college, career preparation, and early adulthood. Keeping families together strengthens communities and improves mental health and overall well-being. Additionally, this bill promotes fairness by ensuring that responsible young citizens are not forced to wait years before helping their families. It reflects modern realities where many 18-year-olds are independent, contributing members of society. By allowing earlier petitions, the government supports stable family structures, encourages economic participation, and upholds the values of unity and opportunity that define the United States.

Fiscal Implications: Registering a voting party are evident in the financial losses incurred by individuals who, despite their passion and beliefs, face job denials based on their affiliations. This results in both personal setbacks and financial setbacks.

Effective Date: One year after the bill has passed.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:68

Sponsors: Maria Nardi and Yasmina Bache-Seraphin

An Act To: Effective January 1, 2025, New York State enacted the Paid Prenatal Leave Law (Senate Bill S8305C), which amends NY Labor Law Section 196-b to provide women who work in public sector jobs with newborn children with chronic respiratory issues 50% more sick days where they will only receive up to 50% of the pay. The benefit period is two years after returning from statutory maternity leave.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To allow mothers to take extended time out of work to take care of their children who are more prone to sickness.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Maternity leave A 12-week paid period where women after giving birth and recovering.

Respiratory condition Conditions that affect the air ways such as asthma, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, etc.

Sick days Days that companies are required to to give employees off in case of illness or personal and or family matters.

Public Sector Jobs Jobs that are funded by the government and tax payer dollars.

Section 2: Provisions After maternity leave, women who work in public sector jobs whose children are born with chronic respiratory issues will receive extended sick days lasting for two years. The extension will increase the number of days by 50%. On the extra days, they will receive 50% of their original pay. The mother must show proper documentation to her employer to demonstrate her child was born with chronic respiratory issues (including respiratory distress syndrome) in order to receive the extended days. The pay will not apply to previously required sick days. In a situation where a baby develops a respiratory virus and the mother has not received extra sick days, she is eligible to get an extra two days off with 50% of usual pay if she has already used the original amount of given days. To be able to receive the pay, she needs a doctor's note or a form of legal documentation to give to her employer.

All applications shall be made under penalties of perjury. False statements shall be punishable by law, require reimbursement for any benefits unlawfully received and form a basis for termination.

Justification: While the law NY Labor Law Section 196-b already applicable in many cases, it does not cover mothers who have given birth to children with chronic respiratory issues. According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, infants who have been born with these issues are far more likely to catch

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:68

respiratory viruses like RSV. In their first two to four years the child is more prone to illness. Lower respiratory tract infections are the leading cause of babies being hospitalized, specifically those whose issues arose through being born prematurely, 3 out of 100 babies under 6 months get hospitalized with RSV every year. Respiratory issues are extremely common when a child is born prematurely and many times, leads to infection, virus and diseases. It is important that a mother has the ability to be there with her baby while he or she is facing illness while not having to worry about work. In order to make this manageable for companies, they will only have to play half on these days to ensure that it leaves manageable financial responsibilities. In addition, handing out less pay decreases the risk of people wanting to abuse this bill because they could easily just come into work and get paid a greater amount.

Fiscal Implications: Due to this applying to women in public jobs, it will be fully funded through tax payers. Although, it will not raise taxes due to the small amount needed to be paid.

Effective Date: April 4, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:69

Sponsors: Mike Morris, Vito Triolo, and Zander Brown

An Act To: An act to give complementary seeds to combat the spread of the Spotted Lantern Flies.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To persuade New York State to create a program that gives complementary seeds to reduce the spread of the Spotted Lantern Fly population in an environmentally friendly way.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Invasive Species- A non-Native organism that spreads rapidly in a new environment and causes harm.

Section 2: Provisions

1-New York State shall establish a Milkweed Distribution program to provide free Milkweed seeds to the public through gardening stores. The DEC should oversee and manage this program.

2-Milkweed seeds should be purchased from local distributors located in New York State and funded through a designated portion of the EPF Grant.

3-Gardening stores should distribute the seeds free of charge with instructions on how to plant them.

Justification: Spotted Lanternflies are an invasive species that are seriously damaging plants in New York State. They feed on over 70 different types of plants, including Grapevines and Maple trees, Fruit trees, and Hops, which weakens the plants and makes them more likely to get diseases. They also leave behind large amounts of sticky Honeydew, which causes Sooty mold to grow and blocks Photosynthesis. This reduces plant growth and fruit production, which hurts important industries like Wine, Maple Syrup, and Timber. Their population keeps increasing environmental and economic damage will only get worse. Research shows that milkweed contains natural toxins that can be harmful to certain insects. Milkweed is native to New York, easy to grow, and already supports Pollinators like Monarch Butterflies. Instead of relying only on chemical pesticides, this program offers a more natural, environmentally friendly approach. By distributing free seeds to gardening and hardware stores, New York State can involve everyday residents in helping fight this invasive species. This program is a simple, low-cost way to protect ecosystems, while also supporting pollinators.

Fiscal Implications: This bill would use a small portion of the Environmental Protection fund that is already dedicated to invasive species programs. Because the seeds would be purchased from local distributors and distributed through existing

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1 Bill #:69

stores, the overall cost would remain relatively low in the long run, and reducing damage to agriculture and forestry could help prevent a much larger economic loss.

Environmental Implications: This bill would reduce the need for harmful chemical pesticides and encourage the planting of native species. Increasing the Milkweed would strengthen an ecosystem and support pollinators overall. This program promotes a more sustainable, environmentally responsible way to manage invasive species.

Effective Date: 90 days after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:70

Sponsors: Nathalie West, Brianna Hernandez, Ashley Alegre, Raquel Blanco, and Omar Claros

An Act To: Amend sections 460 and 467 of the RPTL.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to revise amendment sections 460 and 467 RPTL that allow Clergy members and their spouse to have tax exemptions on their personal property.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Clergy: A Clergy member is a religious leader that performs services or ceremonies. This can include roles such as a minister, priest or rabbi.

RPTL: The real Property tax is a law that involves ownership of land or buildings; taxes vary as they are assessed based on local and community need and income. Property tax is calculated by multiplying your estimated property value by the percentage that your area is being taxed at. For example, if your home property is worth $500,000 and the property tax locally is 1.6% then you would do $500,000 x 1.6%.

Tax Exemptions: When you receive tax exemptions on your personal property what happens is that your estimated property value is reduced by a percentage, this allows you to pay your property tax at the same rate, but with a lower property value, reducing cost.

Section 2: Provisions Section 2: 2025-S8527 (Active)

Real Property Tax Law section to be amended-

"Provides that real property held in the cooperative form of ownership by a minister of the gospel, priest, or rabbi of any denomination, an actual resident and inhabitant of this state, who is engaged in the work assigned by the church or denomination of which such person is a member... shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of fifteen hundred dollars."

Justification: Tax Exemptions on property are given to groups such as Veterans, some government workers, Low income/disabled Americans, senior citizens and volunteer groups that can include firemen and ambulance paramedics. All of these listed individuals either provide for their community through charitable deeds, or inability to support oneself efficiently on their own. Our government steps in to assist good doing Americans or those who need help, which include the retired, injured, or struggling. On the contrary, Clergy members are a group that seems to stand apart from this list, and their tax exemption isn't given to them under a basis of good deed or struggle. Amendment section 460 was added in 1884, a time where over 60% of Americans identified as

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:70

Protestant Christian with another large percentage being another sector. This time when the lines between religion and government often blurred and affected lawmaking, think about cases such as the Scopes Trial. It is not uncommon to see religious groups earn special rights and privileges under the law. This bill seeks out to remove the property tax exemption that certain clergy members receive.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will cost nothing to the state; NYS may gain money from removing tax exemptions for clergy members.

Effective Date: 1/1/2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #: 71

Sponsors: Luis Soto, Darren Heitman, and Tristan Ng

An Act To: Amend penal law 485.05 to restrict hate crime offenders from accessing firearm

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prevent the use and ownership of firearms for hate crime offenders.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Hate crimes: a crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or similar grounds.

Section 2: Provisions § 485.05 Hate crimes.

1. A person commits a hate crime when he or she commits a specified offense and either:

(a) intentionally selects the person against whom the offense is committed or intended to be committed in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct, or

(b) intentionally commits the act or acts constituting the offense in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.

2. Proof of race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of the defendant, the victim or of both the defendant and the victim does not, by itself, constitute legally sufficient evidence satisfying the people's burden under paragraph (a) or (b) of subdivision one of this section.

(a) ""firearm"" broadly includes pistols, revolvers, short-barreled shotguns/rifles, assault weapons, and modified guns, but generally excludes antique firearms; the definition hinges on barrel length (shotguns <18"", rifles <16"") or overall length (<26"" for altered long guns) and often includes ""ghost guns"" or unserialized firearms, encompassing various weapons designed to expel projectiles by explosive force.

3. Any person who is convicted of a Hate Crime defined in Section (1) and (2) and who, within 10 years of the conviction owns, purchases, receives, or has in

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #: 71

possession or under custody or control, any firearm is guilty of a public offense, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding ten years or in the state prison.

Justification: Since 2013, the rate of civilians facing hate crimes has increased by 76.5% in New York state, there have been 1,089 registered cases of Hate Crimes, of the 1,089 registered cases, 7.5% of the cases resulted in homicide. In 2021 there were a total of 773 reported incidents of which aggravated assault would make up 10.3%. This is an alarming increase in aggravated assault incidents that show no signs of slowing down at all. Furthermore, if the firearm ban were to be extended it would create a safer environment and space for all residents of New York. Additionally, this bill may reduce the chance of repeat offenders because with the decade long ban, offenders may be able to reintegrate themselves back into society, where with the current five year ban they may not have enough time to change themselves resulting in repeating offenses and increases of violent hate crimes.

Fiscal Implications: There will be no fiscal implications for this bill

Effective Date: "This bill will go into effect one year after passage

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:72

Sponsors: Diana Duran, Chelsey Beluchukwu, Madison Grant Marion, and Kaitlyn Chalmers

An Act To: Regulate the construction and maintenance of multiple dwellings in New York, with provisions pertaining to rent stabilization and tenant protection (MDL).

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Help victims of gentrification rehome and bring them to stable housing.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Median : The middle value of an ordered dataset.

Gentrification: An influx of middle-class and upper-class people taking residence in originally poor areas and raising rent prices causing the displacement of the lower class.

Destabilizing: Incapable of functioning; to be unstable.

HCR: New York State Homes and Community Renewal, agency that manages housing programs and tenant productions in New York State.

Section 2: Provisions The median age for an American to buy a home is 59. This age varies when we consider local pricing and the environment, but the reality is that the average New Yorker in 2026 may never be able to afford a home. Brownstones, which were once passed down as inheritance, now sell for at least 2 million dollars. When we consider the number of empty buildings, homes, and apartments, the issue becomes much more complicated than originally assumed. Our program aims to reduce this issue by redistributing homes and apartments to native New Yorkers who have been negatively impacted by gentrification. We would achieve this by implementing an income-based tax limit on landlord-owned properties. For empty, unclaimed properties, we would take those under state ownership and allow them to be properly rented or sold to native New Yorkers.

Justification: Gentrification destabilizes millions of native community members. This process pushes them out of their homes and communities they helped build into new unfamiliar places. In New York state this issue is especially prevalent as in NYC millions of native New Yorkers were displaced due to the pandemic and the rising trend of moving there. This led to a large hike up in housing prices that further pushed natives out of their homes/communities. Our bill will help reverse these effects by helping raise the chances of native New York residents buying a home or renting an apartment in their neighborhoods.

Fiscal Implications: Funding of this program will directly be under the New York State homes and the community renewal (HCR) executive budget. This ensures that resources are available to the rehoming of native New Yorkers that were affected by the gentrification and can maintain affordable housing.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:72

Environmental Implications: "Gentrification impacts over 1.1 million low-income households." The move to New York not only affects housing prices but also increases gas emissions. NYC already holds 8.48 million people, so removing some residents to allow a larger group of newcomers into these already populated areas can create problems. "Air pollution from ozone and fine particulate matter can harm everybody but is especially dangerous for children, older adults, and people with lung diseases like COPD or asthma." - Claire Hsu (EARTH5r.org). The increase in the number of people moving into the city exposes them to these already dangerous conditions, making them more susceptible to harm. Displacement can leave some individuals homeless or force them to live in even worse areas.

Effective Date: January 1st 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:73

Sponsors: Rose Charles, Joelle Thomas, Chloee Phillips, Karla De La Cruz, and Isis Boateng

An Act To: Amend Section 215 of the New York State Workers' Compensation Law to provide paid maternity leave to public school teachers

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to provide paid maternity leave to public school teachers.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Maternity Leave- A period of time granted to a mother before and after the birth of her child

Family- A group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption

Sick day- A day taken off from work because of illness

Section 2: Provisions §215 Maternity Leave

The commissioner of taxation and finance shall be the custodian of the special fund for disability benefits and all disbursements therefrom shall be paid by him upon drafts signed by the chairman or those authorized by the chairman for that purpose. The commissioner of taxation and finance shall give a separate and additional bond in an amount to be fixed by and with sureties approved by the state comptroller conditioned for the faithful performance of his duty as custodian of the fund. This will guarantee that public school teachers will get paid during their maternity leave.

Justification: Being a teacher is one of the most crucial jobs on this planet. Children are the future and teachers work extra hard to prepare them for a world that was made to challenge them. This bill will ensure that public school teachers have pay on their maternity leave – a time that they are expected to recover from pregnancy and bond with their babies. The cost of having a baby is very expensive – costing roughly around $19,000 yearly – and using sick days in order to compensate for these lost funds is what a lot of these teachers are being pushed to do. Our goal is to make paid maternity leave mandatory so that teachers can feel safe going into their leave without having to worry about the security of their jobs along with their financial status.

Fiscal Implications: Public school teachers get paid through a combination of local, state, and federal taxes – local taxes being

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:73

the money collected from local businesses and homes. Essentially, teachers' salaries are around 44% of the School Aid budget. The School Aid budget for 2025 was $35.3 billion and was increased to $37.4 billion for 2026 – this amount continues to increase slightly every year. 44% of $37.4 billion is $16.4 billion which is the amount that is put aside to fund the salaries of teachers. There are roughly about 215,000 teachers in New York State which means that each teacher gets roughly around $76,000 yearly. The overall budget is enough money to provide pay for teachers when they go on maternity leave. Substitute teachers get paid separately from the School Aid budget which means that they are excluded from the funding that is set aside for the salaries of public-school teachers.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect beginning on January 1, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:74

Sponsors: Koko Takemoto, Ava Willmott, Emma DelGiudice, Helen Castaneda, and Henley Tuthill

An Act To: Amend Article 9, Subdivision 15 of Section 201 of the Workers' Compensation Law to provide Paid Family Leave for a minimum of two and a maximum of six weeks in the event of a miscarriage, stillbirth, or other non-live birth pregnancy outcome.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To allow individuals time to grieve the loss of a child and recover emotionally and physically without the stress of returning immediately to work

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Stillbirth: The loss of a pregnancy at or after 20 weeks of gestation in which the fetus dies in utero or during delivery and is born without signs of life.

Miscarriage: The spontaneous loss of an embryo or fetus prior to 20 weeks of gestation.

Non-Live pregnancy outcome: Any pregnancy that does not result in a live birth.

Postpartum recovery: The physical and emotional healing period following pregnancy loss or childbirth, typically lasting six to eight weeks or longer.

Paid leave: A program that provides partial wage replacement to eligible employees who take temporary leave for qualifying family or medical reasons, as provided under the Workers' Compensation Law.

Covered Employee: An employee eligible for Paid Family Leave benefits under Article 9 of the Workers' Compensation Law.

Section 2: Provisions

Amend Article 9, Subdivision 15 of Section 201 of the Workers' Compensation Law, to add the following: Provide Paid Family Leave for a minimum of two and a maximum of six weeks in the event of a miscarriage, stillbirth, or other non-live birth pregnancy outcome.

Following a miscarriage, stillbirth, or other non-live birth pregnancy outcome, a covered employee shall be entitled to a minimum of two weeks of paid family leave. During this period, the covered employee may receive additional leave upon certification by a licensed medical provider that the initial two weeks are insufficient due to medical or psychological necessity resulting from the pregnancy loss. Such certification shall specify the amount of additional leave recommended, not to exceed six weeks in total, and shall be submitted by the covered employee to the employer with appropriate documentation. Upon receipt, the employer shall comply with the leave determination.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:74

Justification: Each year, around 21,000 to 26,000 pregnancies end in stillbirth in the U.S, affecting around 1 in 175 pregnancies. Stillbirth can have devastating psychological, physical and social costs, with ongoing effects on interpersonal relationships and subsequently born children. (National Library of Medicine) Nearly 20% of women who experience a miscarriage become symptomatic for depression and/or anxiety; in a majority of those affected, symptoms persist for 1 to 3 years, impacting quality of life and subsequent pregnancies. (National Library of Medicine) Parents also experience financial consequences related to lost income, additional healthcare expenses and funeral expenses. They may find it difficult or impossible to receive any benefits to which they are entitled, such as maternity leave; or they may find that these benefits are not extended to parents of stillborn babies. (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) Research examining different types of pregnancy loss demonstrates significant short- and long-term mental health impacts on women and their partners, including increased risk of depression, anxiety, and prolonged emotional distress. Studies also identify specific risk factors that make some individuals more vulnerable to lasting psychological effects, highlighting the importance of structured support and recovery time following pregnancy loss (National Library of Medicine).

Fiscal Implications: No new state funding or tax increases are required. Paid Family Leave is funded through existing employee payroll contributions under Article 9 of the Workers' Compensation Law and will be administered through the current program, resulting in minimal administrative costs and no direct financial burden on employers.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:75

Sponsors: Charlie Wright and Grace Anderson

An Act To: An act to amend New York State Tax Law article 28 section 1115-1A requiring non-tax exempt non-alcoholic beverages to have warning labels should they exceed 15 grams of added sugars per serving or contain certain artificial sweeteners.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To provide awareness and knowledge to consumers about the effects of added sugars and artificial sweeteners on overall health.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Added Sugars: Sugars added to foods and beverages by manufacturers during processing.

Artificial Sweeteners/Sugar Alcohols: Chemicals used to sweeten foods or beverages without increasing calorie content, including but not limited to: stevia, xylitol, sorbitol, sucralose, erythritol, advantame, acesulfame potassium, saccharin, aspartame, and neotame.

Natural Sugars: Sugars found naturally in foods, such as fructose, lactose, glucose, and sucrose.

Beverage: Any liquid intended and sold for human consumption. Included but not limited to soft drinks, sodas, fruit juices, sugar-sweetened beverages, and energy drinks.

Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSBs): Non-alcoholic drinks with any form of added or natural sweetener.

Section 2: Provisions

Add below New York State Tax Law Article 28 § 1115-1(A) Sections 1115 (1)(B) and 1115 (1)(C):

Section 1115 (1)(B):

NYS Health Department will require labeling on all SSBs and artificially sweetened beverages in the above tax code should they exceed 15 grams of added sugars per serving or contain previously defined artificial sweeteners. The label will be created by the NYS Department of Health and will state "Warning: This product has high content of sugars and/or artificial sweeteners that can lead to negative health impacts."

Section 1115 (1)(C):

Failure to comply will result in a 5% fine of the retail price of the unit for the beverage manufacturer. If beverage manufacturers fail to add the required label mandated by the New York State Health Department to drinks after three months, a 1% fine increase will be issued for each following month of noncompliance.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:75

Justification: Sugar intake is one of the largest causes of most major health issues such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, etc. However, consumers are not always informed about these risks. According to a 2024 study done by Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, an estimated 2.2 million new cases of type 2 diabetes and 1.2 million new cases of cardiovascular diseases each year have been caused by SSBs. Additionally, studies conducted by Harvard Medical School released in a 2022 report finds that people who consumed 17% of their calories through added sugars had a 38% higher risk of dying from a cardiovascular disease. These studies highlight the severity of the health impacts due to sugar intake. The recommended daily intake of sugar is 25 grams within that, 42.2% of your daily sugar intake comes from sodas, energy drinks, and sports drinks. Currently the EU requires labels on most pre-packaged foods and drinks to inform consumers of included sugar content. As a result of this policy, the EU has seen a significant reduction of sugar intake through SSBs and an increase in the consumption of healthier, low sugar or natural alternatives (International Journal of Public Health). These policies have seen massive success internationally, and providing sugar warning labels on SSBs in New York State should have similar results in terms of lowering sales, and consequentially lowering numbers of health issues caused by high sugar and artificial sweetener intake.

Fiscal Implications: The passage of this bill will decrease the sale of non-tax exempt non-alcoholic beverages and decrease the tax revenue raised from thesebeverages. This bill is estimated to reduce the sale of such beverages by 17% costing New York an estimated $67.4 million in lost tax revenue per year.

Environmental Implications: The social environmental impact of this bill will increase consumer awareness and decrease sales of beverages which contain added sugars and artificial sweeteners. The environmental impact will be minimal as it requires only a slight change to the preexisting manufacturing process for label design and bottling. This bill will also lead to less SSBs being sold in New York State, causing less materials to be used.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:76

Sponsors: Alexa Phipps, Molly O'Sullivan, Eghosa Ikhinmwin, and Jadyn Nham

An Act To: Amend § 358-a and b of the Social Service laws in relation to extending time for Dependent children in foster care

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To extend time from 30 to 90 days, the biological parent will now have 90 consecutive days to prove they are eligible to return to their biological child while that child is in the foster care system. This time will help biological parents to improve their behavior and conduct themselves to be better members of society.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Biological parent: Biological parents are the natural mother and father who conceived a child, contributing their genes (DNA) to its creation, distinct from adoptive or legal parents who raise the child but aren't genetically related.

Biological Child: A person who shares a genetic relationship with one or both parents.

Foster Care: Provides temporary, safe housing for children removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, or parental inability, placing them with licensed caregivers (like relatives, foster parents, or in group homes) until they can be reunified with their birth family, placed for adoption, or achieve another stable, permanent living situation, with the primary goal being the child's safety, well-being, and permanent placement.

Housing: A shelter used as a dwelling or living space by individuals, families, or a collective.

Section 2: Provisions (a) A social services official who accepts or proposes to accept the custody and guardianship of a child by means of an instrument executed pursuant to the provisions of section three hundred eighty-four of this chapter, or the care and custody of a child as a public charge by means of an instrument executed pursuant to the provisions of section three hundred eighty-four-a of this chapter, shall determine whether such child is likely to remain in the care of such official for a period in excess of ~~thirty~~ ninety consecutive days. If such official determines that the child is likely to remain in care for a period in excess of ~~thirty~~ ninety consecutive days, such official shall petition the family court judge of the county or city in which the social services official has his or her office, to approve such instrument upon a determination that the placement of the child is in the best interest of the child, that it

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2 Bill #:76

would be contrary to the welfare of the child to continue in his or her own home and, that where appropriate, reasonable efforts were made prior to the placement of the child into foster care to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his or her home and that prior to the initiation of the court proceeding required to be held by this subdivision, reasonable efforts were made to make it possible for the child to return safely home. In the case of a child whose care and custody have been transferred to a social services official by means of an instrument executed pursuant to the provisions of section three hundred eighty-four-a of this chapter, approval of the instrument shall only be made upon an additional determination that all of the requirements of such section have been satisfied.

* (b) The social services official shall initiate the proceeding by filing the petition as soon as practicable, but in no event later than ~~thirty~~ ninety days following removal of the child from the home provided, however, that the court shall receive, hear and determine petitions filed later than ~~thirty~~ ninety days following removal of the child from his or her home, but state reimbursement shall not be available to the social services district for care and maintenance provided to such child. The social services official shall diligently pursue such proceeding. Where the care and custody of a child as a public charge has been transferred to a social services official by means of an instrument executed pursuant to the provisions of section three hundred eighty-four-a of this chapter for a period of ~~thirty~~ ninety days or less for an indeterminate period which such official deems unlikely to exceed ~~thirty~~ ninety days, and thereafter such official determines that such child will remain in his or her care and custody for a period in excess of thirty ninety days, such official shall, as soon as practicable but in no event later than ~~thirty~~ ninety days following such determination, execute with the child's parent, parents or guardian a new instrument pursuant to the provision of section three hundred eighty-four or three hundred eighty-four-a of this chapter and shall file a petition in family court, pursuant to this section, for approval of such instrument. In such cases involving a social services official, expenditures for the care and maintenance of such child from the date of the initial transfer of his care and custody

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to the social services official shall be subject to state reimbursement.

Justification: Some experts say it takes a minimum of 66 days for the brain to adopt a new habit or break an old one. Following this idea, our bill would implement 90 days to ensure an expanded period of time for positive changes. These changes are to safeguard healthy influences and behaviors to be reflected on the child. This bill will guarantee a proper amount of time for a child's biological parent to hopefully break negative habits and properly care for their child. Many parents face structural barriers such as housing insecurity, employment instability, or delayed access to counseling that cannot be reasonably resolved within thirty days. By allowing additional time, this legislation promotes family reunification while prioritizing the long-term best interests and safety of the child.

Fiscal Implications: Increased time spent in the foster care system will require additional board rates for the extended amount of days. Costs per month vary depending on age of the child, medical needs, and location in the state(Metro/Upstate). Funding of board rates, determined by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, requires the federal government to cover 50% of foster care costs. The remaining costs are covered by NY state and local districts using taxpayer subsidies. There will be short-term increases in foster care maintenance. However these costs may change due to a reduction in the number of permanent foster placements. Overall, the costs decrease over time.

Environmental Implications: This bill has no direct environmental implications regarding land use, natural resources etc, but the prolonged amount of time the child is in the foster care system may affect their ability to interact socially.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect 180 days after its passage.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:77

Sponsors: Lorelai Thomas, Gabriel Villacis, and John Wiesman

An Act To: Amend Chapter 11-A, Part 2, Title H, Article 160 § 160.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law, to collect fingerprints at the time of any arrest, including some first time DWIs, "notice to appear", family offenses, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and in many cases, unclassified misdemeanors and violations.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To expand New York's fingerprint database and ensure that fingerprints are collected at the time of any arrest to strengthen investigations, prevent repeat offenses, and bring justice to victims more effectively.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Fingerprinting: A record of identification based on specific characteristics of an individual's fingers

All Arrests: The legal act of taking a person into custody to hold them accountable for their actions related to a public offense or crime.

Criminal: A person who has broken a law or been found guilty of committing a crime.

Minor Infraction: A small violation or less serious offense punished by a fine or up to 15 days in jail; less serious than misdemeanors or felonies.

Misdemeanor: A criminal offense less severe than a felony but more serious than a minor infraction, generally sentenced to up to one year in local or county jail.

Felony: A serious crime involving violence or significant harm, categorized as more severe than a misdemeanor, generally ranging from one year in prison up to life without parole.

Violation: The act of breaking a public law, categorized as less severe than a misdemeanor, sentence ranging from 0 to 15 days.

Section 2: Provisions § 160.10 — Fingerprinting; duties of police with respect thereto 1. Following arrest or other detention for an offense defined in any statute of this state, the arresting or detaining officer shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of such person, if the offense is a felony or a misdemeanor defined in the penal law. 2. The fingerprints taken shall be forwarded to the division of criminal justice services in the manner and time prescribed by that division. ~~3. In all other cases, fingerprinting shall not be required unless the court so directs~~. 3. All individuals arrested under the laws of the State of New York, regardless of offense level, shall have fingerprints collected at the time of arrest.This includes arrests for violations, misdemeanors, or felonies, unless an exemption under subdivision 5 applies. 4. Exemptions. Fingerprints shall not be required if: (a) the individual is under the age of sixteen; (b) the arrest is solely for a traffic infraction, local ordinance violation, or other minor non-criminal offense where no further criminal proceeding is anticipated; or (c) the individual's fingerprints were already collected for the same charge within the previous thirty (30) days. 5. All fingerprints collected under this section shall be securely transmitted to the Division of Criminal Justice Services within twenty-four (24) hours of collection and entered into the statewide biometric database for matching and recordkeeping. 6. The Division of Criminal Justice Services shall establish rules regarding data retention, expungement, and privacy protections to ensure compliance with constitutional and statutory safeguards.

Justification: Approximately 61% of criminals arrested in New York State in 2024 were taken into custody without having their fingerprints taken. This gap allows potential repeat offenders to evade detection. If enacted, this bill would ensure that all individuals arrested have their fingerprints placed into the system. If any of these individuals were to commit a more serious crime later, their prints would already be on record, making it easier to track, identify, and arrest them. As of March 2014, the DCJS adds an average of 500 new fingerprint cards to its database every day. Fingerprints can be accessed within 24 hours of the finger prints being added to the database, giving officers access to these fingerprints. This access period is only open to authorized persons, unless specified by the court of law. Fingerprinting is already standard practice, this bill just makes it consistent. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 41% of cases with no felony charge lack fingerprint records. In many cold cases, missing prints are the only barrier between a name and a conviction. Additionally fingerprinting infrastructure already exists in every precinct, adding no cost to taxpayers

Fiscal Implications: There are no known fiscal implications for this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:78

Sponsors: Julian Hernandez, Jaylene Reyes, and Darell Milceus
An Act To: Amend Chapter 16, Title 1, Article 19, Section 912, of the New York State Health and Welfare Services to All Children to include quarterly mental health checks for all students by licensed professionals.
The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:
Purpose: This bill aims to help students that may struggle with their mental health by pairing them with a mental health professional that they could trust to give them a safe space to talk about their problems.
Summary of Provisions
Section 1: Definitions
Mental health: your social, psychological, and social well being that affects how think or feel, and handle the world around you
Mental health professional: people who are licensed counselors, psychiatrists, therapists, and psychologists
Check-in: a one-to-one session between a student and a trained psychologist
Section 2: Provisions This bill would have mental health professionals go to schools every three months (quarterly) to schools and meet with students during a time that is coordinated with school officials.
Students will have scheduled session times, during which they will be meeting and checking in with the professional for approximately 10 minutes. If additional time is needed, the student can arrange time outside of school with the professional.
Five minutes into one student's session, the next scheduled student will be called down to streamline the transition process.
Justification: This bill is important because many children do not have access to therapy and/or proper counseling due to financial limitations or lack of knowledge in how to seek out help. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in six adolescents aged 12-17 experience a major depressive episode each year, and one in nine adolescents aged 12-17 have serious thoughts of suicide in the state of New York. This bill will also help with the stigma that revolves around mental health, as some people might feel ashamed or scared to talk out about how they feel.
Fiscal Implications: There will be no fiscal implications, as all medical professionals who agree to this practice would be volunteering their time free of charge.
Effective Date: This bill will take effect September 1st, 2027 – prior to the start of the 2027-28 school year

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:79

Sponsors: Isabella Ayala, Anise Cobb-Rountree, and Lilly Lopez
An Act To: Amend §168-h, subsection 2 of the correction law to require sex offenders to register for life.
The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:
Purpose: To make sure people in society feel safe in their communities with resources such as Sex Offenders Registry List, data points of the nearest offender in their area, and most recent updates on the registry list regardless of time has passed since the initial registry.
Summary of Provisions
Section 1: Definitions
Sex Offender: an individual convicted of a sexual offense, which involves sexual contact or acts.
Recidivism: the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.
Sex Offender Registry: registry is a system in various countries designed to allow government authorities to keep track of the activities of sex offenders, including those who have completed their criminal sentences.
Section 2: Provisions
§168-h. Duration of registration and verification 1. The duration of registration and verification for a sex offender who has not been designated a sexual predator, or a sexually violent offender, or a predicate sex offender, and who is classified as a level one risk, or who has not yet received a risk level classification, shall be annually for a period of twenty years from the initial date of registration. 2. The duration of registration and verification for a sex offender who, on or after March eleventh, two thousand two, is designated a sexual predator, or a sexually violent offender, or a predicate sex offender, or who is classified as a level two or level three risk, shall be annually for life. Notwithstanding the foregoing~~, a sex offender who is classified as a level two risk and who is not designated a sexual predator, a sexually violent offender or a predicate sex offender, may be relieved of the duty to register and verify as provided by subdivision one of section one hundred sixty-eight-o of this article.~~ Under no circumstance should a sex offender's name be taken off the registration unless the defendant's charges have been dropped. 3. Any sex offender having been designated a level three, two, or one risk, or a sexual predator shall also personally verify his or her address every ninety calendar days with the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the offender resides.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:79

Justification: People deserve to have the knowledge of the sex offenders in their area and if sexual predators can be taken off the list, that can't happen. People deserve to have that knowledge. When sexual predators are removed from the list, this knowledge is endangered. We live in a society where people use their judgment on what they think is remotely rational or pragmatic to act upon their thoughts and their actions and think that they can get away with it no matter what gender you are, they'll still use an act of assault against you to make them feel more powerful The percent of offenders who reoffend, also known as the recidivism rate, varies by time frame and jurisdiction, but a common figure from the Bureau of Justice Statistics is that 66% of people released from prison were re-arrested within three years, while 82% were re-arrested within a decade. Rates depend on factors like the type of crime, prior record, and individual circumstances such as employment or substance use. 215 per 100,000 residents in New York State are taken off and or still on the Sex Offenders Registry List. These people should not be taken off the list at all. Level 1 (Low Risk): Requires 20 years of registration. Level 2 (Moderate Risk): Requires lifetime registration, but a Level 2 offender who is not a sexual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender can petition the court for relief after 30 years. Level 3 (High Risk): Requires lifetime registration. Designated Offenders: Sexual predators, sexually violent offenders, or predicate sex offenders must register for life, regardless of their assigned risk level. We are trying to make it so under no circumstance that sex offenders are taken off the list. This is an act of safety to those in their communities and in their lives to make them feel as though their home is actually a safe place and not a hostile environment that's withholding secrets.

Fiscal Implications: No foreseen environmental implications to this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:80

Sponsors: Marissa Fifield, Vannessa Heckman, and Grace Rosenthal

An Act To: Amend Section 1180-B, Chapter 71, Title 7, Article 30 of the Vehicle and Traffic law

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To deny traffic enforcement cameras to be used as evidence against individuals.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

6th amendment: The natural right to a quick and fair trial.

Traffic cameras: A traffic enforcement camera (also known as a red light camera, speed camera, road safety camera, bus lane camera, depending on use) is a camera that takes an image of the license plate/driver of a vehicle committing a traffic violation.

Section 2: Provisions (A) shall be available for inspection and copying and use by the motor vehicle owner and operator for so long as such photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded images are required to be maintained or are maintained by such public entity, employee, officer or Agent, and shall not be used as evidence against individuals for any type of wrongful motor vehicle operation, such as speeding;

Justification: Municipalities (New York State, counties, cities or towns) generate millions of dollars from minor traffic violations, making cameras seem more like money grabbers than safety measures. Removing traffic cameras would protect safe drivers, ensure accountability, and allow resources to focus on effective traffic safety strategies like targeted law enforcement, road improvements, and driver education. Automated traffic cameras are unfair because they issue tickets to the vehicle owner rather than the actual driver. This means someone who lent their car or had it stolen can be fined for actions they didn't commit, undermining basic principles of justice. Studies also show these cameras have limited safety benefits and increase rear-end collisions by 15%. In addition, one in four tickets issued by an automated camera are given incorrectly.

Fiscal Implications: There will be minimal Fiscal implications related to vehicle ticket revenue. Trained police officers will be responsible for issuing more tickets. This will make up for any revenue lost by not using traffic cameras.

Effective Date: "If passed, this bill will go into effect January 1st, 2027.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:81

Sponsors: Arleen Rivera, Isaiah Williams, and Bella Ceron

An Act To: To amend Article 9, Section 409-f of the Education Laws of New York to add floor mounted door barricades to all public school doors.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to protect teachers, and students from unwarranted entrance into classroom and school buildings.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Floor Mounted Door barricade: A high-security device anchored directly into the floor behind a door to prevent it from swinging inward. It acts as a, typically removable, metal stopper that utilizes the strength of the floor itself to withstand immense force, such as kick-ins or battering rams.

Section 2: Provisions §409-f Every door located on public school grounds shall be equipped with a floor mounted door barricade to ensure higher safety standards.

Justification: This bill should pass to ensure staff who are undergoing any anxious feedback surrounding safety in an educational institution a sense of protection and stability. This bill is not only to ensure anxious staff and students in the school building, but it is also for additional safety. The floor mounted door barricade device has been tested and proven to be safe and secure. In the state of New York, there are about 4,394 to 4,800 public schools. Since 2019, New York State has an estimated total of 176 school shootings.

Fiscal Implications: Each floor mounted door barricade costs around $40 to over $200. Professional installation for these security devices can add $60 or more per door, depending on location and quantity.

Environmental Implications: This product uses natural and rigid materials like solid brass, stainless steel, aluminum, and/or hardwoods such as oak and acacia.

Effective Date: This law will be in effect no later than two years after passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:82

Sponsors: Bowe Schlansker and Aris Pappas

An Act To: An act to amend New York State Corrections Law article 7 section 187 requiring the establishment of a minimum wage for working prisoners under state law.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To establish a minimum wage for those in correctional institutions.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Incarcerated individual: A person who has been committed to the custody of a correctional facility.

State correctional facility: A facility run by and funded by the state of New York that's purpose is to confine and rehabilitate individuals convicted of crimes.

Nonpersonal service: An agreement where the contractor's team works independently to complete specific tasks, without being directly supervised by the hiring organization, usually the government.

Section 2: Provisions

187. Earnings of incarcerated individuals. 1. Every incarcerated individual confined in a state correctional facility, subject to the rules and regulations of the department of corrections and community supervision, and every incarcerated individual confined in a local Correctional facility, in the discretion of the sheriff thereof, may receive compensation for work performed during his or her imprisonment. Such compensation shall be graded by the department of corrections and community supervision with regard to incarcerated individuals employed in prison industries, based upon the work performed by such prisoners for prisoners confined in state correctional facilities, and by the sheriffs in all local correctional facilities for incarcerated individuals confined therein. 2. The department of corrections and community supervision shall adopt rules, subject to the approval of the director of the budget, for establishing in all of the state correctional facilities a system of compensation for the incarcerated individuals confined therein. Such rules shall provide for the payment of compensation to each incarcerated individual, who shall meet the requirements established by the department of corrections and community supervision, based upon the work performed by such incarcerated individuals. 3. The department shall prepare graded wage schedules for incarcerated individuals, which schedules shall be based upon classifications according to the value of work performed by each. Such schedules need not be uniform in all institutions. The rules of the department shall also provide for the

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:82

establishment of a credit system for each incarcerated individual and the manner in which such earnings shall be paid to the incarcerated individual or his or her dependents or held in trust for him or her until his or her release. 4. Any compensation paid to an incarcerated individual under this article shall be based on the work performed by such incarcerated individual. Compensation may be paid from moneys appropriated to the department and available to facilities for nonpersonal service. At minimum, an individual must be paid one-sixth of the current new york state minimum wage, as established under article 19 of the labor law.

Justification: About 70-80% of those in NYS correctional facilities are participating in work programs while serving their sentence. Despite performing consistent labor that supports state operations and programs (sometimes even private companies), these individuals are consistently compensated at rates far below established labor standards, in some cases their wages being as little as fractions of a cent per hour. Labor practices like this raise serious concerns regarding forced labor. Additionally, almost four-fifths of incarcerated individuals come from a low income household. Many families lose a primary source of income when a working member of their family is sentenced to time in a state correctional facility. Establishing a minimum wage for incarcerated workers would help lessen exploitative labor conditions and allow for those assigned to work programs to contribute to household earnings. Furthermore, providing fair compensation for prison labor promotes rehabilitation as well as reentry into society as it minimizes financial instability after release. For these reasons, the creation of a minimum wage for those in correctional facilities promotes equality, economic freedom and public wellbeing.

Fiscal Implications: This act will result in increased operational costs to the state due to higher wages paid to incarcerated workers. However, these costs may be partially offset by improved rehabilitation and a lower likelihood of incarceration. Additionally, increased earnings may lessen financial burdens on families and communities and may lessen long-term reliance on public assistance.

Effective Date: This act shall take into effect 2 years after it is passed

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:83

Sponsors: Mario Novello, Maya Bautista, Remi Kuczinski, Claire Delgado, and Lia Ferrara

An Act To: Amend § 35.15 Defense of Justification; use of physical force in defense of a person.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure that the law of Justification (Self-Defense) in New York State correctly recognizes the psychological reality that victims of long-term domestic violence experience by mandating that a defendant's history of abuse be a relevant factor in determining the rationale of their actions. This bill closes a gap that penalizes survivors for acting based on a pattern of fear and abuse rather than solely an immediate, singular threat.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Domestic Violence Survivor: any individual who has been a victim of a ""family offense"" as described in the New York Family Court Act § 812, or who has been subjected to a pattern of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse by a ""family or household member.""

Pattern of Abuse: a constant or repeated series of acts over a period of time, including but not limited to physical assault, threats of violence, emotional coercion, and economic control, which creates a reasonable fear of future harm in the victim.

Imminent Threat: the reasonable belief of a survivor that a renewal of a pattern of violence is certain to occur, even if a physical strike is not currently in progress.

Hyper-Vigilance: a state of extreme, chronic alertness and scanning for threats, often acting as a survival response to trauma, anxiety or ptsd

Section 2: Provisions § 35.15 Justification; use of physical force in defense of a person.

1. A person may, subject to the provisions of subdivision two, use physical force upon another person when and to the extent he or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to defend himself, herself or a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force by such other person, unless:

(a) The latter's conduct was provoked by the actor with intent to cause physical injury to another person; or

(b) The actor was the initial aggressor; except that in such case the use of physical force is nevertheless justifiable if the actor has withdrawn from the encounter and effectively communicated such

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:83

withdrawal to such other person but the latter persists in continuing the incident by the use or threatened imminent use of unlawful physical force; or

(c) The physical force involved is the product of a combat by agreement not specifically authorized by law.

(d) In any prosecution where the defendant raises a defense of justification under this section, evidence that the defendant was a victim of a pattern of domestic violence, physical abuse, or psychological coercion perpetrated by the person against whom the force was directed shall be admissible and relevant to the determination of whether the defendant's belief in the necessity of using physical force was reasonable; in making such a determination, the trier of fact shall consider the cumulative effect of this prior abuse on the defendant's state of mind and their perception of the imminence and severity of the threat.

Justification: Current New York law regarding self-defense uses an ""objective"" standard, requiring that a defendant's belief in the necessity of using force be what a ""reasonable person"" would believe in the same situation. This standard is fundamentally flawed when applied to survivors of systemic domestic abuse. The constant, psychological terror experienced by a survivor creates a state of hyper-vigilance that is not reflected in the traditional ""reasonable person"" test. This bill addresses a critical loophole by ensuring that the jury is legally required to consider the full context of the abuse, the history, the pattern of violence, and the psychological impact when evaluating the defendant's state of mind. Without this amendment, survivors who defend themselves not during an active assault, but during a brief pause in the pattern of violence, fearing a renewal of the attack, can be unjustly convicted because a traditional juror might not perceive the threat as ""imminent"" enough. This bill provides a long-overdue measure of justice, ensuring that the law protects victims, not their abusers.

Fiscal Implications: The implementation of this bill may result in an initial increase in expenses for local District Attorneys' Offices and the Judiciary, primarily due to the cost of expert witness testimony and potentially longer trial times. Based on current market rates in New York, expert witnesses specializing in trauma and domestic violence typically charge between $250 and $500 per hour for case review and testimony, leading to an estimated additional cost of $3,000 to $5,000 per trial. Furthermore, providing a comprehensive history of abuse may extend trial durations by an average of 1 to 2 days, increasing court operating costs. However,

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this bill is projected to yield significant long-term savings for New York State. By correctly applying the self-defense justification to cases involving domestic violence survivors, the state will avoid the tremendous cost of unwarranted incarceration, which currently averages $100,000+ per inmate per year. The potential savings resulting from just a handful of acquittals for survivors facing long sentences would offset the initial increase in trial costs, thereby improving both justice and fiscal responsibility.

Effective Date: "This bill will be effective 1 year after passage.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:84

Sponsors: Eva Lisi and Taylor Stone

An Act To: Amend the New York Penal Law § 230.00 to legalize prostitution within a licensed and regulated framework, establish enforceable safety and public health standards, impose taxation, allocate revenue to anti-trafficking and public health services, and retain criminal penalties for unlicensed operations.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce the mistreatment and trafficking of sex workers, make sexual health resources more accessible, and earn revenue for New York State.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Prostitution: Engaging in sexual activity in exchange for money.

STI (Sexually transmitted infection): An infection caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites transmitted mainly through sexual contact, that may or may not cause symptoms.

STD (Sexually transmitted disease): A disease developing from a sexually transmitted infection that causes symptoms or health complications.

Safety Parameters: Required protective barriers meant to prevent violence, trafficking, and disease. These include required contraceptives, documentation of workers and customers, panic buttons in service rooms, health inspections by state or county officials, medical reports, and an age requirement of 21+.

Sexual Health Resources: Healthcare, education, and prevention services to support physical and emotional sexual health.

Section 2: Provisions Penal Code § 230.00: A law that currently categorizes prostitution as a Class B misdemeanor, involving engaging in or offering sexual conduct for a fee. We would like to amend it as follows:

Penal Law § 230.00 Prostitution (Amended). A person engages in prostitution when they exchange sexual conduct for money, but the person selling sex should not be charged or arrested for these acts, as long as there are no minors involved and no force, trafficking, or pressure, and prostitution would be legal only in licensed, state-regulated facilities that follow health and safety rules, meaning selling sex itself is not a crime, while anyone who runs, manages, or makes money from an unlicensed prostitution business can still be punished, and nothing in this law is meant to allow trafficking, abuse, or exploitation.

Regulatory Standards for Licensed Establishments

a) Licensing of Establishments.

The State of New York shall create a licensing system for prostitution establishments. No individual or business may operate a prostitution establishment without a state-issued license.

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(b) Worker Licensing.

Individuals working within a licensed establishment must obtain a state-issued worker license. Licensing fees for individual workers will be reasonable and structured to encourage their participation in the regulated system.

(c) Safety and Operational Requirements.

Licensed establishments must follow these standards:

1. Installation of panic buttons in all service rooms.
2. On-site security staff during hours of operation.
3. Mandatory use of protective barriers to prevent STIs.
4. Regular health and safety inspections conducted regularly by appropriate state or county officials.
5. Verification that all workers are at least 21 years of age.

(d) Compensation Structure.

Workers must receive no less than 50% of all service fees. Licensed establishments may keep no more than 50% of service fees for operational expenses.

(e) Taxation.

1. Worker earnings will be subject only to standard state and federal income taxation. No additional specialty tax shall be asked of an individual worker's income.
2. Competitive and reasonable rates will be set by the state, encouraging clients to procure services from licensed establishments, with a state usage tax imposed upon prostitution service transactions at a rate established by the Department of Revenue, not to exceed 30%, in order to generate public revenue.
3. Licensed establishments will be charged standard state business taxation with an additional low industry-specific rate of 3% tax to provide cost recovery for regulatory oversight and enforcement, in addition to annual licensing fees.

(f) Enforcement.

Any prostitution services outside of this licensed and regulated framework will remain subject to criminal penalties under a revised Penal Code § 230.00.

(g) Oversight.

The Department of Health, Department of Labor, and Department of Revenue will oversee health, labor, and taxation standards established under this Act.

(h) Decriminalization of Individual Workers.

Individuals engaging in prostitution within or outside licensed establishments will not be subject to criminal penalties solely for engaging in sex work. Criminal penalties will be enforced only against the operators of unlicensed establishments, solicitation of minors, or other violations of this Act."

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3 Bill #:84

Justification: Sex work is often perceived as dangerous, immoral, and exploitative. This perception has shaped policy for decades. However, our bill challenges this assumption, distinguishing between the work itself and the system in which it currently operates. Sex work is not inherently harmful. What makes it harmful is its criminalization. When an industry is forced underground, workers lack access to legal protection, healthcare, workplace standards, and safe reporting mechanisms. Criminalization does not eliminate demand; it eliminates oversight. Under a regulated framework, sex work can operate with enforceable safety standards, health protections, labor rights, and transparent business operations. Regulation allows the state to monitor exploitation, identify tracking, and hold abusers accountable. tools that are severely weakened under criminalization. Furthermore, legalization creates numerous economic benefits. Rather than wasting public funds on arrests, court processing, and incarceration, revenue generated through licensing and taxation can be reinvested into anti-trafficking enforcement, public healthcare access, and exit services for individuals who wish to leave the industry. This bill does not romanticize sex work; it recognizes that exploitation and violence exist, but it reinforces that criminalization only increases the potential for harm for already at-risk individuals. By shifting from punishment to regulation, the state can reduce harm and protect individual autonomy while generating a profit. There has been little effort to reform the current laws surrounding prostitution, and it's clear that our current legislation has not eliminated the issue. This reform offers the opportunity to address this practice responsibly, with care and concern for sex workers.

Fiscal Implications: Based on population-proportional comparisons to Nevada's regulated brothel system, New York State could generate approximately $200–250 million annually in revenue from excise taxes, business taxes, and licensing fees. Actual revenue would depend on design, participation rates, and compliance with requirements.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:85

Sponsors: Carter Foran, Parker Shippee, Carter Smith, Lillian Millington, and Michael Miller

An Act To: Amend section 3306 of Article 33 of the NYS PBH to increase the classification to Schedule II of Tianeptine to make it less accessible to people.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To change the classification (schedule) of Tianeptine to make it more restricted in NYS, and less accessible to people.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Schedule: The classification used to categorize drugs based on their danger, addictiveness, and acceptance of being used medically.

Tianeptine: An antidepressant that is extremely addictive and is readily available across state.

Section 2: Provisions Schedule II. (a) Schedule II shall consist of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official name, common or usual name, chemical name, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(b) Substances, vegetable origin or chemical synthesis. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any of the following substances whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis: (1) Tianeptine.

Justification: In New York State many drugs are able to pass as just legal enough where they are too accessible by people. These drugs lead to addictions which can harm someone's mental and physical health. They have the potential to ruin the lives of many people. This bill would ensure that more harmful drugs would be more carefully watched by the state, making them less accessible to adults and teens alike, and creating an overall improvement to the lives of New Yorkers as a whole.

Fiscal Implications: Little to none.

Effective Date: Jan. 1st 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:86

Sponsors: Martin Milazzo, Toshi Shiga, and Cole Senior

An Act To: Amend Article 65 Of Education Law, § 3210-2b to allow high school students 3 mental health days to request at their discretion.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The Purpose of this bill is to support the mental and emotional well-being of high school students by allowing up to 3 excused mental health days per academic year. This bill recognizes that students sometimes require time away from school to manage stress, anxiety, depression, or emotional distress in order to remain healthy and academically successful.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Excused Absence: a school-approved, legitimate reason for missing class, requiring prior notice from a student or parent/legal guardian's verbal note/call communication to avoid being marked as absent, allowing students to make up missed work

High School Student: A student in grades between 9th grade and 12th grade

School District: a geographical unit for the local administration of schools

Mental Health Day: A planned day for the reasons that include, but not be limited to, a student taking time away from school to address emotional distress, anxiety, depression, trauma, or other mental health conditions that impair the students ability to participate fully in the school day

Section 2: Provisions §3210-2b Absence. Absence from required attendance shall be permitted only for causes allowed by the general rules and practices of the public schools. Absence for religious observance ~~and~~ , education and mental or behavioral health reasons shall be permitted under rules that the commissioner shall establish.

For the purpose of this section a ¨mental or behavioral health reason¨ shall include, but not be limited to, a student's need to take time away from school to address emotional distress, anxiety, depression, trauma, or other mental health conditions that impair the students ability to participate fully in the school day.

Each school district shall permit a student to be absent for up to 3 excused absences per academic year for reasons pertaining to mental or behavioral health. Such absences shall be deemed excused and shall not require the submission of a medical note or formal diagnosis, provided such absence is approved at the discretion of a school social worker or other licensed mental health professional employed by the district. Such absences shall not be recorded as unexcused absences, shall not result in disciplinary action, and shall not negatively affect a student's academic standing or eligibility for school sponsored activities.

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Justification: Mental health challenges with teenagers have increased significantly in recent years, especially due to academic pressure, social stress and the lasting effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the CDC´s article on ¨Poor Mental Health Effects Adolescent Well-being¨ in 2023, more than 1 in 3 high school students report experiencing persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. When students are forced to attend school while emotionally overwhelmed, their academic performance, behavior and overall wellbeing suffer. Allowing a limited number of mental health days provides these students to reset, get the help they need and return to school more focused and ready to learn. Requiring students to notify the school and checking in with them later at the end of the school day allows schools to ensure the safety and recovery of the student. Requiring a follow up meeting with a school counselor ensures students receive guidance and appropriate resources, and also ensures the day is not used to avoid academic responsibilities. This policy promotes a healthier school environment and reduces long term academic and emotional issues for students.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will have minimal financial implications. Schools already employ counselors and administrative staff who can conduct follow up meetings with students. No additional staff or funding is required, and this bill does not increase taxes or state spending.

Effective Date: The start of the 2026-2027 academic school year

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:87

Sponsors: Paige Dreon and Leslie Liu

An Act To: Amend the education law in regards to establishing welfare checks at least twice in an academic year for homeschooled students.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure the safety and overall wellbeing of homeschooled pupils by requiring a welfare check to be conducted at least twice an academic year by an accredited persons

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Welfare Checks: A service, typically provided by police, in which a home visit is conducted to verify the wellbeing of a person or persons.

Pupils: A child or young person either in school or in the charge of some other form of an instructor or tutor.

Accredited Persons: A person who is officially recognized or authorized to conduct a specific duty, such as law enforcement or CPS personnel

Child Protective Services (CPS): A government agency responsible for ensuing the safety and well being of children within their homes, often by investigating reports of abuse or neglect, while often working with families to ensure the child's needs are met as well

Section 2: Provisions § 3204 2. Instruction given to a minor elsewhere than at a public school shall be at least substantially equivalent to the instruction given to minors of like age and attainments at the public schools of the city or district where the minor resides, and further provided that homeschooled pupils shall receive no fewer than two welfare checks per academic year. Such welfare checks shall be conducted at the home of where instruction is provided or the pupil resides in order and shall assess the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of the student(s). Therefore, legal guardians who are providing home instruction shall permit said welfare checks as a condition of continued home instruction.

Justification: Instances of unreported abuse, neglect, and improper education have been seen time and time again within the homes of homeschooled children all across the country. Currently, NYS has virtually no protections put in place to ensure a homeschooled student is healthy not only physically, but mentally and emotionally too. This bill would help to change that, ensuring the safety of students and keeping them from harm by allowing action to be taken earlier if a student is in an unsafe environment and putting NYS on par with states such as Tennessee,

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Iowa, and New Jersey who either have similar bills already in place or are in the process of taking action.

Fiscal Implications: Given current estimates of there being roughly 55,000 homeschooled students statewide and an average of 1.8 students per household, this bill would require about 60,000 visits per year in order to ensure that all children would receive visits. Furthermore, each home visit is approximated to cost $130 per visit, making total costs roughly $7-9 million dollars per year. These costs would be covered by New York State's Education Department's existing oversight and compliance budget. However, this cost would only be representing a small fraction of the Department's total current funding compared to the overall budget. Moreover, early intervention may also help to reduce long term costs associated with things such as emergency foster care placements and additional educational support.

Effective Date: This act is to take effect on the first of July one year after the date of passage

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:88

Sponsors: Joshua Mui, Maya Adelakun, and Kelly McKnight

An Act To: Reform Chapter 67 § 14 of Workers Compensation Law regarding calculations and the process for workers' compensation.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to improve the Workers' Compensation Law by making it fairer for workers who suffer serious injuries on the job. While current law provides workers' compensation benefits, it also limits when injured workers can take further legal action. This bill seeks to adjust those limits so workers with serious injuries have better access to justice and protection.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Worker: An individual employed by a business or organization who is covered under the New York State Workers' Compensation Law.

Employer: A person or entity that employs workers and is required to provide workers compensation coverage.

Compensation: Reimbursement, usually money, awarded to someone as recompense for injury, loss, or suffering.

Wage: Payment for labor or services.

Section 2: Provisions §14. Weekly wages basis of compensation.

3. If either of the foregoing methods of arriving at the annual average earnings of an injured employee cannot reasonably and fairly be applied, such annual average earnings shall be such sum as, having regard to the previous earnings of the injured employee and of other employees of the same or most similar class, working in the same or most similar employment, or other employment as defined in this chapter, in the same or neighboring locality, shall reasonably represent the annual earning capacity of the injured employee in the employment in which he was working at the time of the accident, provided, however, his average annual earnings shall consist of not less than two hundred times the average daily wage or salary which he shall have earned in such employment during the days when so employed, further provided, however, that if the injured employee shall have been in the military or naval service of the United States or of the state of New York within twelve months prior to his injury, and his average annual earnings cannot be fairly determined under subdivisions one and two, then the average annual earnings shall be determined by multiplying his average daily wage during the days so employed by not less than two hundred and forty; In determining the average annual earnings of an injured employee under this section, such determination shall be made without regard to the employee's citizenship status, immigration classification, duration of residence within the United States, or prior military or naval service.

Justification: Workers compensation law is meant to protect employees injured while working in the state, and eligibility should be based on employment and earnings rather than personal background. In some cases, the current language may create uncertainty for workers who are newer residents of the United States or who have not served in the military, even though those factors are not directly related to earning capacity or the injury itself. This amendment clarifies that compensation should be determined by actual earnings and work performed at the time of injury, ensuring protections are applied fairly and consistently. It is the intent of this provision that no additional period of residency, citizenship requirement, or prior service requirement be imposed, whether directly or indirectly, as a condition for receiving compensation under this section, and that eligibility continue to be determined based upon employment and earnings within the state.

Fiscal Implications: This amendment is not expected to have a major financial impact on the state because it does not create a new program or new type of benefit. It mainly clarifies who is eligible and how compensation should be applied, rather than increasing payment amounts. There may be small administrative adjustments as the change is implemented, but overall the cost difference would likely be limited and not significantly effect the state budget.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect immediately after passage

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:88

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:89

Sponsors: Nick Heckman, Sophia Leigh, and Clay Morin

An Act To: Amend section § 375 Chapter 71 Title 3 Article 9 Part 4c of New York Vehicle and Traffic laws

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill is to revise headlight laws in New York state via dealerships and standard inspection criteria in order to increase safety of the roads.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

High beam- Brightest setting of a vehicles headlight.

Lumen-The amount of light emitted per second from a uniform source of one candela.

Low Energy Halogen bulbs- An enhanced, more efficient type of halogen bulb that uses less energy.

Candela- Standard SI base unit to measure luminous intensity.

Section 2: Provisions Section 2: § 375 Chap. 71 Title 3 Art. 9 P.4c- No lamp shall be used on a motor vehicle having a light source greater than thirty-two candle power, unless such lamp is approved by the commissioner as provided by this section. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any light which is permitted to be displayed only on an authorized emergency vehicle, a hazard vehicle or a vehicle which is permitted to display a blue or green light pursuant to paragraphs four and five of subdivision forty-one of this section.

Justification: A typical LED headlight in New York state has 2 settings. running lights (low beams) and high beams. Both of these lights have the capability to easily blind oncoming traffic. LED Low beams typically have a brightness of 4,500 Lumens and LED high beams have a shocking brightness of up to 6000 lumens. It only takes 1000 lumens to blind a person, which is the standard in commercial self defense flashlights. Headlights this bright can temporarily blind other drivers and lead to injury and potentially death. By adding a New York state inspection requirement to limit the brightness of headlights, or to switch to an alternative such as halogen bulbs, which have an average high and low beam brightness of 1350 and 950 lumens, we could prevent 15% of all nighttime related accidents.

Fiscal Implications: No fiscal implications for this bill.

Effective Date: January 1st 2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:90

Sponsors: Aelun Biymyrzaeva, Coco Lane, Carlos Arias, and Orin Desouza

An Act To: Establish the Annual Preventive Checkup Guarantee Act to ensure that all seniors aged 65 and older in the State of New York receive access to at least one comprehensive preventive medical checkup each year at no additional cost.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This act ensures the health and safety of senior residents in New York State by preventing serious and chronic illnesses through early detection and routine preventive care. It guarantees that seniors have equitable access to annual medical checkups covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or other state-regulated health insurance plans, reducing health disparities and improving overall quality of life.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

All New York State residents aged 65 and older shall be guaranteed at least one preventive medical checkup per calendar year.

- Checkups may be conducted in person or through telehealth services.
- Preventive checkups shall be fully covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or other state-regulated insurance plans, with no additional out-of-pocket cost to the senior.

Preventive checkups shall include, but are not limited to:

- A physical examination
- Blood tests and screenings for conditions such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes
- Mental health, cognitive, and memory screenings, including dementia risk assessments
- Recommended vaccinations, including flu, pneumonia, and shingles

Additional support services shall be made available to ensure access, including:

- Assistance with scheduling appointments
- Transportation support such as rides or public transit passes
- Language access services and disability accommodations
- Telehealth options for homebound or rural seniors

Justification: Seniors in New York often delay or skip preventive care because visits are optional under current law and barriers like cost, transportation, and isolation persist. Nearly 20% of adults 65+ delayed medical care in 2021, increasing preventable illness and death. Dementia affects over 6 million Americans, yet early detection is frequently missed, and New York faces a shortage of geriatricians.

Guaranteeing annual preventive checkups would promote early detection, reduce emergency room visits, lower long-term healthcare costs, and improve equitable access to care for all seniors.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:90

Fiscal Implications: While this act may result in modest short-term administrative and service costs, preventive care is significantly less expensive than emergency or inpatient treatment. A basic urgent care visit can cost $175 or more, while emergency room visits often exceed $2,000 for minor conditions. By preventing advanced illness and reducing hospitalizations, the act is expected to generate long-term cost savings for state and federal healthcare programs. Existing insurance structures will be utilized to minimize new expenditures.

Environmental Implications: This act has no significant negative environmental impact. The inclusion of telehealth services may reduce transportation-related emissions by limiting unnecessary travel to medical facilities, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Effective Date: 01/01/2027

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:91

Sponsors: Kevin Sanabria, Adriana Valladares, Reese Leader, and Magnolia Gambale

An Act To: Amend Section 3205 of the New York State Education Law to recognize verified mental health conditions and crises as valid grounds for excused student absences in public schools.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To promote student well-being and academic success by recognizing legitimate mental health conditions and crises as valid reasons for excused absences in public elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the State of New York.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

"Mental health condition" — any diagnosable psychological disorder, including but not limited to anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, panic disorders, or any acute mental health episode that significantly impacts a student's ability to safely attend or participate in school.

"Excused absence" — an absence from school that is recognized by the school administration as legitimate and does not negatively impact the student's attendance record or academic standing.

"Parent or guardian verification" — documentation from a parent or legal guardian confirming that the student is experiencing a mental health condition or crisis requiring a temporary absence from school.

"Licensed mental health professional" — a psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical social worker, or other professional authorized under New York State law to diagnose or treat mental health conditions.

"Short-term absence" — an absence from school of up to three consecutive school days, unless otherwise documented by a licensed mental health professional.

"Extended absence" — an absence exceeding three consecutive school days that requires verification from a licensed mental health professional.

Section 2: Provisions

This act shall amend Section 3205 of the New York State Education Law (Excused and Unexcused Absences), as follows:

Current provision affected: Section 3205 recognizes absences due to personal illness, family emergency, or other valid reasons as excused but does not explicitly include mental health conditions.

Proposed amendment: Add a new subsection stating:

"Excused absences shall also include absences due to verified mental health conditions or crises, as defined in Section 1 of this Act. Short-term absences require

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:91

verification from a parent or guardian. Extended absences require documentation from a licensed mental health professional. School districts shall establish reasonable procedures to implement this provision while maintaining accountability and preventing misuse."

Justification: Mental health is an essential component of overall health. While physical illnesses are widely accepted as valid reasons for excused absences, mental health conditions often are not treated with the same legitimacy. Students experiencing severe anxiety, depressive episodes, or panic attacks may not be in a condition to safely or effectively participate in the school environment.Failing to recognize mental health as a legitimate health concern contributes to stigma and discourages students from prioritizing their well-being. By formally recognizing verified mental health needs as excused absences, New York State promotes equity, reduces stigma, and creates healthier academic environments. National health surveys show that about 1 in 5 children have ever been diagnosed with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition based on 2021 data roughly 21% of U.S. children ages 3–17, and in 2023 more than 20% of adolescents ages 12–17 had a current diagnosed mental health condition. These numbers only count diagnosed cases, so the real number of kids struggling is likely even higher. This shows that mental health challenges are common, and schools need to recognize them just like physical illnesses. This legislation includes safeguards to prevent misuse while ensuring that students facing genuine mental health challenges receive appropriate support.

Fiscal Implications: This act is expected to have minimal fiscal impact. Implementation primarily involves updating attendance policies and administrative procedures. Any associated costs would relate to staff training or guideline development by the New York State Education Department.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect at the beginning of the academic year following its passage.

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Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:92

Sponsors: Sabrina Guzmán, Leianni Rosa, and Cole Schiff

An Act To: Amend Section 838-c of the Executive Law, to ensure that New York State and local agencies cooperate with federal immigration officers who meet state-verified identification, uniform, and professionalism standards, increasing public safety and accountability without regulating federal law. Additionally, to enforce that all ICE agents looking to enter NYS make the local law enforcement facilities that they intend to enter the state, and to enforce a training program, aided by local officers and state troopers that each agent will take before enacting any office business within the state. All agents will undergo said training in the nearest local police academy.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require all ICE agents that reside in or enter New York State to wear an identifiable uniform including a visible badge with their name clearly displayed, and to not have any facial coverings that could hide their identity. Additionally, state troopers and local officers will aid ICE agents through a 4 week training course before enacting any official activity within the state. This will establish professionalism standards as a condition for cooperation between New York State and local agencies and federal immigration enforcement officers operating within New York State. This legislation seeks to promote transparency, public safety, accountability, and prevent impersonation of law enforcement officers, while respecting federal authority.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

Section 838-c of the Executive Law is amended to require that state and local agencies shall only provide cooperation or assistance to federal immigration enforcement officers who display visible identification, including name and agency affiliation, and who do not conceal their identity during enforcement interactions with the public.

State and local agencies shall only provide cooperation or assistance to federal immigration enforcement officers who provide documentation verifying completion of federally required law enforcement training. Such verification shall be limited to confirming the officer's current federal credentials, professional status, and compliance with identification requirements established under Section 838-c of the Executive Law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to regulate federal training standards, but solely to govern the conditions under which New York State agencies may offer cooperation.

State agencies must maintain records of officers who meet these requirements and report to the Governor and Legislature.

Assignment: Assembly Liberty 4 Bill #:92

State and local agencies must comply with identification, uniform, and training requirements for federal immigration officers before providing services to the state. Agencies that fail to enforce these requirements may have their intergovernmental cooperation agreements suspended or reviewed by the New York State division of State Operations.

Justification: Transparency and public trust are foundational to effective law enforcement. Requiring visible identification and prohibiting face coverings that obscure identity during public enforcement activities reduces the risk of impersonation, promotes accountability, and enhances civilian safety. This legislation does not regulate federal authority, but rather establishes clear standards governing when and how New York State agencies may provide cooperation or assistance. By ensuring that cooperative efforts are conducted with identifiable and professionally trained officers, the state protects the civilians within the state from law enforcement abuse.

Fiscal Implications: The implementation of this bill may result in some costs associated with providing or overseeing an additional 4 weeks of training for ICE agents. State and local officials will be aiding with situational escalation training, ensuring all agents wear verifiable identification, follow uniform compliance, and that they meet professional standards when interacting with any New York State resident, citizen or not. The officers who aid in this training will be compensated with overtime bonuses. The funding for these bonuses will come out of city and municipal budgets, union contracts, and state backed initiatives.

Effective Date: 6 weeks after the passage of the bill.

Senate Freedom

Nathan Beck

President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Joyce Chen

Deputy President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Committee Chairs

Abigail Halloran	**Senate Freedom 1**
Addison Bradt	**Senate Freedom 2**
Alan Guevara Hernandez	**Senate Freedom 3**
Madison Spanarelli	**Senate Freedom 3**
Cooper Comito	**Senate Freedom 4**
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Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:93

Sponsors: Pietro LoPresti, Kathem Fakhoury, and GRobbo Kunkel

An Act To: Mandate the presence of a choking prevention device in schools

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Choking is a serious and preventable cause of injury and death in children. Traditional first aid responses such as back blows and the Heimlich maneuver saves lives, but they are not always effective in every situation. Anti-choking devices provide an additional, non-invasive and failproof option when normal methods fail.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, every K-12 public school will be required to have a LifeVac airway clearance device in its cafeteria in case of an emergency. Lunch monitors/nurses will be trained to use this simple and easy to understand devise to assist if somebody has a choking incident, potentially saving that person's life from premature death.

Justification: In the 2024-2025 school year alone, 43 students lost their lives because of choking, and 232 people were seriously injured. All of this could have been prevented by having a choking prevention device on hand.

Many people underestimate how dangerous choking can be until it is far too late, but choking is also easily preventable with a device like this.

The LifeVac is not complicated, it is simple and easy to use. with only a brief 10 second explanation needed.

Fiscal Implications: There are 11,800 elementary, middle, and high schools in the state, and the cost of having two LifeVac choking prevention devices in each shcool is roughly $560,000 total. However, the state's education budget is a massive $39 Billion and $560k is 0.001% of the state education budget. This means the state education budget can easily cover all expenses. This Bill has no economic impact and only serves to increase safety in our schools without any monetary drawback.

Effective Date: 2026-2027 School year

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:94

Sponsors: Ethan Menothumalil, Alex Porcelli, Gael Munoz Ortiz, and Nathan Beck

An Act To: Amend Article 5 Title 1 of the New York Social Services Law by adding a new subdivision 21 to §131, authorizing counties and local social services districts to waive shelter rent requirements at emergency homeless shelters.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to reduce financial barriers to emergency shelter access by permitting counties and local social services districts to waive shelter rent requirements, thereby improving housing stability and supporting individuals and families as they transition to permanent housing.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Emergency Homeless Shelter: A facility, program, or housing arrangement operated, funded, or authorized by a county or local social services district that provides temporary lodging and supportive services to individuals or families experiencing homelessness.

Shelter Rent Requirement: Any monetary payment, fee, contribution, or cost-sharing obligation imposed on a shelter resident as a condition of occupancy, continued stay, or access to services at an emergency homeless shelter.

Local Social Services District: A county or other local governmental entity authorized under New York Social Services Law to administer public assistance, emergency housing, and related services.

Eligible Resident: Any individual or family determined by a local social services district to be eligible for placement in an emergency homeless shelter.

Waiver Authority:

The discretionary power granted to counties and local social services districts to suspend, reduce, or eliminate shelter rent requirements pursuant to this Act.

Section 2: Provisions § 131 Assistance, care and services to be given. 21. County Authority to Waive Shelter Rent Requirements (a) Authorization: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each county or local social services district is hereby authorized to waive, suspend, or eliminate shelter rent requirements for eligible residents placed in emergency homeless shelters under its jurisdiction. (b) Conditions of Access: Access to emergency homeless shelter placement shall not be denied, delayed, or limited on the basis of an individual's or family's inability to pay shelter rent or related fees. (c) Local Discretion: Counties may adopt local policies governing the duration, scope, and application of shelter rent waivers, provided that such policies prioritize emergency access, housing stability, and compliance

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:94

with state and federal homelessness assistance programs. (d) Non-Tenancy Status: Shelter rent requirements waived under this section shall not be construed to create or negate a landlord-tenant relationship, nor shall nonpayment of shelter rent constitute grounds for eviction from an emergency homeless shelter. (e) Reporting:
Each county exercising authority under this section shall report annually to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance the number of waivers granted and the general impact on shelter access and housing outcomes, in a manner prescribed by the Department.

Justification: Individuals and families experiencing homelessness often lack stable income and face financial hardship. Shelter rent requirements, even when modest, can create barriers to accessing emergency housing and undermine housing stability. Granting counties clear statutory authority to waive such requirements ensures that emergency shelter remains accessible as a public safety net rather than a conditional service. This Act promotes local flexibility, reduces administrative barriers, and supports more effective transitions from homelessness to permanent housing.

Fiscal Implications: This Act does not mandate new state expenditures. While counties may experience modest reductions in shelter rent collections, these costs are expected to be offset by improved shelter utilization, reduced administrative enforcement expenses, and improved housing outcomes. By facilitating timely access to emergency housing, the Act may reduce long-term public costs associated with prolonged homelessness, including emergency healthcare, law enforcement, and crisis services.

Environmental Implications: By eliminating financial barriers to emergency shelter access, this Act may lead to more efficient use of existing shelter infrastructure, reducing the need for temporary or makeshift housing arrangements that can strain local utilities, energy, and waste systems. Improved access to stable shelter allows individuals and families to remain in centralized facilities rather than dispersing into informal or unsafe housing, which can increase energy consumption, waste, and environmental degradation. Additionally, by supporting a predictable and stable shelter population, counties can better plan for energy, water, and waste management in shelters, potentially incorporating sustainable practices such as energy-efficient lighting, water-saving fixtures, and waste reduction programs. While the Act does not mandate new environmental programs, it supports

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community-level sustainability through more orderly use of housing resources and infrastructure.

Effective Date: The bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:95

Sponsors: John Ness, Trustin Tolliver, Phenomenal Gaymon, Quentin Hedge

An Act To: Environmental Conservation Law Chapter 43-B, Article 58, Title 7, §58-0703

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To establish a program to provide grants for non-public buildings to install light and water sensors for the purpose of climate change mitigation.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Grant: financial assistance provided by a government or organization to support, promote, or lower the cost of a specific activity, industry, or service—often to achieve economic, social, or environmental goals.

Sensor: a device that detects and measures physical or environmental conditions such as temperature, motion, light, pressure, or water or air quality—and converts that information into data for monitoring or control.

Green Job Bond Act: a government initiative that raises funding through bonds to invest in clean energy, environmental protection, and climate-resilient infrastructure, while creating jobs and supporting workforce development in sustainability-focused industries.

Section 2: Provision § 58-0703. Programs, plans and projects.

1. Eligible climate change mitigation projects include, but are not limited to:

a. costs associated with green building projects, projects that increase energy efficiency or the use or siting of renewable energy on state-owned buildings or properties including buildings owned by the state university of the state of New York, city university of the state of New York, community colleges, and public schools, and privately owned buildings when receiving a grant from the state for the purpose of reducing energy and water costs by use of sensors

i. The grant program for privately owned buildings will provide funding for non-public buildings to install light and water sensors to monitor performance, track usage, and in applicable cases automate turning the supply on and off.

2. The department, the department of agriculture and markets, the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the New York state energy research and development authority and the office of general services are authorized to provide state assistance payments or grants to municipalities and not-for-profit corporations or undertake projects pursuant to this section.

3. Provided that for the purposes of selecting projects for funding under this section, the relevant agencies shall develop eligibility guidelines and post information on the department's website in the environmental notice bulletin

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providing for a thirty-day public comment period and upon adoption post such eligibility guidelines on the relevant agency's website.

Justification: The goal of this bill is to help curb the effects of light pollution, energy waste, and excessive water leakage in private buildings. This will be done by installing water sensors and motion sensors through a grant program that provides funding to the private sector to install these devices. Establishing a grant program creates an incentive for people in the private sector to make more environmentally aware decisions surrounding infrastructure. By becoming accessible for as many spaces as possible, we can decrease New York State's environmental footprint in terms of energy use.

Fiscal Implications: This program will be funded from the general fund as part of the $60 million allocated for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act in the fiscal year 2026 enacted budget.

Environmental Implications: This bill will decrease the amount of energy and water used when not needed or deemed efficient in buildings through the use of sensors.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:96

Sponsors: Allie Barry, Abby Halloran, Clare Loesch, Ticianna Panza, and Maggie Zheng

An Act To: Amend section §3221(l)(23)(A)-(B) of the Insurance Law to prohibit cost-sharing (copays, coinsurance, and deductibles) for cholinesterase inhibitors used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure that patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease have affordable access to essential medications that manage cognitive symptoms, improve quality of life, and slow functional decline, by eliminating cost-sharing for cholinesterase inhibitor medications.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Cholinesterase Inhibitors: Medications that increase levels of acetylcholine in the brain, helping to improve memory, thinking, and daily functioning in patients with Alzheimer's disease. Common examples include Donepezil (Aricept), Rivastigmine (Exelon), Galantamine (Razadyne).

Alzheimer's Disease: A progressive neurodegenerative disorder that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and impaired daily functioning.

Cost-Sharing: Any out-of-pocket expense required from patients for prescription drugs under health insurance, including copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

Section 2: Provisions

(A) Every group or blanket accident and health insurance policy issued or issued for delivery in this state which provides medical, major medical or similar comprehensive-type coverage and provides coverage for prescription drugs shall include coverage for inhalers for the treatment of asthma and cholinesterase inhibitors used to treat Alzheimer's disease if prescribed by a physician or other licensed health care provider legally authorized to prescribe under title eight of the education law.

(B) Coverage shall be provided for one form of rescue and one form of maintenance inhaler that shall not be subject to a deductible, copayment, coinsurance or any other cost-sharing requirement. Coverage shall also include at least one form of each prescribed cholinesterase inhibitor and shall not be subject to a deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or any other out-of-pocket cost for the insured.

Justification: As of 2025, 426,500 New Yorkers are living with Alzheimer's disease, and the Medicaid cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's has risen to an astounding $6.8 billion (Alzheimer's Impact Movement, 2025). On a larger scale, Alzheimer's disease affects more than 7 million Americans, and this number is projected to nearly double to almost 13 million by 2050 without breakthroughs in treatment or prevention (Alzheimer's Association, 2025) (Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures, 2025). Cholinesterase inhibitors are essential for managing symptoms of the disease, improving cognition, and supporting patients' ability to maintain independence.

However, the high out-of-pocket costs associated with these medications create significant barriers to access, leading many patients to delay or skip treatment, which can accelerate functional decline and increase caregiver burden. Average performing and older, more general medications have uncovered costs that average around $1,200 yearly, which can rise to around $2,950 with more high-end medications (National Institute of Health). While Medicare can cover much of these costs, patients can still face significant out-of-pocket costs, depending on their plan coverage and type of medications. Newer medications that are still being tested are estimated to cost an estimated $26,500 out of pocket, as Medicare coverage is limited in trial medications and even with coverage will still be a substantial input (Consumer News and Business Channel).

Eliminating cost-sharing for cholinesterase inhibitors ensures equitable access to life-improving therapies, reduces the financial burden on patients and families, and aligns with New York State's commitment to providing affordable, quality healthcare to all residents. Similar New York legislation has recently been passed to eliminate cost-sharing for asthma inhalers and insulin medications for diabetics, indicating that the implementation of this bill will follow a similar successful course of action.

Fiscal Implications: The provisions of this act are expected to have a minimal fiscal impact on the State. The elimination of copays, coinsurance, and deductibles for cholinesterase inhibitors will be covered by health insurance companies providing prescription drug coverage, in accordance with their policies and contracts. Long-term healthcare expenditures will be reduced with more access to these medications.

Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2028

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:96

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:97

Sponsors: Anjali Balram, Brooke-Lynn Hoskey, Kalina-Sky Permenter, and Abeeha Zahir

An Act To: Amend Article 8, Chapter 43-A § 1678. Public Authorities. By adding § 1678-a of turns abandoned or zombie housing/property into childcare facilities in childcare deserts.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To address childcare shortages in New York State by repurposing vacant properties as childcare centers in "childcare deserts."

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Child Care Deserts: ""child care deserts"" are areas with a severe shortage of licensed child care options.

Zombie housing/property:a home/property that has been abandoned by its owners during the foreclosure process, but the legal transfer of ownership to the bank has not been completed

Childcare facility: a place outside of a child's home that provides care, supervision, and often educational activities for children during the daytime, particularly when their parents or guardians are working or unavailable.

Section 2: Provisions

8. By contract or contracts or by its own employees to construct, acquire, reconstruct, rehabilitate and improve, and furnish and equip, Dormitories, childcare facilities (Vacant and abandoned properties in childcare desert will prioritize the creation and maintenance of childcare facilities) and necessary and usual attendant facilities for state-operated institutions and statutory and contract colleges under the jurisdiction of the state university of New York pursuant to agreement with the state university construction fund created by section three hundred seventy-one of the education law;

Justification: Everyone should have the peace of mind knowing that their child is in a safe and responsible place while they go to work or fulfill other obligations. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case for Wilner Belizaire from Orlando, Florida, when he had to leave his baby Jazmyn in a cot for 10 hours because he had a 10-hour shift. We want to prevent this from happening to many more children and for guardians to know that their children are safe and being well cared for. By creating licensed childcare centers in already abandoned properties/homes, we can combat this issue.

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Fiscal Implications: $110 million allocated by Kathy Hochul into the Child Care Construction Fund in 2025 to build or renovate child care centers in an effort to eliminate child care deserts, as well as $105 million designated for the upkeep of childcare facilities.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect one year after its passage.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:98

Sponsors: Theo Hart, Lucas Heffern, and Valentino Strano

An Act To: Amend New York State Public Health (PHB), Section 3351, Chapter 45, Article 33, Title 5 to remodel Methadone Clinics to administer controlled substances to help people with substance abuse issues to quit more safely.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To give drug users a way to be able to get access to controlled substances, overdose reversals, and harm reduction supplies in a safe, controlled environment.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Overdose - too much of a drug taken or given at one time, either intentionally or by accident

Substance Abuse - the regular use of illegal or harmful drugs

Harm Reduction - The goal is to reduce and limit harm, which is "a deliberate injury or damage to someone or something

Methadone Clinics - A facility that specializes in helping people addicted to opioids.

Opioids - A classification of highly addictive medicines such as heroin, fentanyl, and prescribed pain killers.

Cold Turkey - The act of abruptly stopping the use of an addictive drug.

Controlled Substances- A drug or chemical whose creation, possession, and distribution is strictly regulated by the government due to abuse risk and addiction and potential.

Opioids-A type of drug compound that has addictive properties, alongside major psychological effects.

Section 2: Provisions § 3351. Dispensing for medical use. 1. Controlled substances may be prescribed for, or administered or dispensed to a person with substance use disorder or habitual user: (a) during emergency medical treatment unrelated to abuse of controlled substances; (b) who is a bona fide patient suffering from an incurable and fatal disease such as cancer or advanced tuberculosis; (c) who is aged, infirm, or suffering from serious injury or illness and the withdrawal from controlled substances would endanger the life or impede or inhibit the recovery of such person.

2. Controlled substances may be ordered for use by a person with substance use disorder or habitual user by a practitioner and administered by a practitioner or registered nurse to relieve acute withdrawal symptoms.

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3. Controlled substances may be administered in non-emergency situations for patients willing to register with the clinic and decrease their intake with every return. The patients would discuss with a doctor a plan to quit. Substances would be allowed to be administered via injection, pill, or intravenously. The ingestion would be supervised, as well as while the patient is under the influence. Existing methadone clinics will be stocked with further substances such as oxycodone and desoxyn for patients addicted to illegal substances such as heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl.

~~3.~~ 4. Methadone, or such other controlled substance designated by the commissioner as appropriate for such use, may be ordered for use of a person with substance use disorder by a practitioner and dispensed or administered by a practitioner or a practitioner's designated agent as interim treatment for a person with substance use disorder on a waiting list for admission to an authorized maintenance program.

~~4.~~ 5. Methadone, or such other controlled substance designated by the commissioner as appropriate for such use, may be administered to a person with substance use disorder by a practitioner or by a practitioner's designated agent acting under the direction and supervision of a practitioner, as part of a regime designed and intended to withdraw a patient from addiction to controlled substances.

~~5.~~ 6. Methadone, or such other controlled substance designated by the commissioner as appropriate for such use, may be administered to a person with substance use disorder by a practitioner or by a practitioner's designated agent acting under the direction and supervision of a practitioner, as part of a substance use or chemical dependence program approved pursuant to article thirty-two of the mental hygiene law.

~~6.~~ 7. Notwithstanding any other law and consistent with federal requirements, methadone, or such other controlled substance designated by the commissioner as appropriate for such use, may be administered or dispensed directly to a person with substance use disorder by a practitioner or by a such practitioner's designated agent acting under the direction and supervision of a practitioner, as part of a substance use or chemical dependence program approved pursuant to article thirty-two of the mental hygiene law.

Justification: In 2020, opioid overdose deaths had increased 38 percent nationally, while overdose deaths increased by 44 percent just in New York State,

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according to the "Office of the New York". According to "New York Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions, 2012-2020", the graph shows that opioid prescriptions have decreased by millions ever since 2012.

The centers give a foundation for people looking for help to comfortably and slowly step away from the drugs that they once abused. It is not just making it safer for the people who were abusing the drugs, but also benefits all; making the community more safe by getting addicts off the street and potentially committing crimes in search of substances. The goal is to make the world a better place, and we need to start that by looking at the individuals in every community that seek help. The help that the people desire, is what they get. It is more than just going cold turkey, it is a place to branch off from and find new grounds on which to settle. These locations would be supplied with doctors and psychiatrists, specialized in prescribing drugs and reinforcing the patients health, mentally and physically. The patients that seek help from the clinics are put into a program, which the doctors and psychiatrists have to trust them for the process of withdrawal. This process would involve the patients taking home the prescription, taking the medication as told on the subscripts, and inform your doctor and psychiatrist about how the process is going. Patients could also receive opiates and other substances such as stimulants while being observed by medical professionals. In other European countries, the methadone clinics were seen as being very effective, with 60-90% of individuals successfully withdrawing from the substance that they originally were addicted to. Denmark has "drug consumption centers" that reduce crime and decrease overdoses.

Fiscal Implications: Taking addicts off the street would lessen the load of police responses due to drug related events, this bill could take from some of the existing policing budget.

Environmental Implications: There are potential negative environmental implications but proper disposal of medical waste will help reduce risk.

Effective Date: Five years after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:99

Sponsors: Lexi Haas, Athena Beers, and Joey Garland

An Act To: Amend § 138-b, NY A04159 to mandate peer mentors in juvenile detention centers.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To mandate a peer mentor program into juvenile detention faculties similar to preexisting ones in adult correctional facilities in juvenile detention facilities as well.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Juvenile detention facility: a secure, short-term residential facility for individuals under the age of majority (usually 18) who have been accused of or adjudicated for delinquent acts

Adult Correctional facility: An adult correctional facility is a secure, public, or private institution designed for the confinement of individuals, generally 18 or older, who have been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for criminal offenses.

Peer Mentor/ Advocate Program: a structured intervention designed to support youth involved with, or at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system by pairing them with an older peer (often aged 18–25) or a trained adult advocate who has similar lived experiences

Section 2: Provisions

§ 138-b. ~~Permitted entry by~~ Mandates peer support advocate programs. Peer support advocates who are certified or licensed by a state agency, or a state authorized entity including the New York certification board, or a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, and are participating in the provision of corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services, including but not limited to medication assistant treatment, pursuant to section 19.18-c of the mental hygiene law, shall not be unreasonably denied entry into ~~correctional~~ juvenile detention facilities solely based on such advocates' history of prior incarceration but rather encouraged to join the peer mentor/advocate program.

Justification: Justice for criminal adolescents is frequently inadequate. Time after time it has been statistically shown that adolescents who act out, especially those who face legal consequences don't have a support system. Frequently feelings of isolation and a lack of belonging are what lead to juvenile offenses. This bill brings recognition to children and adolescents who need to be heard and supported, likely for the first time in a significant way. By putting peer mentors/advocates, many of

Assignment: Senate Freedom 1 Bill #:99

which are former convicts with peer mentor training in the Juvenile Detention centers, with the compassion and personal experience that they bring to the table can be the change these children need to turn their lives in around.

Fiscal Implications: The implications would vary depending on need and size of each facility. The cost would likely be between $20-$28 per full time peer mentor per hour. The costs would be less for part time mentors or those who come in on an irregular schedule. The cost annually would be approximately $41,600- $58,240 per mentor. There are anywhere between 1-6 of them per facility, The cost annually would be approximately $41,600- $58,240 per mentor. The exact cost to each of the 8 facilities would depend on the amount of money that can be allocated based on the OJJDP Title II Formula Grants, Raise The Age Legislation, state, federal, and local county funds.

Environmental Implications: The environmental implications would be near negligible but this program could produce gas pollution from the peer advocates driving to and from the juvenile detention centers, on average within approximately an hour and a half of their home.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect on January 1st 2028.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:100

Sponsors: Joyce Chen, Holly Rojas, and Jacob Romero

An Act To: Establish Article 42-A §§1201 - 1203 to General Business Law to prohibit the sale, transfer, or continued use of consumer genetic data upon financial distress, bankruptcy, or dissolution of a company handling such data.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To protect the privacy and security of consumers' genetic data by preventing its sale, transfer, or misuse during periods of corporate financial distress, bankruptcy, or dissolution.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Asset Liquidation: The process of converting a company's or individual's non-cash assets into cash by selling them on the open market.

Financial Distress: Any of the following conditions: A) A public announcement of a merger, acquisition, or sale of assets. B) A company's filing for protection under Title 11 of the United States Code (bankruptcy code). C) A notice of material financial instability as determined by state regulators.

Genetic Data: Any data, analysis, or information concerning an individual's DNA, inherited characteristics, or genetic predispositions derived from testing, sequencing, or other means.

Genetic Data Holder: Any company, entity, or organization that collects, stores, or processes consumer genetic data.

New York State Office of Victim Services: A state agency that provides financial compensation for crime-related losses, funds direct services to victims through community-based programs, and advocates for the rights of crime victims in New York.

Section 2: Provisions § 1104. Application. This article shall not apply to a social media company that generated less than one hundred million dollars in gross revenue during the preceding calendar year or to an internet-based service or application for which interactions between users are limited to direct messages, commercial transactions, consumer reviews of products, sellers, services, events, or places, or any combination thereof.

§ 1201. Mandatory deletion of genetic data upon financial distress or bankruptcy.

1. A genetic data holder shall, within thirty days of experiencing financial distress that is likely to lead to seeking bankruptcy protection, permanently delete all consumer genetic data in its possession.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:100

2. A genetic data holder shall provide written notification to all affected consumers regarding the deletion of their data within fifteen days of such deletion.

§ 1202. Prohibition on sale, transfer, or continued use of genetic data.

1. No genetic data holder may sell, lease, share, or otherwise transfer consumer genetic data as part of a bankruptcy proceeding, financial restructuring, or asset liquidation.

2. No third-party acquiring assets of a genetic data holder may use or retain consumer genetic data for any purpose unless the original consumer provides explicit and renewed consent.

§ 1203. Enforcement and penalties.

1. Any violation of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to in an amount not less than one thousand dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars plus court costs, as determined by the court, which will be payable to the New York State Office of Victim Services.

Justification: The genetic testing company, 23andMe, has confirmed in a recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) where a cybercriminal gained access to a portion of its users' accounts. 23andMe has around 14 million users worldwide, and approximately 14,000 accounts were compromised. However, through those accounts, the cybercriminal obtained the data of around 6.9 million users. Additionally, about 60% of the U.S. population with European heritage may be identifiable from their DNA by searching consumer websites, even if they've never made their own genetic information available, according to a study by the journal Science. This disrupts the privacy of several people as their genetic information is likely to be found online if it were to be looked up. By the start of 2019, more than 26 million consumers had added their DNA to four leading commercial ancestry and health databases, as reported by MIT Technology Review. The popularity of consumer genetic testing companies has grown significantly since 2019, allowing individuals to access valuable information about their ancestry, health risks, and genetic traits. However, these companies often store vast amounts of sensitive genetic data that could be exploited if proper safeguards are not in place. With this piece of legislation, the protection of the genetic data of New Yorkers would be ensured during times of financial distress of companies.

Fiscal Implications: No new funding or additional staffing allocations are expected to be necessary.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:101

Sponsors: Mahiya Thomas-Rahman, Jeimy Arriaza, Alex Umana, and Aasira Muhammad

An Act To: Enhance consumer protection in the State of New York by requiring clear and upfront disclosure of all mandatory fees in sales and services,

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to expand upon existing New York consumer protection laws by closing loopholes around hidden fees, online pricing, and deferred payment programs. This legislation ensures that residents, especially youth and low-income individuals, are fully informed before making purchases or entering into financial agreements.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Total price: The full amount a consumer must pay, including all mandatory fees, charges, and taxes.

Buy Now, Pay Later provider: Any company that allows consumers to split purchases into installments without an immediate full payment.

Subscription service: Any business model that automatically renews payments for ongoing access to a product or service.

Mandatory fee: Any charge required for a consumer to complete a purchase, excluding government taxes or optional tips.

Section 2: Provisions Transparent Pricing: All businesses selling goods or services online or in person must clearly display the total price (including all mandatory fees) before checkout. Hidden or last-minute fees added at payment will be prohibited.

Buy Now, Pay Later Transparency:

BNPL providers must disclose interest rates, late fees, repayment schedules, and total repayment cost in plain language before purchasing.

They must include a financial literacy link or resource explaining how installment of loans affects credit and spending.

Subscription Fairness:

All subscription-based services must provide a clear "cancel" button that allows immediate cancellation online or via the same method used to sign up.

Renewal reminders must be sent at least 7 days before a charge is made.

Youth Protection Clause:

Businesses must not target minors with deceptive advertising or use hidden fees in youth-oriented apps, gaming platforms, or streaming services.

Violations will result in civil penalties of up to $1,000 per infraction, and repeated offenses may result in higher fines or license suspension.

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Consumers will have the right to file complaints online through the state's existing consumer portal.

Justification: This bill seeks to strengthen consumer protection in the New York State by requiring business to clearly disclose all mandatory fees upfront, "Buy now, Pay Later" programs, and promote fair business practices that protect young consumers to make informed financial decisions. Many companies advertise misleading base prices that hide additional fees until checkout. This predominantly affects a large portion of young consumers who may lack financial experience and are vulnerable to deceptive pricing strategies. Mandatory upfront disclosure of all fees will prevent consumers from being misled, reduce financial strain, and enhance trust between consumers and businesses.

Fiscal Implications: This act will not result in significant fiscal change due to the state already having consumer protection laws. The law uses existing agencies and complaint systems such as the New York State Attorney General or the Department of Financial Services. Violations of this amendment can result in fines up to $1000 per infraction and can get higher with repeated offenses. Any enforcement costs can be covered by the fines.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect on January 6th, 2027.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:102

Sponsors: Lina El Mrini, Disal Henry, Andrea Ramirez, and Jorge Ponce

An Act To: Mandate warning labels on deli meats for pregnant women.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Proper labeling of products especially for pregnant women has always been important to avoid occurrences of miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, and newborn death. However, when it comes to deli meats (cold cuts), there is no label warning on the risk factors that could lead to a woman getting Listeria infection due to the cold temperatures of the meat. This leads to the possibility of serious and extreme birth defects and negative effects to the fetus.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

"Warning label" should be defined as a clear and obvious written statement on the product packaging. Which will then inform the consumer about the risk of getting listeriosis during pregnancy but effectively stating safe consumption instructions.

Section 2: Provisions All manufacturers of every pre-packaged and/or ready to consume deli meats within all of New York that are intended for re-sale are required to provide a very visible warning label on deli meat to prevent women from consuming meat that will later lead to listeriosis.

Justification: The reasoning for this bill is for delis and bodegas to regulate misinterpretation rate for pregnant women. Deli meats can carry a harmful bacteria that poses a significantly higher risk to pregnant women than to the general population. Listeria infection during pregnancy can lead to serious consequences, including miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth, and severe illness in newborns. Statistics show that 53% of consumers have misinterpretation. In 2025, a single labeling error resulted in a recall of over 140,000 pounds of ready-to-eat deli meat. By requiring warning labels on deli meats, regulators can help reduce preventable health complications, promote informed consent, and prioritize the safety of pregnant women.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal implications of this legislation is minimal. Food manufacturers and retailers already maintain labeling systems for deli meats, and the addition of a warning label would result in only a minor one-time redesign cost and a negligible per-unit printing expense, esteemed at less than one cent per package. Small delis and bodegas may incur a one-time cost for signs or sticker warnings, estimated between five and twenty dollars per establishment. No new state agency or significant enforcement funding is required, as compliance may be monitored through existing food safety inspections programs. This legislation does not require state funding and does not impose direct costs on our taxpayers. By

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:102

reducing preventable cases of Listeria infection, this bill may also lower long-term healthcare costs associated with pregnancy complications and newborn illness.

Effective Date: This bill will be implicated on December 2nd, 2026. This is due to labeling and printing taking 1-2 business days, replacement of food on shelves taking 1 week, and the passing of bills taking approximately a couple of months.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:103

Sponsors: Abby Wilson, Vivienne Falkowitz, Olivia Fox, and Brigid Maher

An Act To: Amend Article 20 of the New York State Labor Laws to add Section 703-B to add job security rights to fast food employees

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose is to extend job security rights to all fast-food chain employees in New York State. All New York State chain fast food workers will not be dismissed for irrational or unknown reasons. This will be an extension of rights from New York City employees to all New York State employees.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Job security- is the assurance that an employee's job is safe from sudden, unexpected termination or layoffs, offering a feeling of stability and continuous income. Influenced by company health, economic conditions, and the employee's performance/skills, with stronger security often found in essential roles or government jobs.

Fast Food Employee- Employees in limited-service who take orders, handle payments, prepare simple food for quick consumption, and perform cleaning/restocking duties, covering roles from counter staff and cooks to drive-thru operators and managers.

Probation period- The term “probation period” means a defined period, not to exceed 30 days from the first date of work of a fast-food employee, within which fast food employers and fast-food employees are not subject to the prohibition on wrongful discharge set forth by this law.

Section 2: Provisions §703-B Job Security for Fast Food employees

A fast-food employer shall not discharge a fast-food employee who has completed such employer's probation period except for just cause or for a bona fide economic reason.

In determining whether a fast-food employee has been discharged for just cause, the factfinder shall consider, in addition to any other relevant factors, whether:

1.The fast-food employee knew or should have known of the fast-food employer's policy, rule or practice that is the basis for progressive discipline or discharge.

2.The fast-food employer provided relevant and adequate training to the fast-food employee.

3.The fast-food employer's policy, rules or practice, including the utilization of progressive discipline, was reasonable and applied consistently.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:103

4.The fast-food employer undertook a fair and objective investigation into job performance or misconduct; and
5.The fast-food employee violated the policy, rule or practice or committed misconduct that is the basis for progressive discipline or discharge.
c. Except where termination is for an egregious failure by the employee to perform their duties, or for egregious misconduct, a termination shall not be considered based on just cause unless (1) the fast food employer has utilized progressive discipline; provided, however, that the fast food employer may not rely on discipline issued more than one year before the purported just cause termination, and (2) the fast food employer had a written policy on progressive discipline in effect at the fast food establishment and that was provided to the fast food employee.

Justification: This bill allows New York State employees to have protections that currently only apply to New York City fast food employees. The passing of this bill would initiate the fair treatment of all New York State fast food employees. New York State employers- excluding New York City employers- can fire employees for illegitimate reasons; opposingly, in New York City employers have more trouble firing their employees for illegitimate reasons due to the protections put in place such as giving workers regular, consistent schedules and employers not being permitted to reduce hours of employees without legitimate reasoning. If employers pay for benefits like having flexible working hours and consistent schedules, it will be cheaper to give staff stable jobs than to constantly hire new employees; when replacing staff, it can cost 50% to 60% of an employee's salary. Employers would save money by not having to replace workers every so often.

Fiscal Implications: While there are no direct costs, a stable job for employees may indicate missing out on other opportunities like higher pay or possible promotion.

Environmental Implications: It will affect the fast-food workers in a positive way because it will benefit job security.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect a year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:104

Sponsors: Hanaelle Etheart and Betciara Pierre

An Act To: Amend §199-A3, of the Agriculture & Markets law to be more transparent regarding ingredients expiration dates and known allergens

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to improve food safety by requiring clear labels on food and beverage products so consumers can easily identify ingredients, expiration dates, and possible allergens. This will help people make safer and healthier choices and reduce the risk of food-related illnesses or allergic reactions, for example illnesses like cancer.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Allergens - are substances in food that can cause allergic reactions in some people, such as peanuts, milk, eggs, soy, or wheat.
Food safety - Protection against consumption of unhealthy food dyes and additives.
Transparency - More clarification with the ingredients in nutrients.
Section 2: Provisions It Shall be unlawful for any person, firm association or corporation to manufacture, compound, brew, distill, produce, process, sell, offer or expose for sale any food additives or color additive or any food or food product containing a food additive or color additive which is in use at the time this section as hereby amended takes effect or in which in the manufacturing, compounding, brewing, distilling, producing or processing of such a food additive or color additive was used, unless the manufacturer of such a food additive or color additive or of such food or food product hall have reported to the commissioner upon a form prescribed by him the identify of each such food additive or color additive and the proportions thereof by weight in the finished food product manufactured, offered or exposed for sale. All firms' associations or corporations to Manufacture, compound, brew, distill, produce, process, sell, offer or expose for sale any food additives or color additive or any food or food product shall provide full transparency regarding nutritional information, health risk, food safety and known allergens. This information must be made widely visible on all person, firm association or corporation manufacture, compound, brew, distill, produce, process, sell goods. The commissioner may, from time to time, through rules and regulations, exempt certain food additives and color additives from the requirements of this subdivision and remove from such exemption list such food additives and color additives as upon further information may appear to be unsafe.

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Justification: The red and processed meats, alcohol, and foods high in sugar or heavily processed can increase cancer risk if eaten often over time. According to "National Library of Medicine". A total of 13 studies (4 cohort studies and 9 case–control studies) were included in the analysis, with a total of 625,738 participants. The highest UPFs consumption was associated with increased risk of colorectal cancer (OR = 1.23, 95% CI: 1.10–1.38), colon cancer (OR = 1.25, 95% CI: 1.14–1.36), and breast cancer (OR = 1.10, 95% CI: 1.00–1.20) but not rectal cancer (OR = 1.18, 95% CI: 0.97–1.43) and prostate cancer (OR = 1.03, 95% CI: 0.93–1.12). Products like these should be transparent everything and the passage of this bill will do Just that.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal implications would affect agencies such as the FDA due to needing more staff to create regulations, review label designs, and approve compliances.

Environmental Implications: Warning labels and stricter ingredient transparency could push companies to reduce or eliminate harmful additives. If companies are required to disclose additives, they might switch to more natural or environmentally friendly ingredients.

Effective Date: Legislation will go into effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:105

Sponsors: Addison Bradt, Dorian Barnes, Faith White, and Spencer Rambaran

An Act To: Enforce disclosure mandates on the use of deepfakes for campaigns during all elections local and statewide.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that all people running for a state or local office during an election are protected from political threats and deceptive AI generated content that do not have a label saying it was AI-generated.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Deepfakes- A video, image, etc. in which a person face, body, or voice has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else, typically used maliciously or to spread false information.

AI- The application of computer systems able to preform tasks or produce output normally requiring human intelligence, especially by applying machine learning techniques to large collections of data.

Disclosure mandates- Legally binding regulations compelling organizations, companies, or individuals to publicly report specific, standardized information.

AI-Generated- Content including text, images, audio, video, and software code- produced by artificial intelligence systems rather than directly by a human.

Section 2: Provisions: None

Justification: The justification of this bill is to prevent misjudged influences and opinions in political campaigns. AI can cause many implications in political settings such as someone can make another person say something for example a politician saying something racist and this may cause the new rumor of said politician being racist and sabotaging their campaign. With the mass spread of misinformation this can cause problems even in political offices, AI has the capability of making entire offices seem like something it is not. In March of 2025, a study showed that 51% of democrats were concerned on the growth of AI in the US, and 47% of US citizens have little to no trust in the US to regulate AI effectively. AI in political campaigns raises serious risks for voter manipulation, deception, and misinformation to spread. Between July 2023 and July 2024 82 deepfakes targeting public figures, journalists, and candidates were identified. In certain polarized environments, over 8 in 10 Americans cannot verify if content they find is real or AI generated. In other states such as Pennsylvania and Michigan over half of the population reported encountering political deepfakes.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications

Effective Date: This bill will take affect before the next election term

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:106

Sponsors: Kai Milligan and Rainy Atkinson

An Act To: Amend New York State Education Law, Section 803, and applicable regulations of the Department of Education to include a daily 10 minute routine of morning calisthenics in public schools, grades K through 12, before starting academic instruction.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To improve joint and muscle mobility, blood circulation, focus, mindfulness, memory, hypertrophy, mental health, physical health, academic performance, cognitive health and energy for students in New York State Public Schools.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

NY Education Law Section 803: The section of the New York State Education Law is focused on governing physical education requirements in public schools.

Mindfulness: the quality or state of being conscious or aware of something, a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations.

Mental Health: Emotional, psychological, and social well-being, influencing how people think, feel, behave, and cope.

Hypertrophy: the enlargement of an organ or tissue from the increase in size of its cells.

Calisthenics: Gymnastic exercises to achieve bodily fitness and grace of movement.

Accessibility: Equal access.

Cognitive Health: the brain's ability to think, learn, remember, process information clearly, acting as an important part of the overall brain function.

Section 2: Provisions Every public school in New York State with students attending Kindergarten through Twelfth grade shall implement a daily 10-minute morning calisthenics routine prior to the commencement of academic instruction. The routine will consist of low-impact, non-strenuous and simple, bodyweight exercises such as stretching, light aerobic movements, joint mobility exercises, and optional breathing or mindfulness components. These activities are chosen and designed to improve mobility, energy, and focus, ought to be led by an existing homeroom instructor or physical education staff. No outside equipment is required as the program is designed to be done in standard classrooms. Schools must ensure that the routine is accessible to students with physical disabilities through appropriate modifications. Additionally, students with injuries, documented medical issues,

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disabilities, or other health concerns may be exempt from the morning calisthenics if a note from a licensed medical provider is given to the school.

The Commissioner of Education shall issue guidelines for the implementation of this section no later than one year prior to the effective date.

Justification: Research published in the journal Pediatrics have found that brief sessions of physical activity before academic instruction have been shown to improve student attention and on-task behavior by up to 20%. A study by the National Library of Medicine suggests consistent morning exercise may lead to more effective self-regulation, due to daily challenges that may reduce exercise intentions and performance, therefore a person may find morning exercise more effective than later in the day.

Another study by the National Library of Medicine shows that individuals aged 14-19 who ate breakfast and exercised in the morning performed better on academic and cognitive tests than those who did not. The CDC reports that regular physical activity in school is associated with improved academic and cognitive performance, which includes overall higher test scores and better in classroom behavior.

Roughly 1 in 5 children in the United States are classified as obese, and New York State rates mirror that of national trends in this field. Many studies find that structured daily movement provides a low-barrier intervention accessible to all students regardless of athletic ability.

The 10-minute time frame is intentionally brief to minimize, and or mitigate disruption to the school day whilst providing a foreseeable benefit to both the adolescent's academic and overall long-term health. Despite the studies in this research, New York State Education Law has no requirement of any structured physical activity at the start of the school day. This bill fills the gap and supports the research with a minimal, low-cost requirement that any school can implement.

Fiscal Implications: Due to the routine being led by existing homeroom teachers or physical education staff during a time period already within school hours, no additional personnel costs are necessary. Potential startup costs include; printed or digital instructional guides for teachers ($0–$500 per school depending on format) and any modifications to classroom space to allow for movement, which most schools can accommodate within the existing spaces. No new state appropriation is required. The New York State Education Department can issue implementation guidelines within existing staff capacity. Total estimated cost to the state: minimal, with costs absorbed at the district level.

Environmental Implications: Amending NY Education Law Section 803 will not have an environmental impact as nothing in the bill directly correlates to the add-

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:106

on of pollutants into ecosystems, or anything that will disrupt and or impact the natural environment. This bill focuses on adolescent physical, mental, and cognitive health while having environmental impact.

Effective Date: This amendment would become effective in September of 2028, allowing for two full school years before the change.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:107

Sponsors: Luis Duarte, Elva Giron, Vanessa Nova, and Stephanie Tolentino

An Act To: Amend the Social Services Law to establish the Infant and Maternal support allowance. This program would provide a payment of $1,800 per month to low-income families receiving public assistance to help cover the costs associated with a newborn child

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Infant and Maternal support allowance would provide financial support to eligible participants during the last three months of pregnancy, and the first 18 months of a child's life. This program would provide a payment of $1,800 to low-income families receiving public assistance to help cover the costs associated with a newborn child.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

The infant & Maternal support allowance: The infant and Maternal support allowance is designed to appoint financial support to qualifying individuals during the final trimester of pregnancy and the upcoming 18 months postpartum and assisting those who make low income.

Section 2: Provisions Parents can expect to spend between $9,300 and $23,380 per year, or roughly $16,000–$36,000 Initial in the first-year. Monthly baby costs including gear, food, and clothes. Key monthly costs often include $222 for formula, $86 for diaper and wipes, and $68 for clothing, totalling the cost up to $20,000.The program is for low-income families, specifically those with an income below $30,000 a year of the federal poverty line.

Justification: Children's poverty in New York City, and in cities across New York State remains unacceptably high, and could worsen if current economic trends continue. Alarmingly, half of the top six cities in the United States with the highest child poverty rates are located in New York State, with communities and children of color disproportionately affected. In New York City, nearly 1 in 4 children live in poverty. Furthermore, in various other cities in the state of New York, the situation is more severe, with 1 in 2 children living in poverty. Many New Yorkers are struggling to afford basic necessities, and support their families, especially with the rise in interest rates and inflation. During the pandemic, the cost of childcare rose by 41%, even though it already consumed a significant portion of family income. These rising expenses create an even greater burden for low-income families, who must spend a larger share of their income on essentials such as food, housing, and transportation. New York State has both the opportunity and the responsibility to address this crisis. By investing in its most vulnerable residents and implementing a

Assignment: Senate Freedom 2 Bill #:107

guaranteed income allowance for new and expecting families, the state can take meaningful steps toward reducing childhood poverty and building a more equitable economy for all.

Fiscal Implications: $247.5 Million comes from the New York state funds. Eligible individuals chosen for participation in the program shall receive a subsidy of $1,800 per month for the last three months of pregnancy and the first 18 months of a child's life.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect January 2027.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #: 108

Sponsors: Hailey Cutrone, Dylan Reynolds, Madison Spanarelli, and Julianna Weiss

An Act To: Amend Article 260 § 260.00, the penal law to change the penalty for child abandonment from a class E felony to a class C felony.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Change the classification for child abandonment.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Abandoned Child: a child whose biological parents no longer fulfil their responsibility to care for and to provide, thereby ignoring their basic developmental needs.

Class E: Least serious felony in New York State that has a sentence of 1 to 4 years

Class C: A serious crime with a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison

Section 2: Provisions

§ 260.00 Abandonment of a child. 1. A person is guilty of abandonment of a child when, being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with the care or custody of a child less than fourteen years old, he or she deserts such child in any place with intent to wholly abandon such child. 2. A person is not guilty of the provisions of this section when he or she engages in the conduct described in subdivision one of this section: (a) with the intent that the child be safe from physical injury and cared for in an appropriate manner; (b) the child is left with an appropriate person, or in a suitable location and the person who leaves the child promptly notifies an appropriate person of the child's location; and (c) the child is not more than thirty days old. 3. A person is guilty of abandonment of a child when he or she has had no contact (a complete lack of physical presence or communication between a parent, or legal guardian and their child for a specific period of time) or provided for their child for at least 6 months Abandonment of a child is a class E C felony.

Justification: This bill should be carried out to decrease the amount of child abandonment cases in New York State. Children all over the world face child abandonment. In 2020, 110,000 were abandoned by one of their parents within New York State. This is only some of the many children who have had a parent abandon them. Many more kids have been abandoned by a parent. Child abandonment can cause depression, anxiety, PTSD, and low esteem in approximately 46% of children that have been abandoned. In the last 2 years about 14% of children have faced mental health issues due to being abandoned by a parent. In the last 5 years, child abandonment cases have increased by 12% in NYS. Child abandonment is clearly an ongoing problem that needs to be changed.

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Fiscal Implications: There will be no fiscal implications for this bill
Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:109

Sponsors: Declan Brown, Jonathan Tuckman, Sophie Mercer, and Gabe Racaniello
An Act To: Amend Article 65, § 3210 of the New York Education Law to include the addition of five mental health days for public high school students per academic year.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To support the mental health of students by relieving the stress of academic or extracurricular burden

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions
Mental health day: An excused absence for a day taken by a student or as a break from school for the purpose of improving mental health.
Academic year: The period of the year when students attend an educational institution, which is typically from September to June in New York State.
Official testing day: A period of time dedicated by the school for midterms, finals, or AP tests.
Section 2: Provisions b. (i) Absence for religious observance and education shall be permitted under rules that the commissioner shall establish. Absence for the purpose of relieving stress to improve mental health shall be permitted, on these conditions: that the absence is approved by a parent/legal guardian once informed of the schoolwork their child would be missing, a mental health day can't be taken during official testing days, there can only be up to five absences excused for mental health purposes per student per academic year, and the student is responsible to make up any schoolwork they missed.

Justification: High School students all across America are facing a growing mental health crisis. When students are forced to "push through" anxiety, depression, and constant stress all year round, it leads to academic, social, and physical struggles. By treating mental health struggles as less legitimate than physical illnesses, schools are discouraging students from taking the steps they need to remain well. It creates an environment where struggling students are punished even further for being overwhelmed. This bill aims to address this exacerbated situation by granting mental health excused absences in schools. By allowing these excused absences, New York State can reduce burnout, prevent crises from escalating, and ultimately keep students engaged. These absences would not be unlimited or exempt; there would be clear communication between parents and counselors/administrators and make-up plans. Rather than encouraging excessive absences, this policy supports responsible and needed rest. By recognizing mental health as health, this bill

Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:109

improves student stability and helps schools build healthier and more aware learning environments statewide.

Fiscal Implications: There would be minimal fiscal implications because the task would be covered by the administrative attendance team of the school. It is no different than if a student called in sick, so there is no extra burden placed on these administrators that would prompt a raise in salary.

Effective Date: The bill will go into effect at the beginning of the next school year after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #: 110

Sponsors: Tyler Brown, Ava Manzella, and Caitlyn Michiels

An Act To: Amend the public health law section 3309 of the public health law, in relation to requiring certain entities to stock opioid antagonists and to store naloxone nasal sprays with or adjacent to automated external defibrillator cabinets in all public places

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill requires all public places with automated external defibrillators (AED) to store naloxone nasal sprays in or adjacent to AEDs

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Naloxone: A medication used to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. As an opioid antagonist, naloxone works by blocking the effects of opioids on the brain and can quickly restore normal breathing in someone whose breathing has slowed or stopped.

Public Place: A public place is a space that the general public has access to, whether it is owned by the government or a private entity

Defibrillator: An apparatus used to control heart fibrillation by application of an electric current to the chest wall or heart.

Opioid: An opioid is a type of drug that relieves moderate to severe pain by binding to opioid receptors on nerve cells in the brain and body

Automated External Defibrillator: A portable, easy-to-use medical device that delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm during a sudden cardiac arrest

Overdose: An excessive dose of drug that stops the heart.

Section 2: Provisions§ 922. Opioid overdose prevention. 1. All public places such as schools, government buildings, places with more than 75 people inside and/or 200 people outdoors in this state [may] SHALL provide and maintain on-site in each public place, opioid antagonists, as defined in section three thousand three hundred nine of the public health law, in quantities and types deemed by the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of health, to be adequate to ensure ready and appropriate access for use during emergencies to any, individual on or bystander suspected of having opioid overdose whether or not there is a previous history of opioid abuse. Such opioid antagonist shall include, but not be limited to, Naloxone nasal sprays located with or adjacent to every Automated External Defibrillator, as defined in paragraph (A) of subdivision one of

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section three thousand-B of the public health law, provided and maintained by state AED coordinator to check AEDs monthly

Justification: New York is in the midst of a devastating opioid epidemic. Opioid overdose deaths due to prescription opioids, heroin, and other synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl) are at an all-time high. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in August of 2023 there were 111,451 deaths due to opioids and roughly 25% of those were in public places. A recent study from March 2022 to August 2023 showed a high survival rate of over 99% for opioid overdose patients who received naloxone from New York State troopers.

Naloxone (Narcan) and other opioid antagonists work to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose by attaching to opioid receptors and reversing and blocking the effects of opioid drugs. This quickly restores normal breathing and wakes the individual from an overdose. It is important to note that if naloxone and other opioid reversal drugs are given to someone who does not have opioids in their system, these opioid antagonists will have no adverse health consequences on that individual.

Research shows that nearly 40% of opioid deaths, documented bystanders, could have potentially administered life saving Narcan. Making naloxone consistently available in the same location would allow bystanders to easily locate opioid overdose reversal medications and help prevent a fatal overdose.

Naloxone supply needs to be more prevalent and accessible to help reduce opioid overdose deaths and save lives across New York State.

This legislation would help make naloxone and other opioid antagonists readily accessible by storing the medicine in automated external defibrillator (AED) cabinets and would provide the consistency needed for bystanders to know exactly where to find it.

Fiscal Implications: Each dose of naloxone is $50 but depending on insurance, could be less. Schools can request free narcan through the OASAS (Office of Addiction services and support) . New York State receives over $2 billion in funds from opioid settlements with manufacturers and distributors, a portion of which is dedicated to purchasing and distributing naloxone and funding related harm reduction initiatives.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:111

Sponsors: Halie Brewer, Abby Hill, Grace Clair, and Morgan Fawley

An Act To: Modify SECTION 2805-V Observation services to make it obligatory to drug test health care workers during their observation times; and background checks before the initial hiring process.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Protect residents/patients from drug using healthcare workers causing negative health outcomes.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Drug Test: A medical analysis of a biological sample to detect the presence of drugs that are present in said persons system.

Drugs: Hallucinogens, Stimulants, Opioids, Depressants, Inhalants, Dissociates, and Cannabinoids. (unless prescribed),

Healthcare Worker: Any person delivering support to patients or residents.

Patient: Persons in medical care such as a hospital or a doctor's office.

Resident: Persons in long term care facilities, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, or psychiatric wards.

Nursing Homes: Provides medical care and support for older people who cannot care for themselves

Long Term Care Facility: Provides medical care and support for people with disabilities and restrictions.

Psychiatric Ward: The place mentally unwell people are sent.

Rehabilitation Center: The place patients are sent after hospital care, surgery, or needs help with drugs and alcohol.

Background Check: A systematic review of a person's past

Section 2: Provisions Based on the clinical needs of the patient, which shall be determined in prompt fashion by appropriate staff, and the availability of services to meet those needs and patient safety, a general hospital shall determine (a) the proper clinical location for the care of a specific patient requiring observation services, including whether or not to provide such services in a distinct physical space, and (b) the appropriate oversight of observation services.

Every general hospital providing observation services shall develop and adopt policies and procedures for observation services, including: (a) assignment of a provider who will be responsible for the care of the patient and timely discharge from observation services; (b) clinical criteria for observation assignment and discharge; and (c) integration with quality assurance activities of the hospital.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:111

Justification: Research indicates that as many as 1 in every 10 patients, and residents has been harmed by doctors and physicians who are under the influence of drugs at the time of their negative health care outcome. As many as 1 in every 7 doctors may be addicted to some kind of drug or alcohol. Routine drug testing is rare in many medical environments. High-risk patient specialties do have stricter oversight; however many unspecialized physicians are not held to the same standards. 81.7% of programs do not require drug testing for medical students, and only about 10% of health care programs conduct random drug testing on their employees. There is not only the risk of somebody being harmed during a procedure – there are also many cases where residents have stolen drugs from patients and replaced then with placebos. Take David Kwaitkowski (New Hampshire), Kristen Parker (Denver) , and Steven Buemel (Florida) for example. All three doctors would take fentanyl prepared for patients and inject themselves, refilling the syringes with saline. However, saline wasn't the only thing they added to the syringes. Each of these doctors had Hepatitis C. This resulted in several deaths and countless unexplained diagnoses of Hepatitis C in patients. With mandatory drug testing, thousands of people could be saved from death or illness due to employees.

Fiscal Implications: 10,000+ drug tests cost a total of $29,900 which means $2.99 per drug test.

Environmental Implications: Mild biological waste

Effective Date: January 1st 2027

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:112

Sponsors: Fuad Rizqalla, Giuseppe Truiano, Tommy Mahoney, and Jackson O'Hara

An Act To: Amend the New York State General Business Law Bill A10047 § 1711 to require watermarks/disclosures for any video or photo source in social media.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Hold video and photo producers on social media platforms accountable for adding watermarks to any products created by Artificial Intelligence.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Artificial Intelligence- the application of computer systems able to perform tasks or produce output normally requiring human intelligence, especially by applying machine learning techniques to large collections of data.

Media- the main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the internet

Section 2: Provisions § 1711. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR AI-GENERATED OR MATERIALLY AI-ALTERED MEDIA; HISTORICALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN DISASTERS. 1. ANY PERSON THAT DISTRIBUTES OR PUBLISHES ANY AI-GENERATED CONTENT DEPICTING AN HISTORICALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN DISASTER ANY MEDIA VIDEO OR PHOTO THAT WAS PRODUCED BY OR INCLUDES MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE MEDIA AND HAS ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THIS USE.

Justification: The increasing use of Artificial Intelligence generated media online makes transparency policies like watermarking necessary to protect the public. Research shows that people are commonly unable to identify fake content on their own. Studies supported by iProov showed that U.S. and U.K. participants found that only 0.1% could accurately distinguish real from AI-generated images and videos, while many remained confined in their wrong judgments. Vulnerability has real consequences, as deepfake technology has already been used in major scams. Reporting from The Guardian has noted that real incidents were fake media circulated widely online and caused financial and reputational harm, showing how platform amplifications can turn a single post into a widespread issue. Research from the MIT Sloan School of Management has shown that misleading or false content spreads farther and faster online than accurate information, this means that once something deceptive goes viral, it can be difficult to fix. Once more, academic work published through arXiv further shows how bots and recommendation systems can increase misleading content once it appears.This bill would be accounted for by most social media platforms Tiktok, Youtube, Instagram, Snapchat, etc… It simply is to make sure content creators show accountability in

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using AI. If such videos or photos were to be published, they should be taken down by the companies with warnings. Because influencers operate at the center of these digital databases and reach large audiences, requiring visible AI watermarks would help viewers better evaluate what they see, which strengthens accountability, and reduces the harm caused by rapidly spreading deceptive media.

Fiscal Implications: No Fiscal Implications.

Effective Date: 1 month after the passage of this bill.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:113

Sponsors: Gabriela Arango, Jacob Barletta, Angelina Detke, Molly Luzim, and Brayden Olin

An Act To: Amend Article 17, Section 804-c of the New York State Education Law, to require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as a mandatory part of the high school health curriculum and as a condition of graduation.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To improve public health and safety by requiring New York high school students to receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as part of the health curriculum prior to graduation.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR): An emergency procedure used to maintain blood circulation and breathing in individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.

Cardiac Arrest: The sudden cessation of normal heart function resulting in loss of effective blood circulation.

Defibrillation: A life-saving medical treatment that uses an electric shock to restore a normal heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED): A portable medical device used to deliver an electric shock to help restore a normal heart rhythm during cardiac arrest.

Bystander: A person who is present at an emergency but is not a medical professional or emergency responder.

High School Health Curriculum: Any health education course required or offered for credit to students in grades nine through twelve pursuant to New York State Education Department standards.

Section 2: Provisions Amend Article 17, Section 804-c of the New York State Education Law, to add the following: Require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as a mandatory part of the high school health curriculum and as a condition of graduation.

All high school health courses shall include a CPR instructional unit, which enrolled students must complete. Instructional time shall be determined by the instructor, provided that all essential CPR competencies in the approved curriculum are taught. CPR instruction shall use curricula developed by nationally recognized organizations, including the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross, and shall be provided by individuals holding current CPR/AED instructor certification from a nationally recognized organization. Instruction may be delivered by certified school personnel or through partnerships with approved outside organizations.

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Justification: This legislation is justified by the clear public health benefits of CPR education. Sudden cardiac arrest can occur without warning, and immediate bystander CPR significantly increases survival rates; however, many individuals lack the training needed to respond effectively (American Heart Association). CPR instruction may be delivered through hands-on training, instructional videos, or approved training models aligned with New York State Education Department standards, ensuring that all students graduate with essential life-saving skills and are prepared to respond to cardiac emergencies in public settings. This bill promotes public safety, health awareness, and community preparedness across New York State. More than 40 states and the District of Columbia require CPR and AED training as a condition of high school graduation to improve bystander response to cardiac arrest, often emphasizing hands-only CPR and AED usage (American Heart Association). States without CPR instruction in schools have a bystander CPR rate of only 39.5% (Journal of the American Heart Association). In New York, heart disease is the leading cause of death, responsible for over 41,000 deaths annually. Survival decreases by about 10% for every minute CPR is delayed (American Heart Association; American Red Cross), yet only about 40% of victims receive bystander CPR despite evidence it can double or triple survival rates (American Heart Association; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Requiring CPR instruction ensures graduates enter adulthood equipped with a life-saving skill.

Fiscal Implications: Most New York State high schools already possess CPR and AED training equipment as required by law, and any additional costs would be limited to instructor certification renewals and periodic equipment replacement, often offset through partnerships with organizations such as the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association. No new permanent state funding program is required.

Effective Date: July 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:114

Sponsors: Alan Guevara Hernandez and Joseph Galdamez

An Act To: Amend Chapter 26 §353 of the New York Consolidated Laws to include the sale, distribution, and production of fishbowls as a form of animal cruelty.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prohibit the sale, distribution, and production of fishbowls in New York State, make a buy-back program for fishbowls bought before the banning date, and recycle the material of seized fishbowls.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Fish: A limbless, cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins and living wholly in water.

Fishbowl: A round glass bowl for keeping pet fish in

Fish Tank: A container, usually made out of glass or acrylic, specifically designed for holding water and fish with a filtration system.

Pet: A domesticated animal normally maintained in or near the household of the owner or person who cares for such other domesticated animal.

Animal Cruelty: every act, omission, or neglect, whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering, or death is caused to an animal.

Large Retailer: major, often national or international, business enterprises operating high-volume, large-format stores

Section 2: Provisions Mandate large retailers to stop the sale, distribution, and production of fishbowls.

Large retailers will be fined $1000 per unit of fishbowls sold.

Encourage current fishbowl owners to hand their fishbowls over to the state in exchange for an ethical fish aquarium.

The state will recycle all the fishbowls they receive and sell the materials to local businesses.

Justification: We aim to prohibit fishbowls because they create a harmful environment for the fish. Goldfish in the wild can live up to 40 years, whereas fish in fishbowls live on average only 1 year. Fishbowls, when not maintained, can lead to toxic buildup, which will slowly and painfully kill a fish. They also provide very little space for fish to swim and grow. There are almost 600,000 households in New York that own fish, and around 23% of them use fish bowls. That means that more than 100,000 fish in New York State are suffering in unsafe and hazardous fishbowls. The truth is that most people who own fishbowls are not trying to harm these fish. They usually can not afford normal fish tanks. That is why we should give fish tanks to people in exchange for their old fish bowls.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:114

Fiscal Implications: A ten-gallon fish tank with a filtration system costs, on average, 50 dollars. Since approximately 135,000 households own fishbowls, we can allocate 6,800,000 dollars to buy fish tanks to exchange. With the materials from the fish bowls we receive, we can recycle them back into the raw materials. We can then sell these materials at a subsidized rate to small, local businesses.
Environmental Implications: Glass fishbowls are easy to melt back down into glass for other things that can be used, but plastic fishbowls cause more problems. We will recycle easily recyclable plastics like polyethylene terephthalate, but other plastics like polystyrene cannot be recycled.
Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:115

Sponsors: Caleb Hanson, Haley Tucker, Ethan Maslin, Oliver Kida, and Tristan Lynch
An Act To: Amend Vehicle & Traffic Law §301-c to add a statement about checks for headlamp alignment.
The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:
Purpose: To require a check during inspection to ensure that road vehicles meet federal standards for headlamp performance and alignment, reducing glare and improving safety at night.
Summary of Provisions
Section 1: Definitions
Headlamp alignment - the aim or direction of a vehicle's front-facing low-beam Headlamps, such that the light is properly directed toward the roadway. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 (49 C.F.R. § 571.108) - regulation that sets the requirements for vehicle lighting, reflective devices, and associated equipment to ensure adequate visibility and reduce glare Observable beam pattern distortion - a visibly abnormal headlamp beam shape, including warping, excessive spread, scatter, or irregular light distribution
Section 2: Provisions (c) (1) (a) A safety inspection shall be made with respect to the brakes; steering mechanism; wheel alignment; lights, including but not limited to the lights which are designed and placed on a vehicle for the purpose of illuminating the vehicle's license plates, as well as the front-facing low-beam headlights. Such headlamps shall be inspected for proper mechanical aim and alignment, using methods approved by the commissioner, and for compliance with applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, including Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 (49 C.F.R. § 571.108), which includes but is not limited to the absence of observable beam pattern distortion, excessive upward light, or glare inconsistent with a compliant low-beam cutoff. Any headlamp assembly or light source that has been modified, replaced, retrofitted, or misaligned through general use in a manner that results in noncompliance with such federal standards shall constitute a failure of inspection. A safety inspection shall also be made with respect to the odometer; tire pressure; seat safety belts; shoulder harness safety belts; any window which is composed of, covered by or treated with any material which has a light transmittance of less than seventy percent pursuant to section three hundred seventy-five of this title and such other mechanisms and equipment as shall be determined by the commissioner to be necessary for proper and safe operations. Such inspection shall also be made with respect to vehicle identification

Assignment: Senate Freedom 3 Bill #:115

number. Upon inspection, the mileage appearing on the odometer shall be recorded upon the inspection sticker.

Justification: At night, headlights can be blinding, even when people are correctly using their low-beam headlights. However, low-beam headlights can sometimes be misaligned, pointing up into other drivers' eyes. This misalignment develops over time in many vehicles through regular use. The headlamp housings and optics designed for halogen light sources often do not properly control light from LED replacement bulbs, causing the new bulbs to point into other driver's eyes. This bill aims to check for this misalignment during inspection, ensuring that cars with headlights that are retrofitted or misaligned from regular use are caught before they blind other drivers and potentially cause accidents.

Fiscal Implications: Inspection sites may be required to use headlamp aiming equipment or visual beam pattern inspection methods approved by the commissioner. Any additional costs would be paid by inspection stations, not the state, and some stations already possess or can access such equipment.

Environmental Implications: Very few implications: if bulbs are misaligned, they may need to be replaced, leading to a very small increase in waste.

Effective Date: 1 year after the passage of this bill

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:116

Sponsors: Nate Gosdin, Karim Hammami, and Meghann McDermott

An Act To: Amend Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) §32.03 – Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) Powers and Duties

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce repeat overdoses, increase access to treatment, and provide a structured pathway to recovery by ensuring individuals who experience a drug overdose receive timely, state-supported rehabilitation or counseling services.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Overdose: A medically verified incident in which an individual experiences acute physical distress, life-threatening symptoms, or significant impairment resulting from the consumption of controlled substances, including opioids, stimulants, or other psychoactive drugs.

Post-overdose treatment referral program: The program established under Mental Hygiene Law §32.03(c) in which individuals who experience an overdose are offered a referral and recommendation to enroll in a state-approved rehabilitation or counseling program.

State-approved rehabilitation or counseling program: Any program certified or licensed by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) that provides addiction treatment, counseling, or rehabilitation services.

Participation: Voluntary enrollment of an individual in a state-approved rehabilitation or counseling program following a post-overdose referral.

Treatment cost: All direct expenses associated with enrollment in a state-approved rehabilitation or counseling program, including intake, counseling sessions, medication-assisted treatment, and follow-up care.

State-supported assistance: Financial support provided by New York State covering thirty-five percent (35%) of the total treatment cost for individuals who voluntarily participate in the post-overdose treatment referral program.

Referral provider: Any licensed medical professional, hospital, or emergency medical services personnel responsible for offering a referral to an individual following a medically verified overdose.

Controlled substance: Any substance listed in Schedules I through V under New York State's Controlled Substances Act or as designated under federal law.

Emergency department: A hospital department that provides immediate medical care for acute illnesses or injuries, including treatment for drug overdoses.

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Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME): A standardized measure that converts the potency of any opioid into the equivalent dose of morphine to allow consistent comparison and evaluation.
Medical follow-up: Any assessment, evaluation, or counseling provided within thirty days of hospital or emergency department discharge related to overdose care, intended to support recovery and prevent repeat overdoses.
Anonymized clinical data: Individual-level data collected by providers where personally identifiable information is removed or coded to protect patient privacy while allowing evaluation of treatment outcomes.
Commissioner: The commissioner of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) or their designee, responsible for the administration of the post-overdose referral program.
Section 2: Provisions (a) The commissioner shall ensure that all chemical dependence services provided under this chapter for persons who abuse and/or are dependent on alcohol and/or substances are periodically evaluated.
(b) The commissioner shall, by regulations, establish and maintain evaluation criteria and methods which assure the utility of data generated in the evaluation of chemical dependence services in different areas of the state provided under this chapter for those persons who abuse or are dependent on alcohol and/or substances, including, but not limited to:
1. Uniform definitions of chemical dependence services to persons who abuse and/or are dependent on alcohol and/or substances;
2. Uniform objectives for all comparable chemical dependence services and programs;
3. Uniform definitions of screening, assessment, evaluation, level of care determination, admission and discharge for comparable providers of services;
4. Uniform clinical reporting procedures; and
5. Uniform requirements for the generation and maintenance of data for all individuals receiving services from any provider of services issued an operating certificate under this article.
(c) The commissioner shall establish and administer a post-overdose treatment referral program, under which any individual who experiences a medically verified drug overdose shall be offered a comprehensive referral and a formal recommendation to enroll in a state-approved rehabilitation or counseling program within thirty days of discharge from an emergency department or inpatient facility. Participation in such treatment shall be voluntary.
(d) Individuals who elect to participate in the post-overdose treatment referral program shall be eligible for no more than three lifetime uses of financial assistance under this subdivision. For each approved participation: The state shall cover fifty percent of the total treatment costs; and the individual may elect to receive an optional state-backed loan covering up to twenty-five percent of the total treatment costs, which shall accrue no interest until three years after the loan is issued.
(e) Providers offering services under subdivisions (c) and (d) of this section shall submit uniform, anonymized clinical and demographic data to the office for the purpose of evaluating program effectiveness, reducing repeat overdoses, and improving treatment outcomes.
Justification: Drug overdoses continue to be a leading cause of preventable death in New York State, with many individuals experiencing repeated overdoses without access to structured follow-up care. This bill establishes a post-overdose treatment referral program that encourages, but does not require, individuals to enter state-approved rehabilitation or counseling, providing a pathway to recovery while respecting personal choice. By offering state-supported assistance covering thirty-five percent of treatment costs, the program removes financial barriers, improves access to evidence-based care, reduces the risk of repeat overdoses, and strengthens public health outcomes across the state.
Fiscal Implications: To fund the Post-Overdose Treatment Assistance Program, the state shall generate approximately 72.5 million dollars annually through a combination of opioid-industry regulatory fees and an increase in the marijuana excise tax. Opioid-related fees shall total 50 million dollars per year and shall consist of an annual surcharge on opioid manufacturers totaling 30 million dollars, assessed as a 3 million dollar fee on each of the ten manufacturers operating within the state; an annual distributor assessment totaling 50 million dollars, comprised of a 500 thousand dollar base fee per distributor supplemented by a surcharge of $0.005 per morphine milligram equivalent distributed in New York; and 5 million dollars collected from controlled-substance registrants through a 250 dollar annual fee imposed on approximately 20 thousand registered facilities. In addition, the program shall be supported by a 1.75-percentage increase in the state tax on legalized marijuana products, which is projected to generate approximately 22.5 million dollars in annual revenue. The total annual cost of administering the

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program is estimated at approximately 55 million dollars, including around 50 million dollars in treatment-cost obligations, based on an average of 10 thousand participants annually receiving 10 thousand dollars in approved services, of which the state covers fifty percent, and an additional 5 million dollars in administrative, oversight, and data-management expenses. The state will also maintain a revolving fund to support the optional 25 percent no-interest loan program, estimated at 10 to 15 million dollars, which will replenish over time through loan repayments. Together, the revenue streams identified above will fully cover the program's operational costs, loan-fund capitalization, and administrative needs, ensuring the initiative remains financially self-sustaining without requiring reallocations from existing state resources

Environmental Implications: This legislation is not expected to have any significant direct environmental impacts. Indirect benefits may include reduced improper disposal of controlled substances due to increased participation in post-overdose treatment programs and improved community health outcomes. Additionally, the program may reduce environmental hazards associated with repeated emergency responses to overdoses, such as ambulance emissions and medical waste from unmanaged drug use.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:117

Sponsors: Phanise Philippe, Melanie Gomez Castaneda, Phanie Philippe, and Tanya Filpo

An Act To: Amend article 44b chapter 20 of the General Business Law to add §1424 to prohibit creating synthetic content using an identifiable person's likeness without their express, written consent.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to protect individual identity, prevent fraud/mis-formation, uphold right of publicity, ensure ethical AI, and maintain public trust by giving people control over their likeness, especially as AI deepfakes try to impersonate or exploit individuals without permission. This law aims to provide clear transparency for consumers and accountability for the creators of these platforms.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Synthetic content: generally refers to any media or information that is artificially generated or significantly altered by artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms and other computer-based tools, rather than being created just by humans.

Explicit consent: is a clear, specific, and clear agreement given by an individual, through an express statement, to the processing of their personal data or other specific action, after being fully informed of the implications.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks normally done by human-reasoning, decision making, creating, etc.

Section 2: Provisions If found in violation of this article of not adhering to the explicit consent for someone's image, voice and likeness, they will be held accountable under the following violations from section 1422 of the General Business law.

Justification: The amount of deepfake content online is rapidly increasing, with projections showing deepfake files growing from about 500,000 in 2023 to roughly 8 million by 2025, and fraud attempts linked to deepfakes rising by as much as 3,000 % in recent years. Research indicates that as much as 96–98 % of deepfakes available online are intimate images created without consent, often used to exploit or harm real people. Several U.S. states such as Pennsylvania and Washington have already passed laws that criminalize creating or using deepfake content with harmful intent, including fraud, or harassment.

Fiscal Implications: May require NYS training and additional employment.

Environmental Implications: This will impact the data centers which may require more internet usage.

Effective Date: Bill will go into effect one year after passage.

Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:118

Sponsors: Maille Kelle, Halley Labrecque, Finley Eager, and Jadynn Egloff

An Act To: Amend FIS Article 6 section 604 to add stricter guidelines to the existing law, so that no special needs person can experience a blanket upcharge

The People of the New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The criteria for determining a reasonable medical fee shall be revised to prohibit the use of patients with special needs or individual characteristics as a basis for imposing higher charges than the standard cost of the service.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Special Needs: particular requirements arising from physical or intellectual disability or behavioral difficulties or disabilities

Criteria: a principle or standard by which something may be judged or decided.

Fee: a payment made to a professional person or to a professional or public body in exchange for advice or services.

Section 2: Provisions § 604. Criteria for determining a reasonable fee. In determining the appropriate amount to pay for a health care service, an independent dispute resolution entity shall consider all relevant factors, including:

(a) whether there is a gross disparity between the fee charged by the provider for services rendered as compared to:

(1) fees paid to the involved provider for the same services rendered by the provider to other patients in health care plans in which the provider is not participating, and

(2) in the case of a dispute involving a health care plan, fees paid by the health care plan to reimburse similarly qualified providers for the same services in the same region who are not participating with the health care plan;

(b) the level of training, education and experience of the health care professional, and in the case of a hospital, the teaching staff, of services and case mix;

(c) the provider's usual charge for comparable services with regard to patients in health care plans in which the provider is not participating;

(d) the circumstances and complexity of the particular case, including time and place of the service;

(e) individual patient characteristics, but only to the degree that such characteristics cause additional provider resources or impact the cost of care

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(f) the median of the rate recognized by the health care plan to reimburse similarly qualified providers for the same or similar services in the same region that are participating with the health care plan; and

(g) with regard to physician services, the usual and customary cost of the service.

Justification: Many special needs people have been charged more money for medical expenses while receiving the exact same care. With this bill that will no longer be allowed. If a special needs patient uses excess medical supplies or personnel they will be charged accordingly, however in a case where the exact same treatment was provided a patient will pay the exact same price.

Fiscal Implications: NYS hospitals combined would lose out on 4,186,000,000 (4 billion, 186 million) dollars a year, however New York state would lose nothing

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:119

Sponsors: Shirley Galindo Jeronimo, Vy Luu, Andrew Peralta Santos, and Luke Pitti

An Act To: Amend the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1192, in relation to lowering the blood alcohol concentration required for driving while intoxicated from .08 of one per centum to 0.05.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To make the roads safer for drivers and decrease the amount of injuries and casualties caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Centum: Grams of alcohol for every 100 milliliters of blood.

BAC: Blood Alcohol Content, the amount of alcohol present in the blood.

Intoxicated: A state where a person's mental or physical faculties are impaired due to substances like alcohol or drugs, often defined by a specific Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC).

Section 2: Provisions §1192 2. Driving while intoxicated; per se. No person shall operate a motor vehicle while such person has ~~.08~~ .05 of one per centum or more by weight of alcohol in the person's blood as shown by chemical analysis of such person's blood, breath, urine or saliva, made pursuant to the provisions of section eleven hundred ninety-four of this article.

Justification: In New York State, over 30% of fatal car accidents are caused by drunk drivers, and over 40% of overall car accidents are caused by drunk drivers; these numbers have been consistently rising, with a rise of 5% from 2019 to 2022. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which investigates significant transportation accidents to determine probable cause and issue safety recommendations to prevent future tragedies, has issued recommendations to states to lower the blood alcohol content limit for drunk driving from 0.08 to 0.05. Utah, the only state currently implementing this bill, showed remarkable results one year after its passage: a 19.89% decrease in fatal car accidents and an 18.3% decrease in overall car accidents. Drunk driving has caused more accidents than any other cause. Decreasing the BAC to 0.05 would be safer for others, as a BAC of 0.08 or higher typically causes inability to concentrate, impaired perception, reduced cognitive processing speed, and difficulty hearing, seeing, speaking, and coordinating. While at a BAC of 0.05, these inabilities would be minimal.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications in this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:120

Sponsors: Cooper Comito, Eamonn Foley, Aiden Conway, and Valentino Trejos-Schacht

An Act To: Amend Public Officers Law Section 74 - Code of Ethics, Prohibit Stock Trading by New York State Assemblymen While in Office.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prohibit the New York State Assembly from trading individual stocks while serving in office, ensuring impartial oversight of the state's finances, and ensuring financial responsibility.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Individual Stock: A security representing ownership in a single publicly traded company, excluding diversified mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), or index funds.

Blind Trust: A financial arrangement in which a public official's assets are managed by an independent, qualified asset manager without the official's knowledge of specific investment decisions or holdings.

Independent Asset Manager: A licensed financial professional with no personal, political, or financial relationship to the public official, responsible for managing assets within a blind trust.

Recusal: The act of abstaining from participating in discussion, voting, or influencing legislation, executive action, or policy decisions due to a potential conflict of interest.

Term of Office: The period beginning on the date a member of the New York State Assembly is sworn into office and ending upon the conclusion of their service.

Section 2: Provisions

New York State Assembly members shall be prohibited from buying, selling, or trading individual stocks during their term in office. New York State Assembly members must place all investment assets into a diversified blind trust managed by an independent asset manager. Assets shall not be liquidated in order to avoid unnecessary capital gains taxation. The blind trust must be diversified so the New York State Assembly members cannot influence or benefit from the performance of any specific company. Alternatively, if the New York State Assembly members choose not to use a blind trust, they must fully recuse themselves from voting on, approving, or influencing any legislation, executive order, or policy that could impact the value of their investments.

Justification: New York State Assembly members hold significant legislative power that can directly influence markets, industries, and individual companies. Allowing the New York State Assembly members to trade individual stocks while in office

Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:120

creates real or perceived conflicts of interest. This act promotes ethical leadership, transparency, and public trust in the New York State government.

Fiscal Implications: This act would have minimal fiscal impact. Any administrative oversight can be handled by existing state ethics and compliance agencies.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:121

Sponsors: Colin Morris, Walter Hodgson, Rowan Olesheski, and Tristin Campbell

An Act To: Amend section article 1, section § 18-105 of the General Obligations law to allow skiing outside of designated areas where skiers assume all risks.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To allow users of ski resorts to access terrain outside of designated ski trails including train that may lead to the backcountry or area that may provide good skiing.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Backcountry: An area not considered part of the ski area but public land that can be used recreationally

Designated Terrain: Any marked trail that or area appears on a map.

Section 2: Provisions Skiers are allowed to ski off designated trails and terrain assuming all risks of personal injury, equipment, damage and even potentially rescue. Ski resorts will have the power to close certain areas that may include extreme hazards or environmentally protected areas. Ski Resorts must make a clear ski area boundary on all maps and include signage when marked trails near the boundary. Ski resorts must alter the liability waiver to include allowance of skiing outside of designated terrain. Ski patrollers will now need to be trained in avalanche safety (AIRE Level 1 Course at the bare minimum) along with wilderness first aid. Rescue would be conducted by patrol however if the situation is beyond their control local professional rescue teams would be called upon.

~~Not to ski in any area designated for skiing~~.

Justification: Many skiers and riders in NYS are often limited to designated trails and areas that may not always have the best terrain or may be overcrowded with other users. This bill would allow users to explore ski areas.

Fiscal Implications: Search and rescue crews would have to rescue injured skiers or recreators however much like on other state wilderness areas if the rescue is a result of clear negligence or being unprepared for the current conditions the rescue would be paid for in full by the party being rescued.

Environmental Implications: Allowing skiers to ski non designated areas may cause soil erosion, vegetation damage, wildlife disturbances and spread invasive species. It also raises environmental awareness by allowing skiers to experience the beauty of the resort.

Effective Date: June 1, 2026

Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:122

Sponsors: Matthew Palamidessi, Chris Meyers, Jonah Greenwald, Kellan Magner, and Wesley Wassle

An Act To: Amend Article 32, Section 3216 of the New York Insurance Law, in relation to requiring state-regulated health insurance providers to include a voluntary Donate Life organ and tissue donor registry opt-in option during electronic health insurance applications.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To increase organ and tissue donor registration by requiring state-regulated health insurance providers to include a clear and voluntary Donate Life Registry opt-in option during electronic enrollment, annual renewals, and through secure member portals.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Organ Donation: The process of donating organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, or pancreas to save the life of another person.

Tissue Donation: The donation of tissues including corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, and tendons to improve or restore the health of others.

Donate Life Registry: New York State's official organ and tissue donor registry where individuals can legally record their decision to be a donor.

Donor: A person who has given legal consent to donate their organs and tissues after death.

Recipient: A person who receives an organ or tissue transplant to treat a medical condition.

Health Insurance: A plan or program that provides coverage for medical expenses under New York State law.

Health Insurance Application: Any paper or electronic form completed by an individual to apply for health insurance coverage in New York State.

Applicant: An individual who is applying for health insurance coverage.

Section 2: Provisions Amend Article 32, Section 3216 of the New York Insurance Law, to add the following: Require state-regulated health insurance providers to include a voluntary Donate Life organ and tissue donor registry opt-in option during electronic health insurance applications.

The opt-in option shall be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner and made available during electronic enrollment, annual policy renewals, and through secure online member portals. Participation shall be entirely voluntary and shall not affect eligibility for coverage, benefits, or premiums.

The opt-in shall include a brief standardized educational statement approved and developed by the New York State Department of Health explaining organ and tissue donation. Information collected shall be transmitted solely to the New York State Donate Life Registry and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Justification: While many Americans are registered organ donors, millions of eligible New Yorkers remain unregistered. As of January 13, 2026, approximately 103,223 people nationwide are waiting for eye, organ, and tissue transplants, with a new person added every eight minutes and about 13 deaths each day due to donor shortages (organdonor.gov). More than 100,000 individuals are awaiting life-saving transplants, including nearly 8,000 in New York State (Health.NY.gov). A single donor can save up to eight lives and improve more than 75 others, making increased registration a clear and impactful solution (Donate Life America). Providing a Donate Life Registry option during health insurance enrollment offers an accessible, nonintrusive opportunity for informed decision-making. Because millions of New Yorkers complete health insurance applications each year, this platform serves as an effective outreach method (NY Department of Financial Services). Research shows that visible opt-in registries increase enrollment without infringing on individual choice (National Academies of Sciences). Organ transplantation not only saves lives but also reduces long-term healthcare costs by replacing expensive treatments such as dialysis, which can exceed $90,000 per patient annually (Medicare.gov). Increasing donor registration improves public health outcomes, reduces preventable deaths, and strengthens New York State's healthcare system while maintaining voluntary consent.

Fiscal Implications: No new state funding or tax increases required, as it relies on existing insurance enrollment systems and the established Donate Life Registry. Administrative costs are minimal and absorbed within current operations, and organ procurement funding remains unchanged.

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #:122

Assignment: Senate Freedom 4 Bill #: 123

Sponsors: Mohanad Al Masalmeh and Maneno Kaburo

An Act To: Amend existing youth labor protections under New York State Labor Law §143 to include 18-year-olds, by establishing reasonable limits on working hours, late-night employment, and weekly work schedules - in order to protect young workers' health, safety, and educational or training commitments, while preventing exploitation and excessive labor demands.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of protecting 18-year-olds under this act would be to recognize that many are still in a transitional stage between school and full adulthood and can be especially vulnerable in the workplace. Employers will not be able to exploit 18-year-olds and will have hour limits reduced at the risk of unfair or unsafe scheduling. Reasonable limits within the workplace encourage balance between work, education, and rest, helping young adults build sustainable careers.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions This bill proposes an amendment to New York State Labor Law §143 to extend the provisions relating to the regulation of working hours, number of workdays, and limitations on late-night employment to include employees who have attained the age of eighteen years. Under the amendment, employers shall ensure that such employees are not employed more than the maximum hours permitted per week, the maximum number of workdays permitted per week, or during restricted late-night hours as currently applicable to minors aged sixteen and seventeen. Employers shall continue to maintain accurate records of hours worked for all employees covered under this section. All other provisions of §143 remain in full force and effect.

~~• When school is in session, no minor sixteen or seventeen years of age enrolled in a daytime school, other than a part-time or continuation school, shall be employed: a. (i) More than four hours on any day preceding a school day, other than on a Sunday or holiday; (ii) except that students enrolled in a cooperative work experience program approved by the department of education may be employed for no more than six hours on any day preceding a school day, other than on a Sunday or holiday, if such hours of employment occur solely pursuant to such program. Any hours worked by students in such programs shall be included when calculating the number of hours worked for purposes of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; b. More than eight hours on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or holiday; c. More than twenty-eight hours a week; d. More than six days a week; e. After ten o'clock at night on any day preceding a school day, or after midnight on any day preceding a school day provided the employer receives and maintains both the written consent of the minor's parent or guardian and a certificate which shall be provided to the employer at the end of each marking period by the minor's school which shall assert that such minor is in satisfactory academic standing according to the standards in such school district; f. After ten o'clock at night on any day preceding a non-school day or, if the employer receives and maintains the written consent of the minor's parent or guardian, after midnight; or g. Before six o'clock in the morning. • When school is not in session, no minor sixteen or seventeen years of age shall be employed: a. More than eight hours a day, except that for the purpose of making one or more shorter work days or a holiday in a week, such persons may be employed up to ten hours on any one day of the week, and nine hours on any of four other days, but not in excess of forty-eight hours in any such week; b. More than forty-eight hours a week; c. More than six days a week; or d. After twelve midnight or before six o'clock in the morning. • A minor sixteen or seventeen years of age who is not enrolled in a daytime school when school is in session shall be covered under subdivision two of this section. • This section shall not apply to a newspaper carrier … a farm laborer … a child performer … a child model … a bridge caddie … or a baby sitter … or a seventeen year old minor employed as a counselor, junior counselor or counselor in training at a camp for children during the months of June, July and August. • (Additional exemptions for certain employments such as seasonal hotels, beauty parlors in small communities, mercantile establishments during specified periods, reporters, airline maintenance programs, etc.) • The provisions of this section shall not apply to the employment of a minor seventeen years of age as an election inspector or poll clerk pursuant to section 3-400 of the election law~~ • § 143. Hours of work for minors eighteen, seventeen, and sixteen years of age • When school is in session, no minor sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen years of age enrolled in a daytime school, other than a part-time or continuation school, shall be employed: • a. (i) More than four hours on any day preceding a school day, other than on a Sunday or holiday; (ii) except that students enrolled in a cooperative work experience program approved by the department of education may be employed for no more than six hours on any day preceding a school day, other than on a Sunday or holiday, if such hours occur solely pursuant to such program. • b. More than eight hours on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday; • c. More than twenty-eight hours in any week; • d. More than six days in any week; • e. After ten o'clock at night on any day preceding a school day, or after midnight on any day preceding a school day provided the employer receives written consent of a parent or guardian and certification of satisfactory academic standing; • f. After ten o'clock at night on any day preceding a non-school day, or after midnight with parental consent; • g. Before six o'clock in the morning. • When school is not in

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session, no minor sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen years of age shall be employed: • a. More than eight hours in any one day, except that up to ten hours may be worked on one day for purposes of shorter workdays; • b. More than forty-eight hours in any week; • c. More than six days in any week; • d. After twelve midnight or before six o'clock in the morning. • A minor sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen years of age who is not enrolled in a daytime school when school is in session shall be covered under subdivision two of this section. This proposal would make sure that 18-year-old workers are protected from being overworked or scheduled during unsafe hours. Employers would need to follow the same rules for breaks, rest periods, and limits on consecutive work hours that apply to 16- and 17-year-olds. This is to help young adults stay healthy, safe, and able to balance work with school or other responsibilities.

Justification: By applying limits on weekly work hours, number of workdays, and late-night employment, this amendment seeks to promote the health, safety, and well-being of young workers, prevent exploitation, and ensure a balance between work, education, and personal development.

Fiscal Implications: Employers may incur minor administrative costs to update schedules, track hours, and maintain records for 18-year-old employees in compliance with the extended provisions of §143. Any such costs are anticipated to be absorbed by businesses as part of standard payroll and human resources operations.

Environmental Implications: This amendment does not have any impact on the environment. It solely addresses labor protections and working conditions for 18-year-old employees, and does not affect natural resources, pollution, or environmental regulations.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect ninety days after it becomes law, to allow employers sufficient time to comply with the provisions extending labor protections to 18-year-old employees.

Senate Liberty

Griffin Meltzer

President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty

Committee Chairs

Arihanna Smith	**Senate Liberty 1**
Hope Armstrong	**Senate Liberty 1**
Anissa Thelemaque	**Senate Liberty 2**
Danna Marroquin	**Senate Liberty 2**
Layne Tasnady	**Senate Liberty 3**
Lasiyah Taylor	**Senate Liberty 4**
Theodore Phelps	**Senate Liberty 4**

Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:124

Sponsors: Junyi Ke, Kal- El Nuñez, and Dareen Nagamootoo

An Act To: Amend § 27-2201 of the New York State Environmental Conservation law to expand the current food donation and scraps recycling law to include all schools.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To expand the current food donation and scraps recycling law to include all public schools K-12.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Recycling - The action or process of converting waste into reusable material.

Food Waste - Uneaten food that is thrown away, such as uneaten meals, scraps, spoilage, and unsold products.

Section 2: Provisions § 27-2201 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law

""Designated food scraps generator"" means a person who generates at a single location an annual average of two tons per week or more of food scraps between January first, two thousand twenty-three and December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-six, an annual average of one ton per week or more of food scraps between January first, two thousand twenty-seven and December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-eight, and an annual average of one-half ton per week or more of food scraps beginning January first, two thousand twenty-nine and thereafter based on a methodology established by the department pursuant to regulations, including, supermarkets, large food service businesses, public elementary and secondary schools, higher educational institutions, hotels, food processors, correctional facilities, and sports or entertainment venues. For a location with multiple independent food service businesses, such as a mall or college campus, the entity responsible for contracting for solid waste hauling services is responsible for managing food scraps from the independent businesses.

Justification: NYS schools are major daily generators of food waste, and by expanding the law to cover K-12 schools, we as NYS take a step closer to a greener planet. By expanding this law to K-12 schools, we effectively reduce food waste, greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and pollutants from food waste incineration and create new jobs that stimulate the economy. The waste of food is not only unethical, but it also wastes precious resources, including water, land, labor, and energy used to produce these foods. In addition, methane gas is a significant contributor to global warming, resulting from food waste decaying in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere that is eighty-six times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.

Fiscal Implications: Upfront costs of expansion to collection infrastructure would require up to $2-3 million a year in investment over several years, covering bins, hauling contracts, and staff training. These expenses would be partially offset through NYSDEC State Assistance Grants, which reimburse up to 50% of eligible recycling and composting costs, and through recurring support from the Environmental Protection Fund, which provides over $400 million annually, with millions dedicated to recycling and organics management programs that schools and municipalities can access. Revenue sources include avoiding landfill tipping fees that range from $50 to $100 per ton of waste, with large districts paying hundreds of thousands in fees yearly. Environmental savings include reduced methane and pollution-related costs, with revenue from economic stimulation as recycling and composting industries create various jobs in hauling, processing, and facility operation. Notably, as the changes become standardized statewide, program costs decline over time.

Environmental Implications: NYS schools are major daily generators of food waste, and by expanding the law to cover K-12 schools, we as NYS take a step closer to a greener planet. By expanding this law to K-12 schools, we effectively reduce food waste, greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and pollutants from food waste incineration and create new jobs that stimulate the economy. The waste of food is not only unethical, but it also wastes precious resources, including water, land, labor, and energy used to produce these foods. In addition, methane gas is a significant contributor to global warming, resulting from food waste decaying in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere that is eighty-six times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect approximately two years after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:124

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:125

Sponsors: Adrianna Lucas, Yves Lamisere, and Rachell Rodriguez

An Act To: Amend Chapter 31, article 4, section 142-143. Employment of Minors to increase work hours for persons under the age of 18 to help struggling families.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The bill aims to increase work hours for minors working at ages 14-15 by 2027. Doing so will stabilize financially struggling houses and possibly help minors provide for families.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Minors: Person under the legal age of adulthood.

Employment: an individual works which they get paid through labor.

Amend: to make change.

Benefit: gain from.

High schoolers: Someone who is between ages 14-18

Section 2: Provisions The bill requires NYS to amend the work hours for teens from 3 hours on school days to 5 hours max. On weekends, from 8 hours to 9 max. Weekly hours will increase from 18 to 25 hours max.

Justification: Approximately 48 percent of New Yorkers struggle financially, which is 9,598,608 people. Thirty percent of high schoolers work during the school year. Minors working helps contribute to financially struggling families and also helps provide a sense of responsibility. Fifty percent of children live in households which cannot afford basic needs. According to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (NIH), 36.9 percent of 13-year-olds, 35.4 percent of 14-year-olds, and 44.2 percent of 15-year-olds work. Approximately 6.36 million teens aged 16 to 19 were in the U.S. labor force in 2023, representing about 3.81 percent of the total labor force, with over one-third of this age group employed. Data from the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) 2025 indicates that over 100,000 youth, including those aged 14–15, participated in, or applied for, paid opportunities across all five boroughs. Minors working will be adjusting their schedule to maximize enough time for schoolwork and jobs. Parents will be notified and will meet with children and teachers, if possible, to discuss their work schedule.

Fiscal Implications: The State and taxpayers will not be affected. Business owners will benefit from more minors working due to the hourly pay rate and the working period.

Environmental Implications: Travel by car and public transportation to and from work will increase

Effective Date: Effective one year after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:126

Sponsors: Maddy Gordon, Maddy Andersen, Thea Kennedy and Maelyn Hubert

An Act To: Amend the education law, 4402 Duties of the School District to allow school districts to permit homeschooled students to participate in district interscholastic sports and extracurricular activities.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Allow homeschooled kids to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Homeschool: To educate one's child at home instead of sending them to a school.

Interscholastic sports: An activity in which a student represents the student's school in the sport in competition against another school.

School District: A geographical unit for the local administration of schools.

Section 2: Provisions

Section 2: § 4402. Duties of school districts. 1. * a. The board of education or trustees of each school district and the city school district of the city of New York shall, under regulations prescribed by the commissioner and approved by the regents of the university, identify, locate and evaluate in accordance with this section all students with disabilities in such district who are in need of special education, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the state as defined in the regulations of the commissioner and, consistent with section thirty-six hundred two-c of this chapter, students who attend nonpublic schools within such school district, and shall maintain a register containing the name of each child with a disability who resides in the district, the nature of such child's disability, the educational placement and setting, if any, of such child, and any other student-specific data required to comply with federal law or Regulations. School districts must allow home-schooled students to participate in district interscholastic sports and extracurricular activities.

Justification: Currently, homeschooled students are prohibited from participating in interscholastic sports even though they are entitled to attend the schools that have the sport. It is fundamentally unfair to prohibit homeschooled students from participating in an important aspect of childhood development merely because their parents or guardians choose to home school them. The students have every right to attend the school, and there is no reduction in school taxes for parents or guardian who home-school their children

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications.

Effective Date: Immediately.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:127

Sponsors: Margaret Aragon and Johnny Giron

An Act To: Require municipalities across New York State to adopt local laws regulating the removal and replacement of trees

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to protect and expand tree coverage across New York State by establishing consistent local standards for the removal and replacement of trees on public property. Trees are vital to environmental health, public safety, and community well-being, as they reduce air pollution, and mitigate the effects of climate change. By requiring permits, enforcement, and replacement for tree removal, this act promotes environmental responsibility while allowing municipalities to implement policies that reflect local needs and conditions.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Sequestering: the process by which trees absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Geographic range: the area in which a species or pest naturally occur.

Gaseous pollutants: gases and vapors that negatively affect human health and/or the environment.

Municipalities: a city or town that has corporate status and local government.

Section 2: Provisions This act requires every city, town, and village in New York State to adopt a local law governing the removal and replacement of trees located on public property.

Such local laws shall:

1. Permit Requirement: Requires a permit prior to the removal of any tree related to construction, development, or other regulated activity. Permits shall be valid for a limited period, as determined by the municipality, and shall state the reason for removal. Permits shall be given after two weeks and have been approved.
2. Tree Size and Age Threshold: Applies to trees meeting a minimum size or age requirement, such as a trunk diameter of six inches or greater and being older than 5 years.
3. Enforcement Authority: Local governments, environmental agencies, and forestry departments.
4. Replacement and Mitigation Requirements: Requires the replacement of removed trees within the same municipality or nearby public land.
5. Invasive Species and Safety Exception: Permit is not required when a tree is determined to be invasive, diseased, dead, or poses a threat to public safety or native ecosystems.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:127

This act is modeled after the principles of New York City Administrative Code § 18-107, but applies statewide through local implementation

Justification: New York State faces increasing environmental and public health challenges due to climate change, air pollution, and rapid urban development. Tree canopy loss worsens these problems by reducing the natural systems that filter air pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide, regulate temperature, and manage stormwater. Communities with fewer trees experience higher temperatures, poorer air quality, and negative health outcomes.Despite the environmental importance of trees, many municipalities lack consistent standards governing tree removal, leading to unnecessary loss without adequate replacement. This act addresses that gap by requiring local governments to regulate tree removal and ensure replacement. By promoting responsible development while respecting municipal home rule, this legislation strengthens environmental protection, safeguards public health, and supports long-term sustainability across New York State.

Fiscal Implications: Municipalities may impose fines for violations of local laws; penalties may range from $5,000 to $10,000 per tree. This act does not require state funding.

Environmental Implications: This bill promotes environmental sustainability by preserving tree coverage, reducing air pollution, and supporting long-term ecological balance. Increased tree replacement will contribute to cleaner air and reduced environmental harm across New York State.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect as of January 1st, 2027.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #: 128

Sponsors: Arihanna Smith, Hafsa Bhatti, Kiara Smith, and Ariba Qaiser

An Act To: Amend the New York state health education commissioner's Regulations §135.3 (c) to mandate the availability of male contraceptives in all public high school nurses offices.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To mandate the availability of male contraceptives in public high school nurse offices with confidentiality to promote safe sex practices.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Contraceptives: a device or drug serving to prevent pregnancy.

Confidentiality: Protection of Sensitive Information: Healthcare providers must safeguard all patient data, including medical records,diagnoses,treatments,and personal details(the state of keeping or being kept secret or private.

Section 2: Provisions (c) To mandate availability in public high schools to provide each pupil 17 years and older receiving condoms with accurate and complete personal health guidance as to the risks of "

Justification: New York State's abortion rate for ages 15-19 in 2022 was approximately 8% of all abortions performed on New York residents, which were for girls ages 15-19. They typically happen around 9 weeks into the pregnancy, causing New York's teen pregnancy rate to be 18.4 per 1,000 females, with New York City specifically at 24.1. Based on the information compiled for 2025, the full results are not yet available. As of 2023, the teen birth rate hit a record low of 13.1 births per 1,000 females. While abortions have increased nationally, with around 95 thousand monthly in the United States in 2024. New York had a high proportion of abortions among pregnancies, with 58% in 2010 alone, and home births are a small fraction. With a lower teen birth rate for 2024-2025,a sustained high abortion rate, and a very low home birth rate,contributing to a complex pregnancy rate picture for teens so why not support the decreasing teen pregnancy,and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections and diseases and continue to supply teens like the 135,000 female students since the NYS Condom program was introduced;One program found the NYS Condom program was seeing a decrease in a combined rate of chlamydia and gonorrhea.50% of New York's sexually transmitted rates are teens from ages 15-19;This is also implicated in other places such as The Philippines,Rwanda,France and many others like Finland even going as far as making sex ed a mandated course. Finland's teen pregnancy rates have declined significantly, with a 40% reduction in pregnancies between 2002 and 2014, following the implementation of comprehensive, mandatory sex education and free contraception in schools. By 2023, the adolescent birth rate dropped to 3 per 1,000 girls aged 15–19, while teenage abortions fell by 66%,while Male contraceptives are 98% accurate so the implication of this bill would not only be decreasing sexually transmitted infections, sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy rates and abortion rates;this bill would be providing a plethora of teens with the option to safely choose intercourse if that is something you or a peer chooses to do.

Fiscal Implications: There is already allocated funds to this through the New York State Condom (NYSCondom)Program. The New York State Condom Program offers condoms and other safer sex supplies to New York State-based organizations. This partnership will increase the number of New Yorkers that have access to safer sex supplies. As of January 1, 2019, organizations located in NYS will now have their orders for safer sex supplies fulfilled by the New York State Condom Program, as stated exactly so on their website.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #: 128

Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:129

Sponsors: Michael Kessler, Teddy Isaacson, Tucker O'Neill, Connor Malley-Bajohr, and Cole Farruggia

An Act To: Amend Article 14 of NYS Election Law, in relation to increasing transparency in political campaign financing by requiring public disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and establishing stricter limits on campaign contribution amounts.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce corruption and undue influence in state elections by increasing transparency in campaign financing, expanding voluntary public campaign funding, and strengthening contribution limits to promote fairness and public trust.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Public Campaign Funding: Funding for a political campaign provided by NYS to eligible candidates; to be used instead of private donations.

Candidate: An individual who has filed to seek election to a NYS public office and is eligible to receive campaign contributions or public campaign funding under state law.

Public Office: For the purpose of this bill; the Governor of NYS, member of the NYS Senate, or member of the NYS Assembly.

Petition of Inclusion: A petition submitted by a minor party or independent candidate to establish eligibility for public campaign funding. A petition containing at least 20,000 valid signatures shall qualify a candidate for full public funding. Petitions containing between 5,000 and 19,999 valid signatures shall qualify for partial public funding, with the amount determined by the NYS BOE.

Section 2: Provisions Amend Article 14, of the NYS Election Law, to add the following: Expand voluntary public campaign funding, establish clear spending rules for participating candidates, and strengthen disclosure requirements for state campaigns.

Campaigns for Governor, State Senate, and State Assembly may opt into state-funded public financing. Major party candidates may receive up to $7,000,000 for Governor, $1,000,000 for State Senate, and $500,000 for State Assembly. Minor party and independent candidates may qualify for partial or full funding based on their petition of inclusion. Total public funding shall not exceed $278,000,000 per election cycle; if qualified requests exceed this amount, funds shall be prorated among participating candidates.

Participation is voluntary; candidates who opt in may use only public funds and shall not accept private contributions. Participating candidates shall receive guaranteed debate access (where applicable), inclusion in a state voter guide, waived ballot fees, and compliance assistance from nonpartisan state election attorneys.

All campaigns must publicly disclose expenditures. Campaigns that do not opt into public funding must disclose all donations over $50, including donor identity and amount. Individual and PAC contributions shall be capped at $3,300.

Justification: In recent years, many campaigns have accepted donations in violation of regulations, and private wealth has increasingly influenced election outcomes. Implementing reasonable restrictions helps level the playing field. Many policymakers support such reforms, noting that candidates often spend significant time fundraising instead of governing (NYC Bar Association). The federal contribution limit is $3,300 (USA.gov), and New York State already provides $114,500,000 annually for public election financing (Fair Elections NY). Other states, such as Connecticut, have implemented similar public financing systems with documented success (CT Election Enforcement Commission). There was $70,000,000 added to the NYS election budget in 2024 for special purposes which will not be allocated into future years (NYS Budget). Currently in NYS, up to $3,500,000 is available for governor candidates, $375,000 for senators, and $175,000 for assembly members. This bill scales those amounts to ensure adequate campaign funding while remaining within the state budget (NYS PCFB). Increased transparency and voluntary public financing strengthen voter confidence by making candidates more accountable to constituents rather than large donors.

Fiscal Implications: Funding for campaigns that opt into public financing will be provided through the state budget. Currently, $114.5 million is available annually for public campaign financing, with additional unallocated election funds available if necessary. Total public funding shall not exceed $278,000,000 per election cycle; if this amount is exceeded, funds shall be prorated among participating candidates

Effective Date: January 1st, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:129

Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:130

Sponsors: Hope Armstrong, Elena Uria Fernandez, Aryanna Marchioni, and Hayden Quillan

An Act To: Add to § 902, CHAPTER 16, TITLE 1, ARTICLE 19 of the Employment of health professionals law.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure students safety and health in public schools across New York State requiring a certified health care provider on school grounds during school hours to respond immediately to emergencies.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Nurse: a licensed health care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health

Health service: Health services refer to organized efforts to deliver high-quality care, incorporating various factors that affect access, management, and financing, with the aim of improving patient care and public health outcomes.

Public School: means any elementary or secondary educational institution, provided that such public school is operated by a State, subdivision of a State, or governmental agency within a State, or operated wholly or predominantly from or through the use of governmental funds or property, or funds or property derived from a governmental source

Health Care Provider: LPN, EMT, BSPN, PA, Nurse Practitioner, RPN

Section 2: Provisions 2. b. Any such board or trustees may employ one or more school nurses, who shall be registered professional nurses, as well as other health professionals, as may be required. Such registered professional nurses and other health professionals shall aid the director of school health services of the district and shall perform such duties, including health instruction for the benefit of the public schools as may be prescribed by such board or trustees, in compliance with each such health professional's practice act. These registered health care providers shall be on school grounds at the school facility during school hours. The registered health care provider does not need to be a full time hire and can be a rotation of qualified providers.

Justification: Kids should feel safe in their schools. Accidents happen everyday. This bill will help students feel safe in their schools. Right now in New York State it isn't mandatory to have a health service at the school building during the school day. Adding to the bill requires that someone with the proper training will be in the school building for immediate care needs. The school doesn't have to hire one individual and can make a rotation. Schools can work with their town or health center to make sure there is coverage on a daily basis. This means it doesn't have to be the same person all the time. Schools need to be protecting the health of their kids and the school community. This will make school buildings a safer and healthier place. If schools can not provide a health care provider New York State can restrict state aid from the district. The schools also must make it apparent to the parents or guardians that there is no protection for their children.

Fiscal Implications: Each individual school district will be responsible for any additional costs, but they should already have a school nurse salary budgeted. Any additional costs will not be in relation to New York State taxes, but could be seen on local taxes.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect on July 1st, 2026.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 1 Bill #:130

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:131

Sponsors: Walter Noriega, Dylan Jaime-Machado, and Bradley Pacheco

An Act To: Amend § 27-1005 to increase the minimum amount of money given when recycling a disposable container from five cents to ten cents

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To increase the incentive for people recycling.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Beverage container: the individual, separate, sealed glass, metal, aluminum, steel or plastic bottle, can or jar used for containing less than one gallon or 3.78 liters at the time of sale or offer for sale of a beverage intended for use or consumption in this state. Beverage containers sold or offered for sale or distributed aboard aircraft or ships shall be considered as intended for use or consumption outside this state.

Redemption center: any person offering to pay the refund value of an empty beverage container to a redeemer, or any person who contracts with one or more dealers or distributors to collect, sort and obtain the refund value and handling fee of empty beverage containers for, or on behalf of, such dealer or distributor under the provisions of section 27-1013 of this title.

Reverse vending machine: an automated device that uses a laser scanner, microprocessor, or other technology to accurately recognize the universal product code (UPC) on containers to determine if the container is redeemable and accumulates information regarding containers redeemed, including the number of such containers redeemed, thereby enabling the reverse vending machine to accept containers from redeemers and to issue a script or receipt for their refund value.

Section 2: Provisions § 27-1005

No person shall sell or offer for sale a beverage container in this state unless the deposit on such beverage container is or has been collected by a redemption center and unless such container has a refund value of not less than ~~five cents~~ ten cents which is clearly indicated thereon as provided in section 27-1011 of this title.

Justification: Pollution and littering is a growing and major issue in New York state with around one third of the population admitting to littering. This bill will significantly decrease these rates as the people would be more inclined to return these containers for the money that otherwise would have ended up littering the streets of New York. Connecticut in comparison, has a ten cent deposit on water bottles and this has brought their recycling rates from 37% to 63%. Additionally, the incentive for returning disposable containers was established in 1982, over 40 years ago when a dollar was three times the value of today's. In addition, Oregon has around a 40% recycling rate and they also offer a ten cent incentive. The overall national recycling rate average is 32% and New York State is less than half of that. Change needs to be made as pollution causes extreme damage to wildlife, quality of life, and overall degrading the quality of water.

Fiscal Implications: The price of redeemable beverage containers and redeemable beverage packages will increase by five cents to allocate the funds for this bill.

Environmental Implications: The passing of this bill will lead to increased recycling, which in turn will lead to a decrease in overall pollution. Additionally, this will lead to a decrease in littering as the public would be more inclined to return their containers for the incentive rather than throwing them on the streets.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:131

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:132

Sponsors: Amelia Burd, Anissa Thelemaque, and Danna Marroquin-Mendez

An Act To: Smend article 35 chapter 18 of the executive law to add a section creating a state wide alert system for missing adults.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to create an easy and effective emergency missing persons alert system. By creating this system it would improve public awareness, for vulnerable adults, people struggling with domestic violence, and populations that deal with disabilities will receive immediate assistance regardless of anyone over the age of 18.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Alert -watchful and prompt to meet danger or emergency

Adult - fully developed and mature : a human being after an age (over the age of 18) specified by law

Endangered Missing Person - a person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions, or is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance.

Imminent Danger - a situation posing an immediate risk of death or serious physical harm that could happen right away or before authorities can intervene through normal procedures, requiring urgent action

Section 2: Provisions § 837-f-3 coordinated law enforcement adult rescue alert system for missing adults. With the cooperation of the department of transportation, local law enforcement and the emergency alert system (EAS) to create a coordinated state alert system for missing adult ages eighteen up until the age of eighty. A rescue public notification for missing adults missing people, where the disappearance was not voluntary, and the missing adult is in imminent danger of bodily injury or death. This section would require the Division of Criminal Justice Services to adopt rules and issue directives for the implementation of the alert system and recruit the assistance of appropriate persons and entities, including media private and commercial and state and local government entities in developing and implementing the system.

Justification: New York has many reported missing persons, with NYC alone seeing thousands of reports annually. According to NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) annual report, A total of 6,011 adults were reported missing in New York State in 2024; 1,707 (28.3%) were reported as vulnerable adults. Also, More vulnerable adults between the ages of 70 and 79 were reported missing than any other age category (19.7% or 336 of 1,707). With the passage of this bill, many New Yorkers that have gone missing will be reunited with family.

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Fiscal Implications: Although there may be costs associated with sending alert messages out, the longer someone is missing, the more expensive search becomes, for example police overtime, helicopters, volunteers, etc. Finding people sooner reduces the length and intensity of these operations. Also, unresolved missing person cases require ongoing investigations, like court involvement and administrative work. Closing cases helps free up law enforcement and judicial resources. Prevention and early intervention are often cheaper than crisis response in the long run.

Environmental Implications: This act has no notable environmental impact. This is because by using the existing digital technologies and communication devices we already have in place, no additional environmental resources are needed.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect after one year.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:133

Sponsors: Ashley Lopez Mejia, Becky Zhou, Jenny Zhang, and Syeda Muskaan

An Act To: Amend section 2805-B of the New York State Public Health Law by requiring hospitals to publicly disclose real-time emergency department wait times to increase transparency and reduce overcrowding.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce overcrowding, improve patient decision-making, and increase transparency in New York emergency departments by requiring hospitals to publicly display real-time ER wait times both online and on-site locations

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Emergency Department Wait Time- the approximate time from patient check-in to initial evaluation by a qualified medical professional.

Hospital- Any facility licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law that operates an emergency department.

Real-Time Display- Continuously updated information presented digitally on a hospital's website and on screens in waiting areas.

Section 2: Provisions § 2805-B. Admission of patients and emergency treatment of non-admitted patients. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings: . . .

1. All hospitals operating emergency departments shall publicly display their current emergency room wait time on:

a. The hospital's official website homepage; and

b. A clearly visible digital display within all emergency department waiting areas.

2. Wait times must be updated at least every ten minutes.

3. Hospitals are prohibited from deliberately misreporting or underreporting wait times.

4. The New York State Department of Health shall monitor compliance through regular audits, data reporting, and random verification.

5. A hospital found to have deliberately underreported or falsified wait times shall be subject to:

a. A civil penalty of $10,000 per violation;

b. Mandatory corrective action plans for repeated violations.

Justification: Emergency rooms across New York State experience severe overcrowding, with patients waiting hours without clear information about how long they have to wait. Lack of transparency prevents New Yorkers from making informed decisions, contributes to overburdening specific hospitals, and increases stress for patients experiencing medical emergencies. Real-time wait-time reporting empowers patients to seek medical care more efficiently and helps distribute emergency room traffic more evenly across hospitals. This bill holds hospitals accountable while providing life-saving clarity to New Yorkers when they need it most. Transparency is not a burden; it is a basic standard of public health.

Fiscal Implications: An estimate of $40,000 per hospital depending on the hospital provider. Hospitals already track internal wait-time metrics; this bill requires only that the information be made public. Costs include website integration and digital display screens, which are standard in most New York State hospitals, along with system updates as needed.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:133

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:134

Sponsors: Thomas McKenna, Declan Studer, Griffin Meltzer, and Tej Patel

An Act To: Amend Article 5 under Civil Rights (Rights of Privacy)

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To push back against surveillance from the Federal Government and their private contractors infringing upon civil liberties.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Third-Party: A private, external organization not overseen by the Government, Federal or otherwise

Data-Broker: Any private organization created with the purpose of aggregating personal information in order to create databases, often without the consent of the persons' data

Federal Agency: An organization established by statutory authority to oversee specific government functions, enforce regulations, or provide public services.

Court Order: A legally binding directive issued by a court that mandates specific actions or decisions in legal matters.

Resident Data: Public, private, or social information (usually acquired online): Ex. browsing habits, personal information, social media activity, etc.

Section 2: Provisions

1.New York State resident data cannot be obtained by Federal Agencies by the use of:

(i.) Exchange of anything of monetary value (i.e. money) to a Third-Party

(ii.) Shared information from any New York State government agency without a court order.

2.Additionally, New York State resident information acquired by third-parties or data-brokers cannot be shared to other parties including Federal agencies without the use of a court order.

Justification: Pushing back on the surveillance of the American people is essential to this country's security. Agencies such as DHS, ICE, and CBP have been using facial recognition technology that scans someone's face over 100,000 times to try to see if someone should be deemed a "threat." According to a report made by a National institute of Standards and Technology the report showed a significantly higher prejudice against racial minorities shown 10-100 times more likely to flag false positives DHS, ICE and CBP purchased software from Palantir, to now be able to track cell phone locations without a warrant, though such software violates the fourth amendment right which protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government. Government records obtained through FOIA requests reveal the massive scale of this operation, showing over 113,000 location points collected in a single region in just three days. These datasets often represent only a small fraction of the total information gathered, with national disclosures reporting over 434 million call metadata records captured in a single year. While these programs are often defended as being narrowly focused on specific suspects, the sheer volume of data makes it clear that the general public is being monitored. This level of tracking is uniquely invasive because it exposes an individual's movements, private associations, and daily routines without their knowledge. Allowing such practices to continue without oversight risks making mass surveillance a permanent and unquestioned standard in our society. This legislation ensures those protections apply not only to individuals who are specifically targeted, but to everyone in New York, safeguarding the privacy rights of all New Yorkers.

Fiscal Implications: Small increase in court filings from the federal government to access records, only increasing taxes minimally. In addition, money will be saved which would have previously been used for the purchase of data from third parties.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:134

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:135

Sponsors: Isabella Sosa, Mylli Criollo, Jr Maurent, and Elijah Anderson

An Act To: Provide security in safety among all kinds of care and wellness facilitation centers.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Strengthening the protections regarding individuals who may be subject to vulnerability; including children in daycare facilities, elderly in nursing homes, and mentally unwell individuals in health institutions.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

Mandates camera installations

Care facilities are required to install surveillance cameras on premises and in all public and common areas where care is provided. This includes playrooms, lounges, lobbies, activity rooms, hallways, dining areas, entrances, and exits.

Facilities must ensure that cameras are operational during all hours of care. Said surveillance footage must be kept for a minimum of 30 days to allow investigation in the instance of complaint or incident in regards to the facility.

Ensures guardian and parental access to surveillance footage.

Parents or legal guardians must be fully informed about the implications of cameras in their child's care environment, which is required under the current New York regulations. Facilities must comply with preexisting state and federal privacy laws such as Jonathan's Law. Legal guardians are required access to view footage relevant to their care space upon written request. Requests must be responded to within 10 business days of submission.

Enforces oversight and regular examination in facilities following accountability in given circumstances. The New York State and City Health Departments will enforce compliance and perform inspections of facilities regularly.

Acknowledges bills' connection with concurrent laws. NYC and NY State have coexisting laws already in place to ensure the security of patients under electronic surveillance technology. Facilities will continue to follow regulations in relation to concurrent laws and acts to protect the safety of their patients. acknowledges the limitations of each implication. Cameras are prohibited in private areas such as bathrooms, showers, changing rooms, etc. In cases where the privacy of others would be jeopardized or violated beyond necessary protections, guardians are prohibited from accessing camera surveillance footage. Additionally, if not a legally appointed guardian, access to camera surveillance footage is strictly prohibited.

Health and wellness inspections will be conducted every 6 months to ensure compliance in regards to city, state, and federal health, safety, and quality-of-life standards.

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Justification: 1. Children in care facilities receiving services are most susceptible to physical and mental abuse due to their age, disabilities, dependency, or their diminished capacity to fight back or speak up.

2. Incidents of abuse and neglect within institutional care are often not reported, allowing bad actors to evade liability.

3. Allowing guardian access to footage ultimately protects the safety of patients while also promoting transparency and a more trusting relationship with the public.

4. Regularly scheduled inspections by state health authorities ensure consistency and compliance with safety, privacy, and quality-of-life standards that are present not only within this bill but coexisting federal law.

Fiscal Implications: Will include purchasing and installing surveillance cameras and their storage equipment. Additional costs may include maintenance or replacements of cameras.

Effective Date: This act shall take place 9-12 months post approval, allowing time for facilities to adapt and ensure security measures.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:136

Sponsors: Ipsita Barnwal, Rebecca Braun, Marabel Cedeno, and Camila Gutierrez

An Act To: Amend Article 4-D of the Civil Rights Law to establish a process for evaluating foreign professional credentials and granting provisional professional licensure.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to address the persistent failure to adequately regard foreign professional certifications held by skilled immigrants living in New York. This bill seeks to modernize the state's credential review process by requiring agencies to evaluate foreign degrees and training programs. After evaluation, expedited licensing is granted when an applicant's education and career experience meet New York's professional standards. By reducing redundant delays and barriers, this legislation will expand the state's qualified workforce and support immigrant professionals in re-entering their respective fields.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Foreign professional certifications: Certifications granted based on training received in other countries. Receiving countries confirmation that an individual has met all education, practical training, and regulatory requirements necessary to practice a specific profession in said country, to then apply the same professional qualifications in the state of New York.

Credential review process: The systemic evaluation conducted by New York's licensing authorities to verify

Agencies: The process of relocating foreign degrees into the State of New York involves government agencies, such as the Department of Civil Service who handles the transfers of professional certifications.Any state government office, department, or regulatory entity responsible for evaluating, verifying, or granting professional licenses; These are primarily the New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions, the Department of State's Division of Licensing Services, The Department of Health, the Department of State, and any other New York state entity authorized by law to oversee professional credentialing and licensure.

Foreign degrees: Academic degrees awarded by educational institutions located outside of the United States that document the completion of specific coursework and professional training in a recognized professional field. Verification of the degree requires confirmation directly from the issuing institutions or authority in the country of origin.

Foreign training programs: Supervised practical training completed outside the United States, including internships, residencies, practicums, or apprenticeships that contribute directly to qualification in a specific profession. Verification must include documented start and end dates, scope of work performed, name and qualifications of supervisors, and official acknowledgment from the issuing program.

Expedited licensing: Speeding the process of obtaining a license in a foreign country. Considering the circumstances in New York State, acquiring an expedited license will transfer your qualifications from your native country.

NY's professional standards: Qualities that are required for a worker to meet at their work place by state law.

Delays and barriers: Any administrative, procedural process that hinders the transferring of credentials by extending the time. Forcing to complete additional certifications beyond what is necessary.

Qualified workforce: Having essential education requirements and degrees to be considered in the working field.

Immigrant professionals: New York State residents who graduated with a professional degree that is sufficient to fulfill the requirements of New York State occupations.

Section 2: Provisions Art 4-D §§49 - 49: Enacts the empire state licensing act to provide all New Yorkers with access to professional, occupational, commercial, or business licenses, permits, certificates, or related registrations regardless of an applicant's citizenship or immigration status, or lack there of.

§49-c 1. Each issuing entity, as defined in section forty-nine of this article, shall establish and maintain a formal, written process for evaluating professional education, training, licensure, or work experience obtained outside the United States.Such evaluation shall determine whether an applicant's foreign credentials are substantially equivalent to the education, training, examination, and experience requirements for full licensure in New York state. Issuing entities shall provide a written report of equivalency determinations, including any gaps identified.

3. In conducting evaluations, issuing entities shall accept documentation only from: accredited or government-recognized foreign institutions, recognized foreign licensing authorities, or credential evaluation services approved by the department. Documentation must be verified in writing and maintained for auditing purposes.

4. Where an applicant's credentials are partially but not fully equivalent, the issuing entity shall grant provisional licensure, provided the applicant meets all other legal requirements for licensure, including examinations, character, and fitness standards.

5. Provisional licensure shall authorize practice only within the scope of the profession and under direct or indirect supervision as specified in writing by the

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issuing entity. Provisional licensure shall expire within three years unless all identified gaps are completed.

6. Issuing entities shall provide clear written guidance to applicants regarding additional education, training, or supervised experience required for full licensure. Guidance must be specific to the gaps identified and may not impose additional unrelated requirements.

7. No issuing entity shall deny licensure solely because education, training, or experience was obtained outside the United States, provided all equivalency and other requirements herein are met.

8. Nothing in this section shall lower, waive, or diminish professional, public safety, or ethical standards required for licensure in New York state.

9. Issuing entities must annually report compliance with this section to the Department of Education, including number of applicants evaluated, number granted provisional licensure, and completion rates.

Justification: Failure to recognize foreign professional credentials limits the contributions immigrant experts can make to New York's communities. By making the evaluation of international degrees and training an easier process, this Act expands access to skilled workers who can immediately strengthen critical fields such as healthcare, education, and public safety. Enabling qualified immigrant professionals to re-enter their careers supports economic growth, reduces workforce shortages, and enhances public services across New York state.

Fiscal Implications: The foreign credential evaluation and provisional licensure provisions under this Act will increase short-term administrative costs for licensing boards across New York State. However, they expedite the licensing of skilled immigrants, reduce redundant retraining, and increase the availability of qualified professionals in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and engineering, generating long-term economic and social benefits. The program's fiscal impact will be periodically reviewed to ensure that administrative and credential verification costs are balanced against workforce expansion and public safety objectives. Preliminary analyses suggest modest additional expenditures for board staffing, credential evaluation, and oversight, which can be offset by licensing fees and reallocations within existing departmental budgets. These short-term costs are further mitigated by increased tax revenues, higher employment rates, and improved access to essential services. The Department of Education and relevant licensing boards will review program implementation annually and adjust procedures to ensure efficiency, compliance, and fiscal sustainability while

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maximizing public benefit, in alignment with New York State's long-term workforce and economic objectives.

Environmental Implications: By facilitating the expedited evaluation of foreign credentials and granting provisional licensure to skilled immigrants in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and engineering, this Act ensures that public resources are allocated to professionals who directly contribute to essential services and societal well-being.

The focused approach strengthens the capacity of hospitals, schools, and infrastructure programs to meet community needs, improving public health, safety, and access to education. By increasing the number of qualified licensed professionals, the Act indirectly supports sustainable practices in health, education, and engineering sectors, including environmental health and safety initiatives, energy efficiency in facilities, and infrastructure development. These measures advance New York State's broader goals of promoting public welfare, environmental responsibility, and community resilience, ultimately fostering healthier, safer, and more sustainable communities.

Effective Date: The bill will go into effect in 180 days after the bill is passed.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 2 Bill #:137

Sponsors: Mikayla Gleeson, Gabby Kodsi, Elizabeth Higgins, and Claire Valery

An Act To: Establish the Care Work Recognition and State Employment Fairness Act, ensuring that unpaid caregiving responsibilities are formally recognized in New York State public employment and civil service systems.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this act is to formally recognize unpaid caregiving responsibilities within New York State's public employment and civil service systems. This legislation ensures that state employees are not unfairly penalized in attendance evaluations, performance assessments, or promotion opportunities due to documented caregiving obligations. By modernizing workforce standards, this act promotes equity, employee retention, and economic stability within the public sector.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions

All New York State public agencies and civil service employers shall implement standardized policies recognizing unpaid caregiving responsibilities when evaluating employee attendance records, promotion eligibility, and performance assessments. Agencies must provide reasonable scheduling accommodations for employees with documented caregiving obligations.

The New York State Department of Civil Service shall monitor compliance through annual audits. Agencies found in violation shall be required to submit corrective action plans and may face administrative penalties, including withholding of discretionary personnel funding. Implementation shall be funded through reallocation of existing workforce equity and retention budgets.

Justification: Unpaid caregiving labor sustains families, communities, and the workforce, yet it remains invisible in formal employment systems. State employees who shoulder caregiving responsibilities experience higher rates of disciplinary action, stalled career advancement, and forced workforce exit. This pattern contributes to economic inequality and public-sector turnover. By recognizing caregiving labor in employment standards, New York State modernizes its workforce practices and promotes long-term economic stability.

Fiscal Implications: This Act does not require new appropriations. Costs related to scheduling flexibility and compliance oversight will be absorbed through existing agency personnel management funds. Reduced turnover and increased employee retention are expected to offset implementation costs.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:138

Sponsors: Rosary Lopez, Nicole Ly, and Sophia Munoz

An Act To: Amend § 6454 of the Education (EDN) CHAPTER 16, TITLE 7, ARTICLE 130 adding a new minimum funding of 20 million towards the Science and Technology Entry Program.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure a reasonable budget is available for the Science and Technology Entry Program in order to provide educational opportunities for low-income households and prevent future budget cuts.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Budget: The enabled amount of money allocated towards a project and/or program

Consumer Price Index: A measure calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that tracks the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for a standard basket of goods and services, such as food, housing, transportation, and medical care. It is commonly used to measure inflation and adjust funding levels to maintain purchasing power.

STEP: The Science and Technology Entry Program, A program that provides academic opportunities to low income students who are interested in the STEM field.

Low-income: Students who meet the economic disadvantage criteria established by the New York State Education Department or qualify for free or reduced-price lunch under federal guidelines.

New York State Education Department: The state agency that supervises public education in New York and administers state-funded educational programs, including STEP.

Section 2: Provisions § 6454. Science and technology entry program. 1. As used in this section: a. "Council" means the council on professional career opportunity created pursuant to article forty-four of the executive law; b. "Eligible students" shall mean secondary school students who are either economically disadvantaged in the scientific, technical, health, and health-related professions as defined by the regents after consultation with the council. c. "Eligible applicant" shall mean an institution of postsecondary education or a consortia of such institutions. 9. The total annual state appropriation for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) shall not be less than twenty million dollars. i. The minimum funding level shall be adjusted annually to reflect inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:138

Justification: STEP programs have been able to help low-income students to receive support in pursuing a career in STEM since the 1980s. For example the rate that students attend college after high school in New York is ~40%. However, for high schools with STEP 80% to 87% attend college, and even 87% of STEP graduates have ended up picking a major in STEM, displaying that STEP has been able to fulfill its purpose and be beneficial to low-income students who lack educational opportunities. Additionally, there is currently a shortage in STEM and healthcare workers due to the constant demand for them. Through STEP, passionate students can use the opportunities provided to pursue these careers and decrease the shortage. Budget cuts towards educational programs lead to fewer opportunities for those who do not have access to education. If we allow for a minimum budget that is sufficient enough to supply the program with all of its needs for the students, we can expect that those with fewer opportunities will be able to gain a higher education. Furthermore, STEP is widely provided within low-income schools. By keeping STEP, we will be able to combat the educational inequality and close gaps between high schools that are funded and those that get funded less. With a set budget, this will ensure STEP remains permanently. This will allow low-income students to continue gaining opportunities.

Fiscal Implications: This bill establishes a minimum funding floor of $20 million for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), ensuring that the program's budget does not fall below the appropriate funding levels. In years where STEP funding falls below twenty million, the legislature would be required to restore funding to meet the minimum. Funding for STEP is already allocated through the New York State Education Department within the state's annual education budget. The New York State Education Department's total tens of billions of dollars annually, with recent executive budgets recommending about $48.0 billion in total. The $20 million funding floor for STEP represents approximately 0.05% of New York State's total education aid appropriations. This bill protects a small portion of the education budget while preserving a program with significant impact. This bill does not increase the overall education budget, but rather maintains existing allocations to prevent future reductions that have impacted the program's effectiveness. By preventing further budget cuts, this bill promotes fiscal stability and protects access to educational opportunities for students without additional financial burdens on New York State.

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Effective Date: This bill will go into effect during the next 5-year STEP budget cycle after its passage

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:139

Sponsors: Maira Siddiqi, Mia Vega, Jasmin Perez-Aguilar, Monica Gonzalez, and Brian Caballero.

An Act To: Amend New York's Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) § 1652

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To make sure any and all traffic infrastructure is repaired within a time friendly manner of 90-130 days.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Traffic Infrastructure: encompasses the essential physical assets and system of roads, bridges, tunnels, traffic signals, signage, etc.

Section 2: Provisions New York's Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) § 1652-a grants county superintendents of highways, except in Suffolk County, the authority to install and maintain and repair traffic signs, signals, and markings on highways within cities, towns, and villages, provided the local governing body consents via a written agreement. This power is in addition to any existing county authority and does not apply to state highways maintained by the state. The state highways will be maintained and repaired by New York State Department of Transportation, mandating a time frame of 90-130 days to repair any existing damaged items, including but not limited to traffic signs, lights and posts, roads, and sidewalks. These repairments and maintenance will be overseen by the county superintendents of highways.

Justification: In the state of New York, unsafe and poorly managed traffic infrastructure which includes but not limited to, traffic signs, stop signs and roads possess high risk to public safety. Delays in repairments contribute great numbers to injuries and accidents as close to 300,000 have been recorded yearly; fatalities close to 1,100 and leaving 20,000 pedestrians and cyclists injured. Reduced visibility from inadequate street lighting makes it greatly difficult to see other vehicles and pedestrians. Missing warning road signs can cause drivers not to slow down or to stop; increasing accidents, and even with pedestrian safety without clear crosswalk signs or signals can cause higher risks in injury. Currently, repairment of cars in New York State costs approximately 3 billion dollars and damages to one’s person cost around 5.7 billion dollars in 2025. These costs, for individuals, and their vehicle’s will be inevitably lower as maintaining and repairment of traffic infrastructure will reduce the need to repair cars and lower the costs of individual payments to Collison crashes or accidents causes by failure to repair traffic infrastructure. Delaying road repairment allows for dangerous conditions to remain or even worsen which increases crashes; it makes driving, cycling and walking potentially less safe due to unclear signals, signs and missing markings.

Fiscal Implications: Currently in New York state, systems like EZ-Pass, the Department of Transportation, and tax paying dollars include funding for this bill. Systems like EZ-Pass allot money into traffic infrastructure as well as general maintenance of the state. Those tolls pay 25% of highway funds and tax revenue from state highway users pay 13%. The Department of Transportation holds and secludes money for maintenance, and every county has its own supervisor in charge of overseeing the spending of said money.

Effective Date: One year after its passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:139

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:140

Sponsors: Liliana Dolinsky, Clara Pigur-Khalil, Isabella Policastro, and Hailie Vasquez

An Act To: An Act To Amend Chapter 43-B, Article 24, Title 7 of the Environmental Conservation Law to strengthen protections on New York State's freshwater wetlands by expanding the regulated buffer zone to better preserve the quality of water, wildlife habitats, and flood control.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To ensure that the wetland habitats, along with their flora and fauna, are better protected and safe from harmful human interference and activities that may put either the environment or organisms at risk.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Freshwater Wetland: land saturated with water, supporting aquatic plants (like marshes, swamps), vital for flood control and habitat.

Pollution: Contamination by harmful substances (chemicals, trash) degrading water quality.

Dredging: Removing sediment from water bodies to maintain depth or restore habitat, often disturbing wetlands and potentially releasing contaminants.

Buffer Zone: An area of land surrounding the wetland where certain activities are limited or regulated to protect the wetland from harm.

Section 2: Provisions

1. Any person desiring to conduct activities on freshwater wetlands, or the regulated areas adjacent to these wetlands set forth in subdivision two of this section, must obtain a permit as provided in this title.

2. Activities subject to regulation shall include any form of draining, dredging, excavation, removal of soil, mud, sand, shells, gravel or other aggregate from any freshwater wetland, either directly or indirectly; and any form of dumping, filling, or depositing of any soil, stones, sand, gravel, mud, rubbish or fill of any kind, either directly or indirectly; erecting any structures, roads, the driving of pilings, or placing of any other obstructions whether or not changing the ebb and flow of the water; any form of pollution, including but not limited to, installing a septic tank, running a sewer outfall, discharging sewage treatment effluent or other liquid wastes into or so as to drain into a freshwater wetland; and any other activity which substantially impairs any of the several functions served by freshwater wetlands or the benefits derived therefrom which are set forth in section 24-0105 of this article. These activities are subject to regulation, whether or not they occur upon the wetland itself, if they impinge upon or otherwise substantially affect the wetlands and are located not more than ~~one hundred~~ three hundred feet from the boundary of such wetland. Provided that a greater distance from any such wetland may be regulated pursuant to this article by the appropriate local government or by the department, whichever has jurisdiction over such wetland, where necessary to protect and preserve the wetland.

Justification: Our bill is justified and important because it ensures that the natural habitat and its native inhabitants are protected and safe against human intervention or action. By increasing the buffer zone from 100 feet to 300 feet, the freshwater wetlands would be better protected from both natural and artificial actions: runoff, pollution, erosion, and development impacts that occur just outside the wetland boundary. Scientific studies show that many wetland functions, like water filtration and habitat protection, extend well beyond 100 feet. Therefore, a larger buffer, at 300 feet, would better preserve these functions more effectively.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications present for this bill.

Environmental Implications: This legislation would expand the regulated adjacent area surrounding freshwater wetlands from one hundred feet to three hundred feet. The expansion of the buffer zone will allow for the protection of wetland ecological functions, including water filtration, flood control, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat preservation. By increasing the regulated area, the bill would reduce the likelihood of sedimentation, nutrient runoff, pollution discharge, and habitat fragmentation occurring in proximity to freshwater wetlands. A larger buffer zone will result in improved water quality outcomes and increased protection of biodiversity. The legislation is not expected to create adverse environmental impacts. Rather, it is anticipated to strengthen long-term ecological resilience and environmental sustainability within New York State

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect 1 year after its passage

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:140

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #: 141

Sponsors: Clarence Wadle, Ranya Aboumehdi Hassani, and Phoenix DeCampo

An Act To: Amend: Section 8-303 of the State of New York 2025 Election Law to provide for the use of voter identification cards, and to insert a Section 8-303A to provide for the production and distribution thereof.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To strengthen public trust in elections by ensuring that every voter's identity is verified. It proposes issuing a secure voter ID card with a unique barcode and security question to avoid fraud and double voting. This system aims to make voting safe, fair, and accessible for all eligible citizens.

Summary of Provisions

Section 2: Provisions Voter Identification Card" means the identification card provided for in paragraph (1) of this Section.

§ 8-303. Initial Voter Identification

2. Requirements.

(a) In general. An individual meets the requirements of this subdivision if the individual:

(1) in the case of an individual who votes in person: (i) presents to the appropriate election inspector, clerk or coordinator a current and ~~valid photo identification; or~~

~~(ii) presents to the appropriate election inspector, clerk, or coordinator a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter;~~ or Voter Identification Card; or

(2) in the case of an individual who votes by mail, submits in the outer envelope with the envelope containing the ballot: ~~(i)~~ a copy of a ~~current and valid photo identification; or~~

~~(ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, or government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter~~. Voter Identification Card.

§ 8-303A. Provision for Voter Identification Cards

Definition:

""Voter Identification Card"" means the identification card provided for in paragraph (1) of this Section.

Provisions:

1. Upon an individual registering to vote, or voting for the first time after January 1, 2030, and who is already registered to vote, the appropriate authority shall issue to the individual a Voter Identification Card, which shall have a unique identifier in the form of a barcode, which shall record the name and date of birth of the individual.

2. If any person is removed from the registry of voters, the Voter Identification Card issued in that person's name shall be immediately deemed to be invalid.

3. For the purposes of paragraph (2), a person shall be deemed to be removed from the registry of voters if their registration is cancelled pursuant to Section 5-400 of the State of New York 2025 Election Law.

4. The Board of Elections shall determine a system by which Voter Identification Cards may be distributed to persons who, at the effective date of this act, are registered voters.

5. The Board of Elections shall maintain a list of all valid Voter Identification Cards. It shall be digitally accessible to all appropriate election monitors under paragraph (6).

6. Beginning on January 1, 2030, all persons shall, when voting in an election, show to the appropriate election monitor their Voter Identification Card, the barcode of which shall be scanned to identify it using the list prescribed by paragraph (5). Upon scanning the barcode of the Voter Identification Card, the election monitor shall inquire to the voter their name and date of birth, and shall, if the voter does not state the name and date of birth recorded on the Voter Identification Card, or if the holder of the Voter Identification Card has been recorded as having voted pursuant to paragraph (7), inform the voter that they are not using the correct Voter Identification Card. Any person whose Voter Identification Card is incorrect, or who fails to present a Voter Identification Card, shall cast an affidavit ballot.

7. Upon receiving a correct statement of name and date of birth, the election monitor shall record that the holder of the relevant Voter Identification Card has voted. Such record shall be entered into the list provided for by paragraph (5) of this Section.

Justification: Trust in the voting process is crucial for a functioning democracy, yet declining confidence has led to lower political engagement. While some states require voter identification, these measures can exclude individuals who lack the means to obtain an ID. This bill ensures that every eligible voter receives a secure, standardized identification card with a one-time-use barcode and an associated security question, enabling safe and fair participation. By preventing fraud, this system strengthens confidence in election outcomes and encourages broader civic engagement, ensuring that every vote is accurately counted.

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Fiscal Implications: One library card, which was taken as the basis of the identification cards under this Bill, costs approximately ten cents for the library to purchase. Considering that there 12,363,415 registered voters in New York, a onetime budget of 1,236,341.5 dollars would be required to distribute to already registered voters; an additional 10 cents would be required for any new registrants. Approximately 400,000 voters were added to the rolls between 2018 and 2022, taking an average of 100,000 applicants per year, a further yearly budget of 1,000 dollars would be required by the Board of Elections.

Effective Date: All provisions of this Bill take effect immediately, with the exception of Section 8-303A, paragraph (6), which shall take effect on 1 January 2030.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:142

Sponsors: Nizzy Hammami, Layne Tasnady, Cameron Saily, Eli Friedberg, and Pierce Biffert

An Act To: Amend Chapter 73, Article 3 § 303 of the Eminent Domain Procedure Law to provide the property owner an offer to acquire the property for one hundred and twenty-five percent of the valuation established for the property.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To properly reimburse property owners for the forced acquisition of their property for public use. Simply reimbursing the owners with the fair market value does not account for the fact that a property owner may not be looking to sell the property or may have sentimental value in the property.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Eminent Domain: The governmental power to take private property for public use.

Condemnor: The government agency or public authority taking private property through eminent domain.

Just Compensation: The fair market value of the property.

Written Offer: A formal written document stating how much the condemnor will pay as compensation. It must be presented to the property owner.

One Hundred and Twenty-Five Per Centum of the Valuation: The condemnor must offer 125% of the property's appraised value.

Highest Approved Appraisal: The highest property value determined and approved by the condemning agency.

Itemization: A detailed breakdown of how the compensation amount was calculated.

Direct Damages: Payment for the part of the property taken (land, buildings, rights).

Severance Damages: Compensation for damage to the remaining property the owner keeps.

Consequential Damages: Compensation for damage to the remaining property the owner keeps.

Benefits: Increases in the value of the remaining property caused by the public project.

Section 2: Provisions § 303. Offer. The condemnor shall establish an amount which it believes to represent just compensation for the real property to be acquired. The condemnor shall make a written offer to acquire the property for one hundred and twenty-five per centum of the valuation so established. In no event shall such

amount be less than one hundred and twenty-five per centum of the condemnor's highest approved appraisal. Wherever practicable, the condemnor shall make the offer prior to acquiring the property and shall also wherever practicable, include within the offer an itemization of the total direct, the total severance or consequential damages and benefits as each may apply to the property.

Justification: Eminent domain has historically and disproportionately prejudiced lower-income and minority communities by targeting neighborhoods' political influence, fewer finances, and an inability to challenge government action. The use of fair market value assumes there is a willing buyer and seller who are knowledgeable on the value of the property and are competent enough to enter in an agreement where they have no responsibility to complete the transaction, yet in eminent domain cases, the property owner is not a willing seller, making this standard intrinsically flawed. This dynamic is harmful to low-income residents, who often cannot find comparable properties for similar prices and are forced to absorb relocation costs (i.e., higher rents, loss of access to jobs, schools, and support networks). Racial minority communities, especially, face exacerbated harm because of historical practices such as segregation that artificially depreciate property values, resulting in lower compensation. Furthermore, gerrymandering decreased the political influence of these groups to provide representatives in the assembly to advocate for their interests. These public projects have continually displaced minority neighborhoods and dismantled established communities.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact is variable and dependent upon the extent that eminent domain authority is exercised by state and municipal governments. An increase property acquisition costs would occur solely in instances where condemnation is pursued and would be distributed across multiple agencies and capital project budgets over multiple fiscal years. By increasing the compensation offered, this act forces the state and municipal government to have greater restraint and selectivity in the use of eminent domain, specifically in cases where other redevelopment strategies are feasible. This may result in fewer condemnation actions overall, thereby limiting combined fiscal exposure. The expected fiscal dollar amount of three hundred million is only the greatest estimate.

Environmental Implications: This act is not expected to have a direct adverse environmental impact. The legislation does not authorize new development projects or alter existing environmental review requirements under state or federal law. All projects utilizing eminent domain would remain subject to applicable environmental

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regulations, including the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Indirectly, the increased cost of property acquisition may encourage government agencies to more carefully evaluate project necessity, scope, and location, potentially reducing unnecessary land consumption and promoting more efficient use of already developed areas. This may result in fewer environmentally disruptive projects and a greater emphasis on redevelopment and adaptive reuse rather than expansion into undeveloped or ecologically sensitive areas.

Effective Date: This bill shall be made effective on 01/01/2028.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:143

Sponsors: Andrew Jackson and Collin McElroy

An Act To: Amend Commissioners Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2).

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: Our bill will allow homeschooling students to participate in school sports, given that they have filled out necessary paperwork ie: waivers or insurance forms, and pass tryouts if applicable.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Bona Fide Student means a regularly enrolled student who is taking sufficient subjects to make an aggregate amount of three courses and who satisfies the physical education requirement

Adequate home instruction means a child being educated outside the public school system, within the state of New York, who continues to uphold eligibility as determined by their local public school district.

Section 2: Provisions

Amends New York State education laws by amending Commissioners Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2) as follows:

A pupil shall be eligible for interschool competition or inclusive athletic activities in a sport during a semester, provided that he or she is a bona fide student or a student participating in adequate home instruction, enrolled for public schooling, or adequate home instruction during the first 15 school days of such semester, is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement, has not graduated from high school or home equivalent, except that otherwise eligible students graduating at the end of the spring semester may continue to participate in athletics until the conclusion of the spring interscholastic athletic season and has been in regular attendance 80 percent of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted.

A homeschooled student athlete is to fill out the standard paperwork, such as waivers or insurance forms where applicable, that are required of any other student of the public school team they will play for, or if applicable, try out for. A homeschooled athlete is required to play for the team of the schooling district they would otherwise be attending. Homeschooled student athletes must maintain "eligibility" guidelines as described by the school they are playing for.

Justification: Under current New York State Commissioners Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2), any student not in the public school system ie; homeschooled or "Home Instruction," students, are prevented from playing scholastic sports. If you know even a little about health, you know that physical exercise, like that given by athletic competition, is important to keep a person, especially a developing human, healthy. According to the National Institute of Health, benefits to athleticism include "health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development." One must also consider what athletics is preventing. The NIH states that there is a correlation between those who participate in "physical activity, and improved academic achievement, decreased risk of heart disease and diabetes, improved weight control, and less psychologic dysfunction." So overall, many things are pointing to the fact that Commissioners Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(b)(2) needs to be seriously reconsidered, for the benefit of student health both physical and mental.

Fiscal Implications: Fiscal implications for this bill are negligible, as schools and the state are not forced to increase numbers of players or resources per team.

Effective Date: This law goes into effect in the fall sports season following the date this bill is passed and signed into law.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:144

Sponsors: Charlie Hughes

An Act To: An act to amend New York State Election Law, Article 8, Section 302-4 allowing voters to vote in New York State primary elections regardless of party affiliations or lack thereof.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To give a greater political voice to independent, third party, and unaffiliated voters in New York State.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Primary Election: An election to determine the candidate of a specific political party before the general election for that office takes place.

Independent: A voter that is officially is not a member of any political party.

Unaffiliated: A voter that has no official party registration.

Section 2: Provisions § 8-302 (4) At a primary election, a voter whose registration poll record is in the ledger or computer generated registration list shall be permitted to vote ~~only~~ in the primary of the party of their choice, provided that they only vote for one candidate for each individual position in question in the primaries. ~~in which such record shows the voter to be enrolled unless the voter shall present a court order pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (e) of subdivision three of this section requiring that the voter be permitted to vote in the primary of another party, or unless the voter shall present a certificate of enrollment issued by the board of elections, not earlier than one month before such primary election, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter which certifies that the voter is enrolled in a party other than the one in which such record shows the voter to be enrolled, or unless he or she shall subscribe an affidavit pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision three of this section~~.

(4) (A) There shall be no criminal penalties for voting in a primary of a party that a voter is not registered in.

(4) (B) This law shall supersede all existing New York Laws on the legality or lack thereof of voting in a primary election to which a voter is not a registered member of that party.

Justification: Primaries serve as a crucial decision point for voters to choose the kinds of candidates they want. New York State currently has a closed primary, which requires voters to be registered members of a certain party to vote in its primary elections. This is prohibitive to independent or unaffiliated voters, along with voters that do not have a 100% loyalty to their party of choice. An open primary system, which removes these restrictions, and has already been adopted in some form by 37 states. In these states, voters are allowed to vote in the party primary of their choice, or vote in a nonpartisan primary. Allowing everyone the opportunity to vote in the primary of their choice allows them to use their vote as they want. It lets independents, and people who change their minds to have a chance to vote for their candidate of choice

Fiscal Implications: This bill will have negligible fiscal implications for New York State.

Environmental Implications: By affording voters a greater choice in different candidates to vote for, this bill will have the effect of increasing turnout in primary elections. The increased turnout will heighten the significance of primary elections in New York State, and by doing so will give voters greater control over the outcome of the election process by increasing their influence over its earlier stages.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:144

Assignment: Senate Liberty 3 Bill #:145

Sponsors: Leah Loomis, Laurel Bennett, and Avi Benjamin

An Act To: Amend Education Law Chapter 16, Title 1, Article 19, § 908-a to provide more inclusive food options for students.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require vegan and vegetarian school lunch options for students who do not eat most of the meals that are currently available at schools in New York State.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Vegan: a person who does not eat any food derived from animals, and who typically does not use other animal products

Vegetarian: a person who does not eat meat for health, religious, or moral reasons

Section 2: Provisions a. A statement that the school or school district shall provide the student with the student's meal of choice for that school day of the available reimbursable meal choices for such school day, which shall include vegan and vegetarian meal choices, if the student requests one, unless the student's parent or guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal, provided that the school or school district shall ~~only~~ be required to provide access to reimbursable meals, not a la carte items, adult meals, or other similar items;

Justification: Research shows that participation in school meal programs improves student health and academic performance, with studies finding that students who eat school lunch consume more fruits and vegetables and experience lower rates of food insecurity than students who bring lunch from home. Federal nutrition standards require reimbursable school meals to provide approximately one-third of a child's daily nutritional needs, making access to these meals especially important for growing students. New York State's Universal Free School Meals Program now serves more than 2.7 million public school students each year, demonstrating the statewide importance of ensuring that all students can benefit equally from this program.

However, many school menus rely heavily on meat and dairy products, which limits participation for students with dietary restrictions such as vegan, vegetarian, lactose intolerance, or religious dietary needs. Research on plant-forward school menus shows that offering vegetarian and vegan options can increase student participation, and plant-based protein sources such as beans and lentils are often

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less expensive than meat. By expanding inclusive meal options, this bill strengthens the effectiveness and equity of New York State's existing school meal program."

Fiscal Implications: The money for these additional meal choices would come from the Universal Free School Meals program, where breakfasts and lunches are free to students in New York State. This would mean the passage of this bill would have a low financial burden on the state.

Environmental Implications: This act is expected to have a minimal but positive environmental impact as it will support broader conservation efforts in New York State. Increasing the availability of plant-based meal options may reduce demand for animal-based foods, which generally require more land and water, and produce more greenhouse gas emissions than plant-based foods.

Effective Date: "One year after the passage of this bill.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:146

Sponsors: Kevin Reyes and Mars Juno Smothergill

An Act To: Amend Article 7 § 7-7.1 of the Estates, Powers and Trusts Act to require parents to establish a New York acting permit

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To require child influencers to apply for a New York child acting permit and Coogan Account when they start receiving financial benefit from performing.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Coogan Account: A closed trust account that the child gains access to at age 18

Content Creator: A person who runs a social media account that yields financial benefits

Child Performer: A child actor, singer, performer or content creator, and/or the child of a content creator

Section 2: Provisions 2. Establishment of child performer trust account. (c) Termination of child performer trust account. The child performer may terminate the child performer trust account upon reaching the age of Eighteen. (d) Child performers will hereby be defined as actors, performers, singers and/or content creators who in any capacity benefit financially from said performance. (e)If a child is present in thirty percent or more of the content posted online by their parent or guardian per month, said parent or guardian will be required to place thirty percent of that month's earnings into a child performer trust account (f) In cases where more than one child is present for the required 30 percent of content per month, the children will receive 50 percent of the monthly income and split it evenly

Justification: With the rise of social media there has been an increase in family influencers. Unfortunately, this has led to a rise in financially abusive situations and subsequently resulted in more children being severely overworked and underpaid, if they are even paid at all. Their parents more often than not steal their wages, resulting in little to nothing left for them when they grow up and attempt to start their own lives. The current minimum 15 percent of profits that is required to be placed in Coogan accounts is insufficient to actually starting a new life, and an increase in this minimum is necessary in our current fluctuating and unstable economy. By passing this bill we intend to ensure they are left with even a fraction of what they make.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will have no fiscal impact on the state as Coogan accounts do not cost money to open, however, as trust funds do gain interest and are subject to taxes, there will be fiscal impact to the owners of the accounts.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:146

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:147

Sponsors: Teddy Phelps, Ella Hens, Meghan Hull, and Katie Morehouse

An Act To: Amend part e of § 1310 of article 30 of chapter 60 of the consolidated Laws of New York to set a credit against tax in the amount of $250 to public school teachers with a master's degree.

The People of the New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To decrease teachers owed state tax amounts to lessen the extreme burdens that they face and add enticement to fix the critical shortage of teachers.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Nonrefundable Tax credit: A dollar-for dollar amount that taxpayers can subtract directly from the income tax they owe, that can not be refunded if a taxpayer's balance owed is exceeded by the amount of credits that they have.

Public Schooling: A system of education that is funded by taxpayers and overseen by the government to provide free elementary and secondary education to all children in a community.

Public Educator: Provides classroom instruction to students in government funded schools.

Masters Degree: A post graduate academic qualification from a university signifying advanced knowledge and expertise in a specific field pursued after a bachelor degree and typically taking one to two years to complete.

Section 2: Provisions

For taxable years beginning after nineteen hundred ninety-seven, and ending before two thousand sixteen, a state school tax reduction credit shall be allowed as provided in the following tables. The credit shall be allowed against the taxes authorized by this article reduced by the credits permitted by this article. If the credit exceeds the tax as so reduced, the taxpayer may receive, and the comptroller, subject to a certificate of the commissioner, shall pay as an overpayment, without interest, the amount of such excess. For purposes of this subsection, no credit shall be granted to an individual with respect to whom a deduction under subsection (c) of section one hundred fifty-one of the internal revenue code is allowable to another taxpayer for the taxable year. Public school teachers of that have their master's degree will receive a nonrefundable state tax credit equivalent to the amount of $250 annually.

Justification: This bill would reduce the taxes that teachers face and grant them a more livable income, this would also reduce the negative impacts that come in hand and in turn promote an increase in K-12 public educators as New York State has been in a shortage since 2015. Additionally, from the meager amount of money teachers make, teachers on average spend around $400 out of pocket to buy materials and equipment for their classrooms, justifying the need for at least, partial reimbursement of these funds.

Fiscal Implications: With an estimated 214,000 public school teachers in the state of New York, $250 worth of tax credits to each would result in an estimated $53,500,000 worth of revenue lost from state income taxes. The amount of tax credits will be subtracted from the NYS budget every year. For the years of 2026-2027 the NYS budget is proposed to be 260 billion dollars. The total fiscal implications of this bill is less than 1% of the entire proposed budget for 2026-2027.

Effective Date: April 16, 2027 to prepare for the 2027 tax season.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:148

Sponsors: Alishba Asif, Hajaratu Barrie, Giselle Canales, and Karin Da Gama Paes

An Act To: Amend the Public Health Law §2509 by adding paragraph (d) to Section 1, in relation to and the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Advisory Council.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To reduce maternal mortality and morbidity among people of color in New York State by allowing the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Advisory Council (MMMAC) to issue binding recommendations for hospitals with preventable maternal deaths, not just advisory.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Mortality: the state of being subject to death

Morbidity: the condition of suffering from a disease or medical condition

Binding Recommendations: formal directives or decisions, often in legal or regulatory contexts, that carry the force of law or a legal obligation, compelling the recipient to comply with them

Preventable Death: maternal death deemed preventable by the NY Maternal Mortality Review Board.

Department of Health (DOH): a government agency responsible for public health and safety, with functions that include health research, policy-making, and providing public health services.

Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Advisory Council (MMMAC): a council established by the New York State Department of Health to review findings and recommendations related to pregnancy-associated deaths and develop policies and strategies to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity, with a focus on addressing racial and ethnic disparities.

Section 2: Provisions § 2509. Maternal mortality review board.

1. (a) There is hereby established in the department the maternal mortality review board for the purpose of reviewing maternal deaths and maternal morbidity and developing and disseminating findings, recommendations, and best practices to contribute to the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity. The board shall assess the cause of death, factors leading to death and preventability for each maternal death reviewed and, in the discretion of the board, cases of severe maternal morbidity, and shall develop and disseminate strategies for reducing the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, including risk resulting from racial, economic, or other disparities. The commissioner may delegate the authority to

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conduct maternal mortality reviews. (b) The commissioner may enter into an agreement with the city of New York providing: (i) that the functions of the state board relating to maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity occurring within the city of New York shall be conducted by the city board; (ii) the city board shall provide to the state board the results of its reviews, relevant information in the possession of the city board, and the recommendations of the city board; and (iii) the department and the state board shall provide information and assistance to the city board for the performance of its functions. (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent the city of New York from establishing, without an agreement with the commissioner, a board relating to maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity occurring within the city of New York. (d) The New York Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Advisory Council (MMMAC) may issue binding recommendations for hospitals with preventable deaths. Hospitals failing to implement recommendations may face Department of Health (DOH) sanctions, financial penalties, or temporary restriction of maternity services.

Justification: Around 76% of maternal deaths are considered preventable according to NYS reports. In 2020, data from the New York State Department of Health shows that Black mothers died at a rate of 54.7 per 100,000 babies born, compared to 11.2 deaths for white mothers. Currently, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Advisory Council (MMMAC) is only allowed to issue advisory recommendations that often go unimplemented. This limits accountability and slows progress towards improving maternal care. This bill is giving power to the MMMAC to make binding recommendations that ensures that hospitals take corrective action regarding maternal mortality and morbidity. Enforcing this bill through the Department of Health (DOH) sanctions or penalties will encourage hospitals to maintain a higher standard of care and ultimately save lives.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications to this bill.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:149

Sponsors: Alejandra Tobar Galdamez, Bianca Rivera, Franklin Leon, Suraksha Ghimire, and Vivian Rhoden

An Act To: Increase the percentage amount required from 15% to 20% for the Child Performer Trust Account Law.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To prevent parents or legal guardians from taking advantage of children in the entertainment industry.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Coogan account-requiring that 15% of a minor performer's earnings be placed in a protected trust account until they turn 18.

Income- money received.

Minor-a person under the legal age of 18.

Entertainment industry-are jobs that are businesses creating, producing, and distributing content for leisure, including film, TV, music, gaming, publishing, theater, and live events.

Section 2: Provisions

References Child Performer Trust Accounts | Department of Labor

PTL Article 7, Part 7

Modifying law from 15% to 20%

Justification: The implementation of an increased percentage amount for the Child Performer Trust accounts is necessary and important to the state of New York. The state has many children involved in the entertainment industry, particularly many of them residing in the city for musicals and plays. By increasing the 15% income of the Child Performer Trust accounts to 20%, many of the children have a higher chance of protecting their earnings as adults. This will prevent parents and guardians from interfering with their financial life by abusing their earnings, having a further decrease in the amount of exploitation. Following this relationship, there would be a higher rate of saving accumulation. The state's children will be affected by this bill beneficially by having a safe economic trust account and earnings by the time they reach 18, which will assist them in further education such as college or housing.

According to the NYS Department of Labor, there are approximately 14,000 to 19,000 child actors in NY. Around 0.35% to 0.47% of the state's total child population. Before the Coogan Law, nearly 100% of child actors were at risk, because of their earnings legally belonging to the parents. Shirley Temple's fortune was depleted to $44,000 from millions, Macaulay Culkin's parents wasted his earnings during a custody battle, and Jackie Coogan's parents nearly spent his $4 million earnings. After the age of 18, they gain full access to the funds in their Coogan account.

Fiscal Implications: This bill does not affect the state, rather it affects the child performer and their guardians' taxes.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect as soon as possible after passing.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:149

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:150

Sponsors: Caroline Pierre, Ella Rossiter, and Eliana Katz

An Act To: Amend Section 240.30 of the New York Penal Law, entitled "Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree."

Penal Law § 240.30 currently criminalizes certain forms of harassment: intent to harass, annoy, threaten, or alarm another person, including harassment carried out through electronic communication such as telephone or computer-based messages. The offense is classified as a Class A misdemeanor.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To modernize New York's aggravated harassment law by explicitly including the creation or distribution of non-consensual digitally altered media (deepfakes) used to harass, threaten, or alarm another person.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Class A misdemeanor - most severe category of misdemeanor, carrying potential penalties like up to a year in jail, significant fines (e.g., $1,000 to $2,500+ depending on the state), probation, community service, and a permanent criminal record

Deepfakes - AI-generated or manipulated videos, images, or audio that convincingly make someone appear to say or do something they didn't

Harassment - unwelcome, offensive conduct (verbal, physical, or visual) based on protected traits like race, sex, religion, or disability, creating a hostile environment or impacting work/opportunities

Section 2: Provisions Penal Law § 240.30 currently criminalizes certain forms of harassment: intent to harass, annoy, threaten, or alarm another person, including harassment carried out through electronic communication such as telephone or computer-based messages. The offense is classified as a Class A misdemeanor. Add a new subdivision to Penal Law § 240.30 to explicitly include the knowing creation or distribution of non-consensual digitally altered images, videos, or recordings (referred to as deepfakes) used as harassment.

Justification: Current New York law addresses harassment through threats, repeated phone calls, and physical conduct, but it does not explicitly mention modern forms of digital harassment involving manipulated or fabricated media. As our world today has heavily incorporated AI and advanced technology, individuals can now create realistic fake images or videos that can seriously harm a person's reputation, emotional well-being, and safety. This conduct is not explicitly defined in existing statutes, which may lead to law enforcement and courts to lack clear authority to address it. By making this amendment, this gap will close and the law will be updated to the various forms of harassment today.

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Fiscal Implications: Government revenue from fines may increase as more offenders are charged with Class A misdemeanors

Environmental Implications: Create a safer environment where classifications of harassment are thoroughly addressed and up to par with technology today

Effective Date: One month after its passage

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:151

Sponsors: Ava Bukovinsky Pesquera, Clarissa Lopez, and Madison LaBarge

An Act To: Amend Domestic Relations, Article 5, Section 70 to add section 2 to when a child can choose which parent with which to reside.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The Purpose of this bill is to make it when a child of Split parents Can decide which Parent or Guardian's house to live at at Age 14.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

"Minor child" means an individual under the age of eighteen (18) years.

"Custodial parent or guardian" means a parent, legal guardian, or other person lawfully granted care, custody, or control of a minor child by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"Expressed preference" means a clearly stated and voluntary choice made by a minor child regarding which parent or guardian the child wishes to primarily reside with.

"Clear and convincing risk of harm" means a high probability that placement with a chosen parent or guardian would result in physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, or serious psychological harm to the minor child.

Section 2: Provisions

Habeas corpus for child detained by parent. (a) Where a minor child is residing within this state, either parent may apply to the supreme court for a writ of habeas corpus to have such minor child brought before such court; and on the return thereof, the court, on due consideration, may award the natural guardianship, charge and custody of such child to either parent for such time, under such regulations and restrictions, and with such provisions and directions, as the case may require, and may at any time thereafter vacate or modify such order. In all cases there shall be no prima facie right to the custody of the child in either parent, but the court shall determine solely what is for the best interest of the child, and what will best promote its welfare and happiness, and make award accordingly. Children can, at the age of 14, offer expressed preference about the parent or legal guardian to reside with after that child's parents have divorced. The courts may take into account clear and convincing risk of harm before making a final decision.

Justification: Studies on teen development show that many 14-year-olds are able to think clearly, understand consequences, and make important decisions about their lives. The American Psychological Association has found that teens at this age can make responsible choices when they are given the right information. New York law already allows 14-year-olds to work, which shows the state believes they are mature enough to handle responsibility. Right now, courts can treat a child's choice differently depending on the judge, which can make custody cases confusing and unfair. This bill creates a clear rule that respects teens' voices while still keeping them safe.

Fiscal Implications: This bill will have no fiscal implications.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect immediately upon passage.

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:151

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:152

Sponsors: Lizzie McCloy, Markus Kida, and Cooper Sinclair

An Act To: Amend Article 5 section163-A of Labor Law to add requirements of Employers to provide farm laborer employees with advance notice of scheduling.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To provide farm laborers with notice of scheduling at least 7 days in advance and a monthly minimum number of hours of employment.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Farm Laborer: Employees engaged in farming activities, including those on a farm or ranch, handling agricultural products, and related activities.

Advanced notice requirements: Legal obligations that require an employer to provide employees with written notice, ahead of time, regarding key aspects of their employment most commonly work schedules, assigned hours, changes in shifts, or other material terms of work.

Employer: Person or entity, including an agent or anyone acting directly or indirectly in Large Scale Farming operations, who engages the services or labor of an employee for wages or other remuneration to perform work in New York State.

Section 2: Provisions § 163-a. Farm laborers. No person or corporation operating a farm shall require any farm laborer to work more than sixty hours in any calendar week; provided, however, that any overtime work performed by a farm laborer shall be at a rate which is at least one and one-half times the farm laborer's regular rate of pay.

§ 163-b. 1. On or before the first day of employment of a farm Laborer the employer shall provide notice to such employee in writing of the employee's work schedule and the minimum number of hours the employee will be assigned on a monthly basis. Upon the provisions of such notice to such an employee, the employer or its designee shall obtain from the employee a signed and dated written acknowledgement, in English and in the primary language of the employee, of receipt of the notice, which the employer shall preserve and maintain for a period of six years. 2. On or before the seventh day after the effective date of this section and every seven days thereafter, each employer or its designee shall provide each employee with the days that the employee has been assigned to work and the hours of work on those days in writing. Scheduling notices shall additionally be posted in a conspicuous place in every workplace of the employer and may be requested by electronic means. 3. The provisions of this section shall not apply during any period where regular operations of the employer are suspended as a result of events beyond the employer's control.4.For each violation of this section by an employer, the department may assess a civil penalty not to exceed fifty 50 dollars.

Justification: The advanced notice requirements for farm laborers are necessary protections that promote fairness, transparency, and stability in agricultural employment. Requiring written notice of work schedules and minimum monthly hours ensures clear communication, prevents misunderstandings, and protects vulnerable workers from unpredictable scheduling practices. Weekly written confirmation and workplace posting further enhance accountability and help employees plan for housing, transportation, childcare, and other essential needs. Collectively, these provisions modernize agricultural labor standards while maintaining reasonable flexibility for farm employers.

Fiscal Implications: No Fiscal Implication.

Effective Date: On the fiftieth day after passage of the bill.

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:152

Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:153

Sponsors: Lasiyah Taylor

An Act To: Add to Mental Hygiene law §7.15 for the Office of Mental Hygiene to provide homeless youth with free mental health service.

The People of the New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: To support homeless youth 17 and under with mental health services including counseling, and other related services to support trauma informed care, suicide assessments, general mental health challenges, and more.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Mental Health- The overall emotional, psychological,and social well-being, affecting how we think,feel,act, handle stress, relate to others,and make choices.

Counseling- A confidential, collaborative, professional,talking therapy.

Social Worker- A social worker is a professional that helps people in general cope with problems, access resources and improve their overall well- being.

Trauma informed care- A supportive approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma on individuals life.

Section 2: Provisions The Office of Mental Hygiene must coordinate with the Department of Social Services in providing Mental Health services for homeless youth who are 17 and younger. If local Social Services do not have the resources to provide mental health counseling, the Office of Mental Hygiene must provide a mental health professional.

There will be a yearly annual check in with the Department of Social Services to evaluate if mental health resources are being provided to the youth in their area.

Local departments of social services must provide at least 3 hours of mental health services a month to homeless youth. Services can include one on one counseling, group therapy, or other mental health resources.

Justification: In the 2024-2025 school year there are about 154,000 homeless youth in New York State. In addition there are approximately 200,000 to over 840,000 children in New York State diagnosed with mental health issues. These youth are at greater risks of mental health challenges. Certain counties of the state of New York have a higher rate of homeless youth. Meaning certain departments of social services are over worked and cannot provide enough resources. According to social work news social workers case loads can range from 5 to over 20 at a time . Though these social workers are trained mental health professionals they do not have the time or resources to give homeless youth the mental health services they need. Mental health services are very expensive, some ranging from $60-$2,000 a day; this would make it very difficult for these homeless youth to get mental health services.

Fiscal Implications: This program will be funded by mental health hygiene. The office has a budget of $12 million to provide programs and services to children and youth. Costs would include hiring mental health professionals and their salary which is an average of 74,918.

Environmental Implications: This Bill will help provide homeless youth with mental health services that will support the social environment

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage

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Assignment: Senate Liberty 4 Bill #:153

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED PHRASES
From The Association of the Bar of the City of New York-http://www.nycbar.org/

Not all of these terms will be used in the YMCA Model Legislature, but each plays a role in the New York Legislative process.

Amendment
A bill can be amended as many times as necessary at any time during the legislative process. When a bill is amended a letter is added to the end of the bill number. The first amendment is referred to as the "A" version of the bill; the second amendment is referred to as the "B" version of the bill, and so on (*i.e.* A.1234-A, A.1234-B, A.1234-C, etc.).

Approval memo
Memo attached to a bill that has been signed by the Governor explaining why he/she approved the bill. Approval memos are not required. If written, approval memos are included in a **bill jacket** and become a part of the bill's legislative history. (*See also* 'Disapproval memo')

Article 7
Article of the New York State Constitution governing the State's finances and budget. "Article 7 bills" are non-appropriation pieces of legislation which are intended to amend existing state laws governing programs and revenues.

Bill jacket
Includes the legislative history of a bill that has been enacted into law or vetoed by the Governor. Bill jackets include the bill, the bill's sponsor memo, **approval** or **disapproval memos**, financial analysis (if necessary) and any other memos, letters or comments that were submitted to the Governor's office regarding the bill. This would include comments by other agencies, organizations, or individuals. A bill jacket is an excellent resource when doing research on an issue and can be accessed through the New York State Library or by contacting the Legislative Secretary to the Governor's Counsel (for bills from the current year).

Calendar or Reading calendar
Once a bill has been considered by all necessary committees and favorably reported, it is placed on the calendar. Bills must 'age' for three consecutive legislative session days before it can be voted on by the house. This rule is intended to provide legislators sufficient time to read and consider legislation before acting on it. A bill will automatically move from its first to second reading calendar; it will then be placed on the third reading calendar, where it can remain indefinitely if no further action is taken. If it is decided that a bill should move to the floor for a vote, then it will appear on the 'Debate List' in the Assembly and/or the 'Active List' in the Senate. A bill can bypass the three-day reading rule with a **Message of Necessity** issued by the Governor.

Chapter number
Number assigned a bill once it has been signed into law by the Governor. Chapter numbers are assigned in numerical order as bills are signed and are specific to the year in which the bill was enacted. Knowing a bill's chapter number is helpful when searching for legislation enacted in past years (*i.e.* Chapter 1 of 2012).

Delivered to Governor
After passing both houses of the Legislature, bills will be delivered to the Governor. During the legislative session, the Governor has 10 days to sign or veto bills once they've been transmitted. This time period does not include Sundays, but does include legal holidays. If the Governor does not act on the bill within the 10 day period, the bill automatically becomes law. When a bill is delivered to the Governor after the Legislature has formally adjourned *sine die* (the final adjournment of a legislative session year), the Governor has 30 days (including Sundays *and* including legal holidays) to sign a bill or it will be automatically vetoed upon expiration of the time period. No veto message from the Governor is required if this happens.

Disapproval memo
Memo attached to a bill vetoed by the Governor laying out the reasons for disapproving the bill. All bills that are vetoed are accompanied by a disapproval memo, which is included in the **bill jacket** and becomes part of the bill's legislative history. (*See also* 'Approval memo')

Enacting clause stricken
When the main sponsor of a bill removes their support for the bill and the title has been deleted. Bill is considered dead unless another legislator decides to sponsor the bill.

Held for consideration

When a bill is placed on a "hold" agenda in a committee. A committee can vote to favorably, unfavorably or to hold a bill when it comes up for a vote. The bill is still able to be placed on an active agenda at any time. This action is usually taken when a committee does not want to disapprove a bill but feels further study is needed or there are amendments that should be made before the bill progresses.

Laid aside

When a bill's sponsor or the Temporary President in the Senate does not want a vote to be taken on a bill. Bills that are laid aside retain their place in the regular order of business until called for a debate. Unlike bills that are **starred on calendar**, bills that are laid aside can be voted on the same day it is laid aside if the sponsor or Temporary President of the Senate so chooses. (*See also* 'Starred on Calendar') **Legislative term / session**

A **legislative term** is the two-year period during which a bill can remain active. Each term starts the January of an odd-numbered year, after the legislative election, and consists of two **legislative sessions** (running from roughly January through June). Bills introduced in the first session that are not signed into law will retain their bill number and be automatically introduced in the second session. After this two-year period a new legislative term begins and all bills not enacted into law will have to be reintroduced and obtain new bill numbers before they can be considered by the legislature. This is done by bill sponsors as a matter of course.

Message of necessity

Method by which the Governor can bypass the three-day bill aging process (or **calendar readings**) and call for an immediate vote on a bill. A message of necessity must lay out why an immediate vote is required and must be approved by a majority of members in the house where it is being requested.

Motion for reconsideration

Method by which a legislator can have a bill, resolution, message, report, amendment, nomination or motion reconsidered and voted on again. This can be done for matters before the house or for bills which have been vetoed by the Governor. In the case of bills vetoed by the Governor, a ⅔ majority of members in each house must vote in favor of the bill in order to overturn the veto and enact the legislation.

Ranking member (or 'ranker') Highest ranking minority party member of a committee.

Referred

The date on which a bill is given to a particular committee for consideration. All bills are referred to a committee upon introduction; bills can be referred to other committees at the request of that committee or if the bill's subject covers multiple committees. A bill does not have to be voted on by a committee in order for it to be referred to another committee.

Reported

The date on which a bill is placed on a floor **calendar** to be considered for a house vote, or the date on which a bill is sent to another committee for further consideration. For example, when reading a bill's status: "reported, referred to Rules".

Starred on calendar

A bill that is on the **reading calendar** can be 'starred' by its sponsor and all further action on the bill is suspended until the star is removed, although the bill retains its place on the calendar. Other than for the purpose of amendment or recommitted, a star can't be removed from a bill until one day after the request was made. A bill will be automatically starred if it is **laid aside** by its sponsor on five consecutive days in the Senate or three consecutive days in the Assembly.

State of the State

Held on the "first Wednesday after the first Monday in January". Kicks off the official start to session. Governor lays out his/her agenda for the year.

Substitution of bills

Process for ensuring that a bill is identical in each house of the legislature before it is passed by both houses. Bills cannot be sent to the Governor until the identical version has passed both houses. A bill is typically substituted for when it is on the **calendar** in one house and its same-as partner has already passed the other house. A motion for substitution must be approved by a majority vote of the house.

SOURCES

Rules of the Assembly - http://assembly.state.ny.us/Rules/

Rules of the Senate - http://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2017/R4

New York State Constitution - https://www.dos.ny.gov/info/constitution.htm

How a bill becomes a law

From The New York State Senate https://www.nysenate.gov/how-bill-becomes-law

The job of the Senate is to work with the Assembly and the Governor to enact, amend or repeal statutes which make up the body of laws by which we are governed. This involves drafting, discussing and approving bills and resolutions. The text shows the process in a simplified progression from "Idea" to "Law." At any step in the process, citizens can make their views known to NY State Senators.

Step 1: Someone has a new policy idea

The legislative process begins with a new policy idea. Senators often come up with those ideas, however they come from many other places such as a senator's constituents, an organization that calling for a new law, or a State official. Regardless of the source, this idea serves as the starting point for any new bill or law.

Step 2: Idea is drafted into a Bill

Once an idea for a new law has been settled on, it must be drafted as a bill before it can be considered by the Senate. A bill is a set of instructions for changing the language of the laws of New York. Bill drafting requires a specialized legal training, and it is usually carried out by the staff of New York State's Legislative Bill Drafting Commission. Sometimes, an interest group may have its own
attorneys draft a bill, and lawyers working in state agencies and the executive branch often submit their ideas for legislation in bill form.

Step 3: Bill undergoes committee process

Introduction

The first step in the committee process is to introduce a bill into a committee. Bills are generally only introduced only by legislators or by standing committees of the Senate and Assembly. The only exception is the Executive Budget, which is submitted directly by the Governor.

On introduction in the Senate, a bill goes to the Introduction and Revision Office, given a number, and sent to the appropriate standing committee.

Committee Action

Members of Standing Committees evaluate bills and decide whether to "report" them (send them) to the Senate floor for a final decision by the full membership. A committee agenda is issued each week listing the bills and issues each Senate committee will handle the following week.

Committees often hold public hearings on bills to gather the widest possible range of opinion. Citizens can share their opinion on a proposed bill with their Senate representative for relay to the committee members. The committee system acts as a funnel through which the large number of bills introduced each session must pass before they can be considered. The system also acts as a sieve to sift out undesirable or unworkable ideas. After consideration, the committee may report the bill to the full Senate for consideration, it may amend the bill, or it may reject it.

Step 4: Senate and Assembly Pass Bill

After explanation, discussion or debate, a vote is taken. If a majority of the Senators approves, the bill is sent to the Assembly. It is referred to a committee for discussion, and if approved there, it goes to the full membership for a vote.

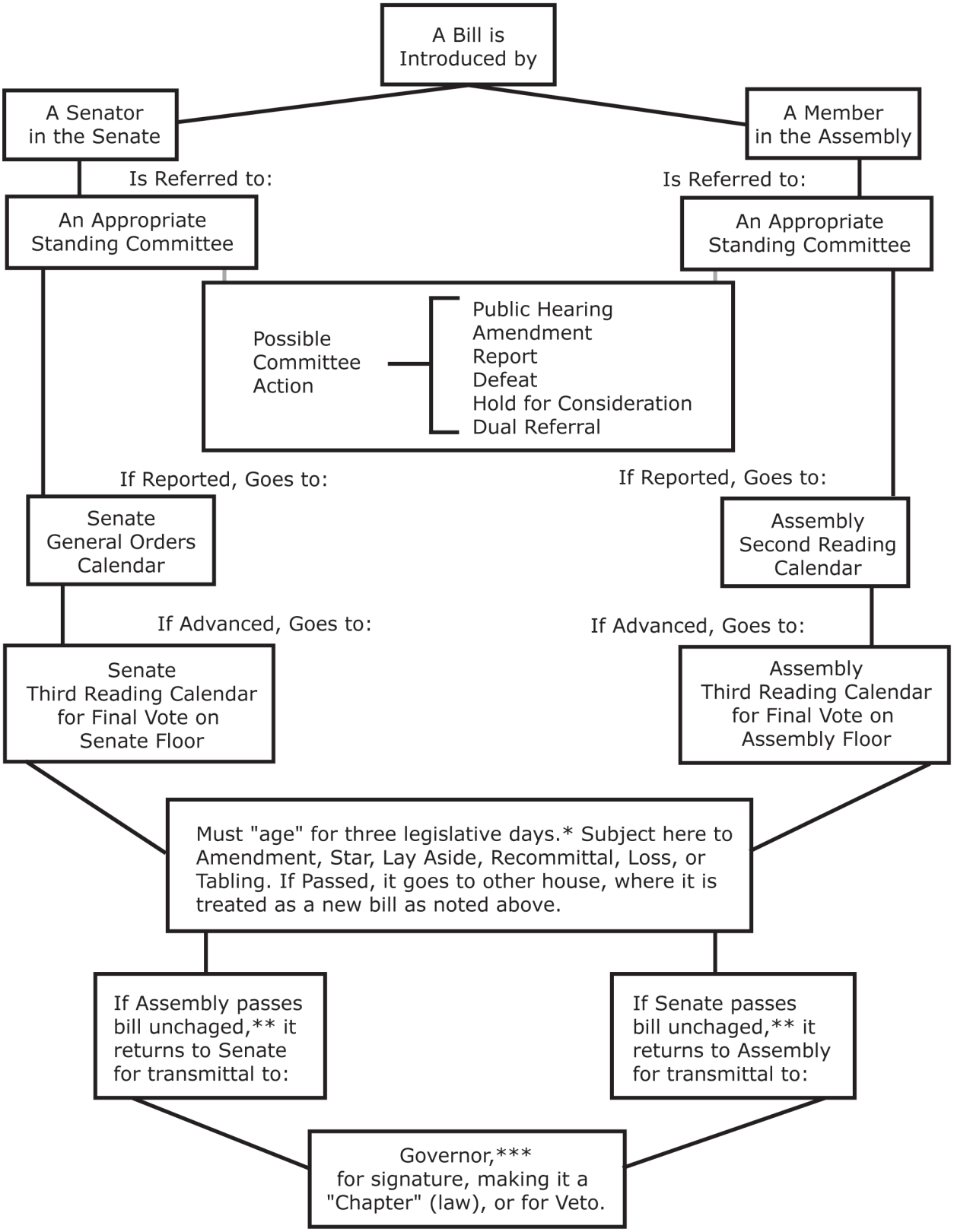
If the bill is approved in the Assembly without amendment, it goes on to the Governor. However, if it is changed, it is returned to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments.

(The reverse procedure is followed if the Assembly first passes a bill identical to a Senate measure or if the Senate amends an Assembly bill.)

Step 5: Bill is signed by Governor

While the Legislature is in session, the Governor has 10 days (not counting Sundays) to sign or veto bills passed by both houses. Signed bills become law; vetoed bills do not. However, the Governor's failure to sign or veto a bill within the 10-day period means that it becomes law automatically. Vetoed bills are returned to the house that first passed them, together with a statement of the reason for their disapproval. A vetoed bill can become law if two-thirds of the members of each house vote to override the Governor's veto. If a bill is sent to the Governor when the Legislature is out of session, the rules are a bit different. At such times, the Governor has 30 days in which to make a decision, and failure to act ("pocket veto") has the same effect as a veto.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York State



[*] The State Constitution requires the printed bill to be on Members' desks for three calendar legislative days. This procedure may only be shortened by "Message of Necessity" for immediate vote from the Governor.

[**] If changed, the house of origin must concur before it goes to the Governor.

[***] Governor has 10 days, excluding Sundays, to act on bills sent by 10 days before adjournment. If Governor does not act in that time, the bills automatically become law. Governor has 30 calendar days after Legislature adjourns to act on other bills; these bills may not become law without the Governor's approval ("poket veto").

2025 Service Learning Project: Social Responsibility

In the past, Lieutenant Governor candidates have run on the platform of a specific project. Starting this year, Lt. Governors will now run with the platform of one of the YMCA's areas of focus:

Social Responsibility, Healthy Living, and Youth Development.

This year's focus is on social responsibility.

Designed and implemented by former Lieutenant Governor Mathew Reis, our Service Learning Project is far more encompassing than ever,

accumulating over 2,400 service hours, more than any previous SLP.

Service-community liaisons

In supporting the project, service-community liaisons from each school met with the Lt. Governor throughout the year while acting as a delegate contact for that school, Y, or other program. They facilitate "learning hours" and helped to collect and count community service hours.

Learning

While service is the main component of the service-learning project, learning is too often overlooked. Learning hours, throughout the year, were earned in person, zoom, and through self-paced classes. Learning areas included topics relating to public speaking, college readiness, servant leadership and more.



Servant Leader pin

Delegates who have completed 15 hours of service and 2 hours of learning receive a pin. Delegates who have demonstrated outstanding service have the chance to receive a Service Award.

Service Awards

Lt. Governor's Excelsior Service Award: This award is given to student with most service hours documented.

Empire Exemplary Service Award: This award is given to a Service-Community liaison for outstanding service and leadership.

Core Values Servant Leadership Award: This award is given to a student who does exemplary service in the Lt Governors Area of Focus.

Stronger Community Service Award: This award is given to to the School/YMCA that has the most service hours(will be done by ratio)

The Comptroller's

SEAL OF STATE APPROVAL

What Is It?

The Comptroller's Seal of State Approval is a mark of distinction awarded to bills that exemplify excellence in structure, clarity, and research. This seal does not pertain to the policy itself but rather recognizes the dedication and skill involved in the craft of drafting legislation. Receiving this seal is a testament to the time and expertise a delegate has invested in this process. It honors those who uphold the highest standards of bill writing.

Whether or not a bill is honored with the seal is not admissible in debate over its passage at any point and is considered "out of order." Receiving the seal does not mean the bill will be passed, and vice versa.

Judicial Program

Francis Fokoue-Nkoutche, Chief Justice

Violet Yau, Attorney-General

Charis Choi, Public Defender

Justices

Bee Indursky

Ben Battistini

Liv Amador

Allison Gutierrez

AvaLynn Furman

Berline Francois

Daniel Appel

Delajla Gacevic

Emirhan Birben

Gabbie Santaella

Grace Dell'Accio

Kaelynne Driscoll

Kaiva Atkinson

Kayleen Yi

Lily Secor

Lucy Wright

Mackenzie Hackett

Malachi Stauring

Mariela Reyes Cabrera

Matthew Danielsen

Maya Roldan

Nina Vasquez

Reanna Patel

Reese Quinlan

Savannah Latendresse

Shanel Carty

Sunny Park

Thomas Steele

Tressa Sullivan

Vivi Nguyen

Wanjiku Waweru

AGPD CASE



State of New York
v.
Marwa Jaan



Background

Marwa Jaan and Tony Breeze were in a custody dispute over Marwa's daughter, Habiba, after their marriage began to collapse.

Tony had previously been involved in a fraudulent cryptocurrency scheme ("BreezeCoin"), which brought financial and legal instability to the family.

Both parents sought full custody, each arguing the other was unfit to raise Habiba.

1st Proceeding

The day before the custody hearing, Marwa told Habiba what to say to the judge, raising concerns about possible coaching.

Under New York bill AF #65, the judge removed both parents from the courtroom to question Habiba privately about her living situation.

Because the parents were excluded, they could not hear or challenge what Habiba said during the questioning.

The court ultimately awarded custody to Tony Breeze.

The Appeal

After the ruling, Habiba reportedly struggled emotionally while living with Tony, raising concerns about whether the court had enough reliable information when making the decision.

Marwa's attorney argued this violates procedural due process because the parents cannot hear or challenge the child's testimony.

Did sequestration under Bill #65 violate Marwa Jaan's Fourteenth Amendment due process rights?



ATTORNEY GENERAL

Representing the State of New York

MAIN ARGUMENTS

- Bill #65 protects children by allowing them to speak honestly without pressure from parents.
- Sequestration helps judges make better custody decisions in the child's best interests.
- The procedure does not violate due process because the court is still following lawful custody procedures.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Representing Marwa Jaan

MAIN ARGUMENTS

- Sequestration violated her due process rights by removing her from part of the hearing.
- She could not hear or challenge her child's statements to the judge.
- This created a risk of an unfair custody decision affecting her fundamental parental rights.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Sequestration:
A court procedure where the judge removes the parents from the courtroom so the child can speak privately, intended to reduce pressure or influence from the parents.

AF #65:
A New York law that allows judges in custody cases to remove parents from the room while a child testifies, so the child can speak freely about their living situation and safety.

Erroneous Deprivation:
The risk is that a parent could wrongly lose custody or parental rights because they cannot hear, challenge, or respond to what the child says during the private testimony.

Due Process:
The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees that the government must use fair procedures before depriving someone of life, liberty, or property, including fair hearings in custody cases.

Fundamental Interest:
A parent's constitutional liberty interest in the care, custody, and control of their child, which courts recognize as a highly protected right.

CASE A



Joe Piccolo's Estate
v.
The YMCA



Background

A YMCA employee is dead. Joe Piccolo worked for the YMCA and was on his scheduled vacation week when he was approached by two coworkers, Ailish McDonnell and Meghan Loftus, and asked to help with a YMCA field trip to the United Nations.

Joe Piccolo had been scheduled for a vacation day but told Meghan Loftus he needed to run a quick personal errand and would consider helping chaperone the trip afterward.

Events leading up to incident

When asked about the nature of his personal errand, Joe stated that Gucci was having a once-in-a-lifetime sale on new watches.

Later, while talking to MacDonnall, she suggested Joe pick up a U.N. guide if he plans on helping out with the trip.

. On April 25th, Joe Piccolo was hit by a car and found dead right in between the Gucci store and the United Nations Bookstore, wearing a Gucci watch and a light blue bag, which may have contained the U.N. guide from the store.

However, Piccolo's body was then robbed, and the contents of the blue bag are unknown.

Proceeding

This is a case exploring workers' compensation. The Workers Compensation Law Section 21 States that an "unwitnessed death that occurs in the course of employment is presumed to arise out of the employment absent substantial evidence to the contrary."

Did Joe Piccolo carry out his working duties at the time of his death? If he were, then compensation is eligible, and if he were not, then it is not.



CASE B



Joseph DePadilla
v.
The City of Buffalo



Background

A University at Buffalo student is at the bottom of a sinkhole!

Joe DePadilla had a habit of spray-painting messages around Buffalo, including a warning beside a triangular sidewalk crack reading "Beware of Crack, it is dangerous." The city removed the tag.

Later, snow buried the crack entirely while the ground beneath it eroded.

Joe stepped on it, fell thirty feet into the sewage system, broke both legs, and spent six hours submerged in raw sewage. Joe sued for negligence.

1st Proceeding

The city moved for summary judgment, arguing that there was not enough present evidence to raise a triable issue of fact since they never received the written notice required under Buffalo City Charter Article 20, Section 362.

Judge Ortega agreed and dismissed the case.

The Appeal

Joe appeals on three grounds: 1. the removed spray-paint tag constituted formal notice; 2. nearby potholes which had previously collapsed into the sewage system gave the city constructive notice; 3. the city affirmatively caused the hazard

a City Engineer confirmed that discounted asphalt from a prior resurfacing project accelerated the erosion, and the city's failure to clear snow concealed the danger it helped create, triggering the affirmative negligence exception to the notice requirement

Is there enough evidence to go to trial, allowing Joe to get his day in court?



CASE C



State of New York
v.
Gabriel Stellato



Background

A half kilogram of heroin is sitting in a Tupperware container. Gabriel Stellato claims that he was trying to return a forgotten backpack to a friend in Washington.

Events leading up to incident

It started with a tip: a woman at Rochester International Airport approached Officer Katie Boardman, a 20-year veteran officer, reporting two "Muslim people," one carrying a bulky backpack.

Boardman located Stellato and Khadija Saad in the security line, noting Stellato's excessive sweating and the backpack's hard, bulky outline.

A TSA bulletin that morning warned of a potential Washington-bound hijacking. Boardman overheard the two joking about removing Trump, watched Stellato pat his backpack, and waited for TSA to flag him, which they didn't, possibly distracted by a separate confrontation with Saad over a misspelled name.

After clearing security, Stellato clutched his stomach, tightened his bag, looked around panicked, and ran. Boardman gave chase.

Stellato ran into a bathroom and vomited. Boardman searched his bag and found 1/2kg of heroin.

Proceeding

Judge Carroll suppressed the heroin finding, stating that it was the result of an unjustified pursuit and seizure that was not backed by reasonable suspicion.

Did Officer Boardman have reasonable suspicion to motivate her chase and search of Gabriel Stellato?



Judicial Review

The judicial branch is meant to model actual appellate trials. In appellate law, a appeals the decision of a lower court meaning they disagreed with the legal basis of the decision. In appellate law, there are no witnesses and the justices are allowed to ask questions about any relevant matters in order to make a fully informed decision. The attorneys must center their argument around case law and precedents and have 15 minutes total to present their argument, divided into an opening and a closing. Throughout their argument, the attorneys will be interrupted and questioned by the panel of justices so the justices can further inquire about something, usually a point not being addressed, a precedent which they wish to draw the attorney's argument to, or anything else within the bounds of the case.

Judicial Procedure

1. *Justices enter the courtroom and introduce themselves.*
2. *Appellant opener: "May I proceed?" Justice: "You may." "May it please the court. My name is___ and I am representing ___ in the case _____." Begin with a short summary of the facts, during which a justice will tell you to proceed with your argument.*
3. *Respondent opener proceeds with the same formalities.*
4. *Appellant closer begins with "May I Proceed?" then begins once the justices give permission. The Appellant closer ends with their relief: a final respectful request for the decision of the lower court to be overturned.*
5. *Respondent closer follows the same procedure. The Respondent closer ends with their relief: a final respectful request for the decision of the lower court to be upheld.*
6. *The justices congratulate the attorneys and leave the room to begin deliberations to decide who won and why. The justices write their decisions and read them aloud on Sunday morning.*

Judicial Review Glossary

- **Appellant:** the party appealing the decision of the lower court, represented by Public Defender Holden Voelger.
- **Respondent:** the party that prevailed in the decision of the lower court, represented by Attorney General Jenny Le.
- **Precedent/Case law:** important legal standards set in previous cases which applies to the present case.
- **Narrowly tailored:** to carefully draft laws or make policies to address a specific objective without affecting other rights.
- **Compelling state interest:** a clear and present issue which undeniably requires addressments; in this case, protecting children from gang affiliation.
- **Freedom of Association:** Freedom of association entails both the right to join or leave groups voluntarily, the right of the group to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members, and the right of an association to accept or decline membership.
- **Legal time, place, and manner regulations:** Limits that government can impose on the occasion, location, and type of individual expression in some circumstances.
- **1st Amendment:** the government shall not create laws which regulate an establishment of religion, prohibit the free exercise of religion, or abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or the right to petition the government.
- **14th Amendment:** all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States or of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the citizens of the United States; see due process rights.
- **Due process rights:** guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, “nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
    - **Substantive Due Process Rights:** having to do with the rights guaranteed under the due process clause; e.g. life, liberty, property, etc.
    - **Procedural Due Process Rights:** having to do with the processes that determine if due process rights are at stake; e.g. whether a hearing/trial is necessary.

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:65

Sponsors: Hayden Cohen, McKenna Austin, Layne Tasnady, and Olivia Pesso

An Act To: Amend Article 5 of Domestic Relations in section 70 of Chapter 14 NYS consolidated laws.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This bill is intended to protect a child's right to advocate for their well-being and safety and to avoid placing children in the custody of abusive and unprotected households.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1 Definitions:

Habeas corpus: A right requiring a person arrested to be brought before a judge or into court.

Sequestered: To isolate a jury or witnesses to prevent them from being influenced by outside sources and to preserve the fairness of the trial. In this case, the parent(s) are the witness(es) being sequestered.

Prima facie: A single-faceted decision made based on a first impression on behalf of the court.

Welfare and happiness: The child's best interests in terms of their residential status and well-being in an environment.

Mental and emotional examination: An examination conducted by the court's expert psychologist that takes no more than 30 minutes.

Section 2 Provisions: 70. Habeas corpus for child detained by parent. (a) Where a minor child is residing within this state, either parent may apply to the supreme court for a writ of habeas corpus to have such minor child brought before such court; and on the return thereof, the court, on due consideration, may award the natural guardianship, charge and custody of such child to either parent for such time, under such regulations and restrictions, and with such provisions and directions, as the case may require, and may at any time thereafter vacate or modify such order. In all cases there shall be no prima facie right to the custody of the child in either parent, but the court shall determine solely what is for the best interest of the child, and what will best promote its welfare and happiness, and make award accordingly. The decision must be made after considering the written or spoken testimony from the child whose custody is being determined, however, a child may be exemplified based on a mental and emotional examination that deems them unfit to testify in front of a jury. Both parents must be sequestered or absent from the room during the child's testimony.

Justification: The law we are putting in place allows children to advocate for themselves and their situations in court in order to avoid abusive or unsafe households. Children exposed to an unhealthy or overwhelming family life may begin going through an abusive relationship unknown to outsiders. By implementing a law in which children can speak up about their circumstances directly with a judge, they will be allowed to explain themselves and their situations openly without pressure. This law directly gives children the power to advocate for themselves as a divorce effects the children the most out of everyone. Becuase divorces and parental custody have a direct effect on the children involved, their point of view and situation must be highly valued.

Fiscal Implications: Judiciary Law § 35 or County Law Article 18-B states that compensation for a mental professional is included in a court's fiscal budget, therefore, a court will not suffer from immense fiscal implications by having a mental professional on staff. Additionally, all NYS judges are paid on a full-time plan, therefore no over-time payment will be needed to bear witness to a child's testimony. However, employees such as janitors responsible for closing the courthouse will be provided the opportunity to work overtime, and the extra compensation for that will come directly out of the state budget.

Environmental Implications: There will be minimal environmental implications.

Effective Date: This bill will go into effect one year after passage.

New York State YMCA
Youth And Government
WWW.YMCAYAG.ORG/NY
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1 Bill #:65

MAKING HISTORY
Historic Program Moments

The YMCA Youth and Government program was developed at a time when some of the defining questions of the 20th century were being answered. In many ways, Youth and Government not only served as a mirror of society, but also as a window into advances in diversity, equality, youth rights, and public policy that youth legislators would approve decades before their elected counterparts.

When youth legislator Barbara Striker called the Virginia YMCA Youth and Government Model General Assembly to order in April of 1948, it was the first time in state history that a woman had presided over the legislature. In 1949, Youth and Government delegates in Michigan elected Myron Wahls, an African American student from Detroit, as Youth Governor – over 40 years before the election of the first African American Governor since Reconstruction in 1990.

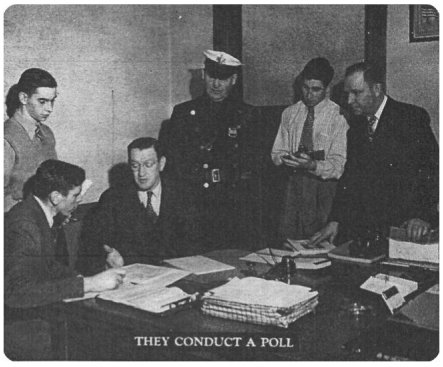
The YMCA Youth and Government program has not just been a part of history – it has and continues to make it:

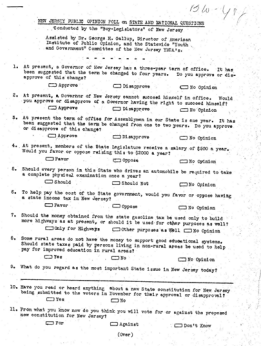
George H. Gallup

When Princeton University Professor John F. Sly became Chairman of the first National Youth and Government Sponsoring Committee, he recruited one of his colleagues, Dr. George H. Gallup, to serve with him.

Dr. Gallup was the director of the American Institute for Public Opinion, and achieved notoriety for using his polling to accurately predict that Franklin Roosevelt would win the Presidency in 1936. The research firm that now bears his name, the Gallup Organization, has become one of the most recognized pollsters in the world.

In addition to serving on Sly's Committee, Dr. Gallup used his American Institute for Public Opinion to help the YMCA Youth and Government programs in New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania conduct State Public Opinion Polls like the New Jersey Public Opinion Poll seen at right. The youth legislators in each program conducted the polls themselves, and used the findings to select bill topics for their Assembly legislation that were relevant to the needs of their communities and states.



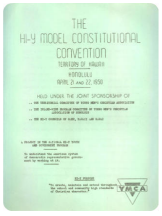


Hawaiian Statehood



While every state program of YMCA Youth and Government has its own unique origin story, the story of the Hawaii program began before Hawaii was even a state. The program was founded during Hawaii's transition from territory to statehood in 1950. While the actual Constitutional Convention for Hawaii was being held, 71 delegates from 53 Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y Clubs gathered for their own Model Constitutional Convention in the throne room of the Royal Iolani Palace. Their task was the same as the actual convention – to issue a constitution for the new state of Hawaii.





Although they were gathered in a royal palace that embodied Hawaii's monarchial past, their responsibility was to help transition Hawaii to representative democracy – a responsibility their generation would carry for years to come after the Model Constitutional Convention.

A decade later, Hawaii elected Eric Shinseki from Kauai High School as Youth Governor in 1960. Shinseki, a retired four-star general, serves as Secretary of Veterans Affairs for President Obama.



The 26th Amendment



At the 1968 Youth Governors Conference, President Lyndon B. Johnson surprised not only the Youth Governors but also the White House Press Corps when he chose the conference as the venue to announce his endorsement of the 26th Amendment to lower the national voting age to 18. President Johnson delivered the same message to Congress later that week, and sent each Youth Governor a copy of his speech along with a personal request that they support the amendment in their states.

It was no coincidence that the President chose the Youth Governors Conference to make his announcement. The original sponsor of the House Resolution calling for the 26th amendment was Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. Randolph was an avid YMCA Youth and Government supporter who had helped host the Youth Governors Conference for over a decade.



At the 1971 Youth Governors Conference, 3 years to the day that President Johnson announced his endorsement, Senator Randolph was being honored for his service to the program when word came during the ceremony that Ohio had voted to become the 38th and final state needed to ratify the 26th Amendment. The Senator made the official announcement while accepting the award.

After decades of YMCA Youth and Government bills passed by youth legislature to lower the voting age, high school seniors in the program were now able to vote for the first time in history.

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BY EACH GENERATION

The Story of YMCA Youth and Government

OUR STORY

When you share the story of Youth and Government, many people will be surprised to hear that the Y is home to one of the largest youth civic engagement and model government programs in the world.

How did the Y – birthplace of basketball and home to swimming lessons, fitness centers, summer camps, and childcare – give rise to Youth and Government?

The answer lies in 3 key elements of YMCA history:

Boys Work

The YMCA was originally founded in 1844 as an organization for young men at the start of their careers (age 20 and older). As the Y expanded, so did demand from younger boys (ages 12-18) to join. Boys Work Departments, administered by Boys Work Secretaries (staff directors), were established to provide this new generation with a space and voice in the Y movement.

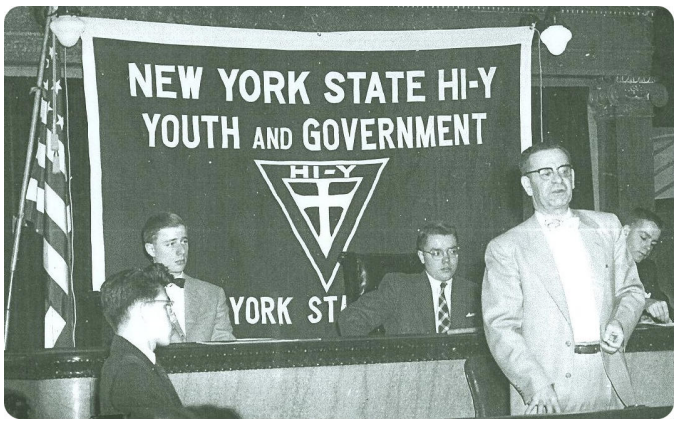
Older Boys Conferences

As boys became an increasingly larger portion of YMCA membership, Y leaders decided to give them their own forums for sharing their Y experience with other boys. These forums - Older Boys Conferences - grew into some of the largest youth gatherings in the country.

Hi-Y (High School YMCAs)

The massive growth of Boys Work programs led many participants to bring the Y to their schools, resulting in the formation of High School YMCAs, or Hi-Y Clubs, across the country. By the 1930's, Hi-Y was one of the largest student organizations in the United States. The transition to school-based YMCA clubs also brought about the creation of Tri-Hi-Y – the girls version of Hi-Y – and moved the Y away from its male-only roots.

OUR FOUNDER



In 1936, the stage was set for our founder, Clement A. "Pete" Duran, Boys Work Secretary for the Albany YMCA in New York, to bring together the 3 pieces of our story.

Boy leaders for the 1936 New York Older Boys Conference wanted the results of their conference discussions to be heard by "people who can do something about them."

William H. Burger, New York State Boys Work Secretary and a close colleague of Duran, described what happened next:

> Pete and I were sitting in a car near the state capitol talking about ideas for the Older Boys Conference. Pete said, "how would it be if we held the conference in the State Capitol and centered our program around citizenship and the development of laws?"
>
> "You would never get the capitol," I replied. But he did.

Governor Herbert Lehman enthusiastically approved Duran's request, inviting Hi-Y Clubs to select representatives for the Hi-Y Assembly at the Capitol. The rest, as they say, is history.

OUR MOTTO | Democracy must be learned by each generation

The motto of YMCA Youth and Government was adapted from a quote by Dr. Earle T. Hawkins, President of Towson State Teachers College and first Chairman of the Maryland Youth and Government program: "Democracy is more than being governed by a majority vote. It is a process in government that must be learned and earned by each succeeding generation. Youth cannot inherit democracy. They achieve it as adults provide them opportunities and leadership."



STATE TIMELINE

New York | December 11-12, 1936
www.rochesterymca.org/programs

Idaho | 1937
www.ymcatvidaho.org/programs

New Jersey | December 2-4, 1938
www.ymcace.org

Maine | May 1-2, 1943
www.yiginme.org

Connecticut | April 28-29, 1944
www.ctyag.org

Maryland | May 5-6, 1944
www.mdyandg.org

Minnesota | April 26-27, 1946
www.mnyig.org

Georgia | 1946
www.yclub.org

Kentucky | 1946
www.kyymca.org

Michigan | 1946
www.myig.org

Tennessee | 1946
www.tennesseeyig.org

Texas | December 12-13, 1947
www.ymcatexasyg.org

Arizona | 1947
www.facebook.com/azyouthandgovernment

Kansas | 1947
www.kansascityymca.org/programs

Oregon | April 2-3, 1948
www.youry.org/salem-family-ymca

Pennsylvania | April 2-3, 1948
www.ymcapa.org

Virginia | April 9-10, 1948
www.vaymca.org

Washington | 1948
www.youthandgovernment.org

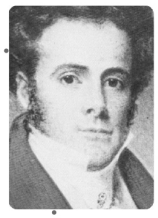
OUR STORY

YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION



The YMCA | 1844

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded on June 6, 1844 in London, England by 22-year old George Williams.



The YMCA in the US | 1851

The first YMCA in the United States was founded on December 29, 1851 at the Old South Church in Boston, MA by Retired Captain Thomas Valentine Sullivan.



YMCA Boys Work | 1869

To provide YMCA activities for boys ages 12-18, the first Boys Work Department was founded by William Horace Whipple in Salem, MA on April 26,1869.



African American YMCA | 1853

The first YMCA for African Americans was founded in Washington, DC in 1853 by Anthony Bowen, a freed slave.



Boys Work Secretaries | 1886

Ellen Brown becomes the first employed Boys Work Secretary (Program Director), working for the YMCA in Buffalo, NY.



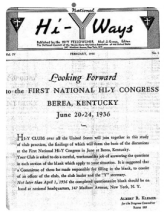
Hi-Y | 1889

Following earlier attempts at school-based YMCA clubs in Ionia and Ann Arbor, MI, the first High School YMCA was founded by D.F. Shirk at Dickinson County High School in Chapman, KS in 1889. The name "Hi-Y" was first used and adopted in 1911 by the High School YMCA in Pittsfield, MA.



Older Boys Conferences | 1891

As Boys Work grew, many asked if boys should be represented at State YMCA Conferences. W.F. Moore, Boys Work Secretary in Everett, MA, proposed a conference solely for boys, run by boys. On January 28, 1891 the 1st Older Boys Conference was held for YMCA boys in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



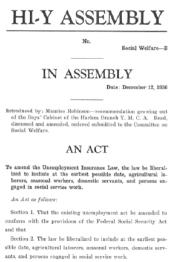
National Hi-Y Fellowship | 1932

In 1932, the National Hi-Y Fellowship was created to help charter, register, and organize Hi-Y Clubs across the country.

National Hi-Y Congress | 1936

In 1936, the 1st National Hi-Y Congress was held in Berea, KY to allow Hi-Y members to propose and discuss policies, resources, and initiatives for the National Hi-Y Fellowship.





HI-Y ASSEMBLY

No. Social Welfare—2

IN ASSEMBLY

Date: December 15, 1936

AN ACT

Hi-Y Assembly at New York Older Boys Conference | 1936

After meeting with boy leaders who wanted the results of their Older Boys Conference discussions to be heard by "people who can do something about them," Clement A. "Pete" Duran, Boys Work Secretary for the Albany YMCA, sought and received permission to hold the conference at the State Capitol from December 11-13, 1936. Hi-Y Clubs selected representatives to debate and pass bills as part of the Hi-Y Assembly – the first YMCA Youth and Government Assembly.

California | February 1949
www.calymca.org

Alabama | April 22-23, 1949
www.alyig.org

New Hampshire | April 22-23, 1949
www.nhymcayag.org

Missouri | December 16-17, 1949
www.moyig.org

Hawaii | April 21-22, 1950
www.ymcahonolulu.org/youth_development

Illinois | April 24-25, 1950
www.ilymcayg.org

Oklahoma | January 25-27, 1952
www.ymcaokc.org/youthdevelopment

Wisconsin | December 5, 1952
www.ymcadanecounty.org/yig

Ohio | 1952
www.ohioymcayig.org

Colorado | 1953
www.denverymca.org/programs-services

Florida | December 6-8, 1957
www.floridayig.net

Mississippi | 1960
www.msyag.org

New Mexico | April 6-8, 1961
www.nmyig.org

Louisiana | 1962
www.layouthandgovernment.org

Massachusetts | February 14-15, 1964
www.ssymca.org

Indiana | April 2-4, 1965
www.facebook.com/inyag

Delaware | 1969
www.ymcade.org/yig/yig.cfm

Montana | 1970
www.helenaymca.org/youth-gov

North Carolina | May 3-5, 1979
www.ncyag.org

South Carolina | 1988
www.scymcayig.org

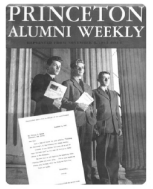
Washington, DC | 2001
www.dcyag.org

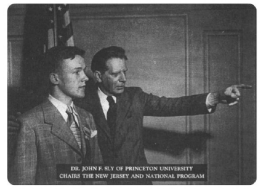
YMCA Model UN
www.ymcace.org



First Youth Governor | 1938

When Duran accepted a new position with the YMCA in New Jersey, his Hi-Y Assembly idea took hold quickly. New Jersey held its first Assembly in 1938, and elected the first-ever YMCA Youth Governor – Harry A. Faske of Trenton.







Princeton Extension Conference | 1944

Duran's idea gained national support at Princeton University, where Professor John F. Sly chaired the first National Youth and Government Committee, developed training resources, and held a National YMCA Youth and Government Extension Conference for new states from April 20-21, 1944.



National Conference of Boy Governors | 1949

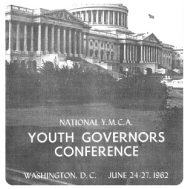
The first YMCA National Conference of Boy Governors was held in Washington, DC from June 16-19, 1949, bringing together Youth Governors and leaders from 19 states. The agenda included sessions with Prof. Sly, Clement Duran, and President Harry Truman.

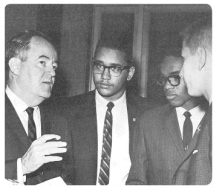
National Youth and Government Assembly | 1952

In 1952, the first National Youth and Government Assembly was held as part of the National Hi-Y & Tri-Hi-Y Council in Washington, DC.







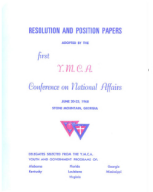


YMCA Youth Governors Conference | 1962

A decade passed before the Reader's Digest Foundation helped sponsor the 2nd Youth Governors Conference in 1962 in Washington, DC, where the conference has been held each year since. 36 states were represented.

YMCA Conference on National Affairs | 1968

After Alabama delegate Michal Hart proposed a new national Youth and Government conference, William C. Chandler of the Montgomery YMCA established the Conference on National Affairs (CONA). 7 states sent delegations to the first conference in 1968 in Stone Mountain, GA.





CONA moved to its current home at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC in 1971.



YMCA College Youth In Government | 2012

In March of 2012, college students from across the country convened a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, PA to found the YMCA College Youth In Government program.

YMCA National Judicial Competition | 2012

In July of 2012, the first YMCA National Judicial Competition was held in Chicago, IL.



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New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Joyce Chen

Candidate for Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: When I joined YAG, I never knew how deeply this program would shape who I am today. From practically curing my social anxiety to helping me develop my leadership skills, YAG gave me confidence, purpose, and the belief that my voice matters. In my first year of Youth and Government, I won the Outstanding Bill award. Last year, I received the Outstanding Debater award and served as a district chair and the Commissioner of Transportation in Cabinet, overseeing all 148 bills. This year, I served on the resource team for the Middle School Conference and was chosen as one of the two Youth Advocates for New York for the Youth Advocate Program, where I represent our state's youth by speaking with congressmen in Washington, D.C.. Outside of mock government, I practice advocacy by lobbying through Students for Climate Action, where I helped pass bills like the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power Act, and through my internship at the NY Civil Liberties Union, which teaches teens skill-building in advocacy, organizing, and public speaking. All these experiences have prepared me to lead our delegation with the same dedication and effectiveness I've brought to every role I've undertaken.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Governor because Youth and Government gave me a voice when I desperately needed one. Consequently, I want to ensure that every delegate feels that same power throughout the year, not just during the conference. If elected Governor, I am more than excited to bring my experience and vision to make our program more connected. Part of this plan is showing delegates how impactful their voices can be. Not just in Youth and Government, but also in real legislation. My work with Students for Climate Action and the NYCLU Teen Project has shown me how powerful our voices can truly be, and as Governor, I would ensure that every delegate and attorney has an opportunity to voice their concerns to our real government. I will connect the NYS delegation with these types of youth groups, so Youth and Government would connect delegates with lobbying opportunities and legislative campaigns where their Youth and Government skills transition into tangible change. In addition to opening more opportunities for youth to voice their opinions, I believe many delegates are unaware of the incredible, life-changing opportunities that stem from Youth and Government. Such programs include CONA, NJC, Y-Corps, and various scholarships. Information on how to apply or qualify for these programs and scholarships should be more transparent and available. To do this, I will maintain an updated resource hub that includes information on how to qualify for scholarships, different national and state programs, and opportunities for youth to participate in government. This program believed in a nervous and anxiety-ridden freshman three years ago. Now it's my turn to strengthen it for everyone who comes after.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: The typical leadership hierarchy commands control, with power trickling down from the leader to management and constituents. Servant leadership flips this triangle. By taking on the responsibility for prioritizing their needs over the leader's own ambitions, servant leadership is practiced. Being a servant leader creates a safe environment where all voices are heard and considered. It isn't just about leading people but about being of service to people, regardless of who they are. These types of leaders work with and for the people, and I plan to incorporate this by constantly serving our delegates. I will implement this by ensuring that all delegates' and attorneys' voices are heard and taken seriously. I aspire to create a nurturing environment where all delegates can express their concerns about their bills or other issues outside of Youth and Government. Additionally, I was selected for Y-Corps in 2024-2025, where I practiced philanthropy by fundraising over $1,000 and completing over 50 hours of community service. Y-Corps is a service-learning program that broadened my views on community service as our cohort moved from state to state, serving communities. This experience allowed me to view life from a different perspective, strengthening my servant-leadership skills. As someone who has had difficulty expressing my voice, being elected to this position will give me the platform to help all delegates express theirs.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Abby Halloran

Candidate for Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: The first time I experienced a YAG conference was in eighth grade. To be honest, I was just excited because it would be my first overnight field-trip after COVID had canceled my fifth-grade trip to Boston. Now, 3 years later, I can proudly say my connection to this program has grown far beyond the idea of a school sleepover. YAG has presented me with the most wonderful experiences and genuine relationships that have fundamentally reshaped the way I understand my own capacity to catalyze change. This past year, I had the absolute privilege of serving as the president of my home delegation. I intentionally use the word privilege, as this role allowed me to learn from my peers and gain a greater appreciation for the responsibility leadership entails. Outside of YAG, I serve as Lieutenant Governor of Division 1 Key Club, supporting clubs on Long Island's East End in their community service efforts. Additionally, I am the founder of the Westhampton Beach Voters of Tomorrow, which advocates for greater youth representation within the US political system. Taken together, these experiences have equipped me with a foundation in leadership that I will bring to the role of Youth Governor.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? From bill team meetings to forming friendships across the state, every individual I have encountered in YAG has profoundly changed me with their passion and commitment to advancing the hope for democracy. It is solely out of deep gratitude and respect for this program that I am seeking the position to serve as your next Youth Governor. I am fully committed to carrying forward YAG's core values. I believe that the presiding officers set the tone for the entire conference, which is why I will dedicate every moment of my term to fostering an environment grounded in both empowerment and inclusivity. As Youth Governor, I will implement a statewide system of support in which experienced delegates can apply to mentor newer participants throughout the year leading up to the conference. I honor the guiding influence YAG has had on my life and will continue to do so as your Youth Governor. I cannot understate the positive impact YAG has had on my own confidence to call for change within my community, and would cherish the opportunity to continue this cycle of inspiration.

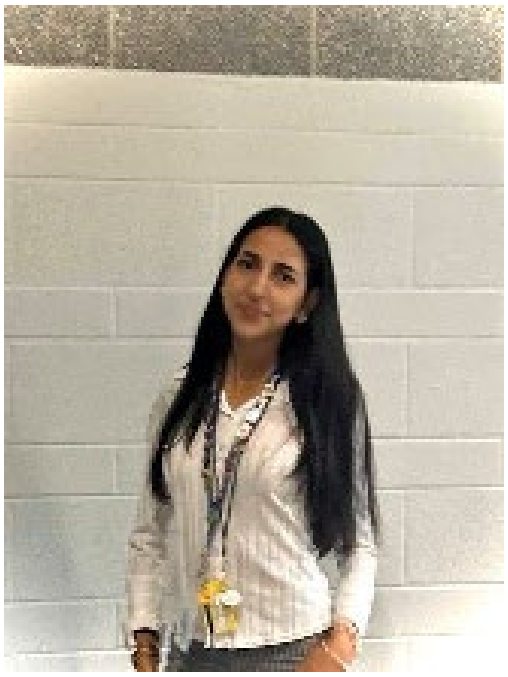
Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To practice servant leadership means ensuring that empathy shapes the way you lead and act, with the people's interest at the center of every decision. As Youth Governor, I will ground my term in this approach, by consistently being accessible to every delegate through weekly office hours. I promise to serve as a reliable resource you can always call upon. Furthermore, as the conference continues to grow each year, this presents YAG with the opportunity to evolve and deepen its impact. With that being said, it is essential that this growth does not dilute the voices of our delegates. To address this, I envision a delegate advisory committee that meets to provide input on how to effectively preserve and elevate participation at the capital. I believe the deepest understanding of the YAG system comes from the delegates who experience it firsthand in every chamber and every debate. Above all, YAG has taught me about the incredible passion our generation brings forward in advocating for a unified future. It is because I so deeply value this program that I am eager to lead with the same passion and servant leadership YAG has instilled in me. Thank you.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Layla Hanbali

Candidate for Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: My Youth and Government journey began in complete silence. As a shy freshman, I was so hesitant that I raised my placard only once during the entire conference. However, this program became the space where I found my voice, and my deep passion for the YAG program. Since that first year, my experience has been defined through various leadership roles, including serving as a committee chair, the VP of my delegation, and the 2026 Deputy Speaker of Assembly Freedom. Yet, the most impactful part of YAG has been the lifelong connections and friendships I have built, these delegates have become my second family and my some of my closest friends. Outside of YAG, I stay busy with a mix of leadership, sports, and my favorite hobbies. I am currently the President and founder of the Women's Empowerment club, and I'm also an active member of our Student Government and our Student organization. I love making a difference, which is why I'm also working on projects in the Change Makers programs. When I'm not working on projects, I'm running as a three-season varsity athlete in Track. In my free time, I have an absolute love for reading, baking new treats and anything Fashion related.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Governor because I want to give back to the YAG community after all its done for me. My goal is to shift the focus from just titles and competition back to the people who make this program special: the delegates. I want to lead a year where every student regardless of their experience level or how loud they are feels that their presence is genuinely valued and their ideas are heard. If selected, I offer more than just the leadership skills I've gained through my years; I offer a commitment to listen and a vision for a more inclusive environment. I want to ensure the 2027 conference is a space where everyone feels the same sense of acknowledgment and belonging that I did when I first joined. I believe that by focusing on community and supporting one another, we can change the program for the better. I am not running to lead the room; I am running to serve the delegates within it and make sure this is a year we all feel proud of.

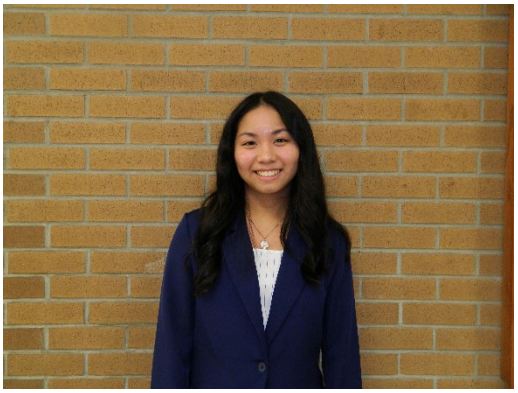
efine servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership to me is a type of leadership where you devote your power to serve the entire well being of the people rather than to your own benefit, by putting others first. As your Youth Governor, I plan to stay humble and focused on the basics. I believe that to be a truly effective leader is to be entirely in service to the people by listening to your concerns, answering your questions, and advocating for your needs. I will lead with transparency and a focus on collaborative problem-solving to ensure that every voice in our program is heard. My goal is to make sure the YAG conference is rewarding for everyone regardless of their role or experience level. Mahatma Gandhi once famously said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." By dedicating my term to this core principle, I will ensure that every decision and action is for the greater good of the delegates. I am not running to be served; I am running to serve you.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Erin Chen

Candidate for Lt. Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Youth and Government has truly changed me these past few years. My first year as a timid freshman, I entered a new world of debating, public speaking, and presenting/writing a bill. In my second year, I had the honor of being a committee chair at state and my district conference, where my leadership skills started blossoming, as I had to learn parliamentary procedure for the first time and be a leadership figure to new delegates. I was also selected as part of the Middle School Resource Team this past November, which was an eye-opening experience as I witnessed young minds debate with such passion and learned more about the behind-the-scenes of running a conference. At my home delegation, I helped delegates learn the process of bill-writing, debating, and parliamentary procedure. This year, I had the utmost pleasure to serve as your Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty. This role helped me become comfortable with public speaking, leading a chamber of 150 people, and working collaboratively with my fellow POs in working behind the scenes. All of these experiences have taught me to lead with compassion, responsibility, working collaboratively in a team, and a strong work ethic.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office because it has been and continues to be such a powerful influence on me, and I want to improve and spread this influence to every delegate, reaching even to their communities. From helping young delegates find their voice and speak on relevant issues as part of the Middle School Resource Team, to co-leading a chamber and having the time-management and organization skills to finish all the bills in a timely manner as your Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty, Youth and Government enabled me to develop the skills needed to be your next Lieutenant Governor. Speaking of which, I will demonstrate and promote social responsibility through my service learning project that will focus on poverty, a persisting issue in New York State. With the help of my liaisons, coat drives will be organized within schools, providing support and advice to everybody involved. Additionally, I will promote volunteerism and making an impact within your community. I believe I possess the organizational skills and work ethic necessary to fulfill this role.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: In my eyes, servant leadership is where a leader prioritizes serving their team's needs first, focusing on their growth and well-being, rather than their own power or status. Its key principles are having empathy for others, listening, and leading with compassion. I feel that I exemplify these qualities. Because I was part of the leadership at my home delegation, I took on the responsibility of mentoring students with presenting bills and parliamentary procedure. I kept in mind my own experiences as a new and scared delegate and channeled empathy into my role as their mentor. I put their needs before my own and helped them be the best they could. If elected as Lieutenant Governor, I plan to incorporate servant leadership by ensuring on-demand communication with my service learning liaisons and everyone else. By having regular zoom meetings, I will ensure that my liaisons' concerns and ideas are heard. Reliable communication paves the way for consistent support and development, allowing everyone to grow and succeed.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Lexi Haas — Candidate for Lt. Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Hi everyone! This year is my third in Youth and Government. I've served two years as a committee chair, where I learned to step out of my shell, all while teaching others to do the same. This year I'm serving as the Commissioner of Family Assistance on the Governor's cabinet. Last year I was awarded Outstanding Delegate and my bill made it to joint session. Outside of state conferences I've done quite a lot of extra activities with yag. Both this year and last year I was chosen for the local youth advocate program. In this program I spoke to Senators, Assemblymen and YMCA leaders about the YMCA's Priorities and my personal experiences. I've also served as one of the Lt. Gov's Service Learning Liaisons and will continue to do so this year. Furthering my community involvement, I partook in the Y-Corp service project. I raised $550 by hosting a volleyball tournament, challenging but formative. I've also had the privilege of attending the Conference On National Affairs (CONA). In addition to yag programs- I play as a setter and libero for both my school and club volleyball teams. I have acted as a captain on both teams and won the coaches award multiple years. I have also served on a virtual youth mental health board for the past 4 years. Last June, I attended the HOBY leadership seminar as well. In school I act as the Vice President of the Student Council and was President of my class. I spend much of my time with my school's Interact club, helping run a "care closet" for clothes and necessities and hosting our biggest fundraiser, our annual book sale so that we can shop for families in need during the Holidays. The past 3 years, I have been in drama club and Women in Science Secretary, just to name a few. Finally, I've had internships for politicians who hold office currently. These include Dr. Dorcey Applyrs- the mayor of Albany, Assemblywoman Gabriella Romero and our state elected Lt. Governor, Antonio Delgado.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Lieutenant Governor for two reasons: to share my love for this program and to ensure every person at this conference feels heard and supported. A program as incredible and unique as this one needs leadership that is going to give their all. I will be the person for you, leading with passion, commitment and adaptability. As a former committee chair, I understand the importance of structure, organization, and upholding the rules. While I am glad to have seen the conference through that lens, the role of Lieutenant Governor is unique. It not only allows for but encourages creativity, innovation, and thinking outside the box. This position is what you make of it, and I am ready to make it meaningful. I have consistently shown my dedication to this program and my willingness to learn, grow and most importantly lead with passion. When I say I am here to make the conference better for everyone, I truly mean it, everyone. Of course no one is perfect, I am going to make mistakes, we all are, but what we do with those mistakes is what really matters. When I hosted my own volleyball tournament, I quickly learned how many moving pieces go into making something successful, even having been a volleyball player for years, I had no idea. I learned just how crucial having a good and dedicated group behind the scenes is. We need leaders who are curious and unafraid of challenges that may come before them, someone willing to push the limits. Lucky for me I have the opportunity to be surrounded and mentored by countless inspiring people within this program. If something needs to be done, they seamlessly fill in the tiny gaps, making everything smoother. They've shown so much confidence in the program's potential and in my potential. Now, I'm more ready than ever to be that person for you all, helping you see in yourself what others see you. This program has been my everything and If I could continue to have that impact on others in this way, it would be the absolute biggest privilege and honor.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me, servant leadership means having the determination and passion to consistently put others first. It means being willing to learn from others, especially the people you serve. Someone who is there to step up or step back depending on what is needed in a given situation. A servant leader isn't someone who has unwavering confidence at all times but rather someone who stays true to themselves is even willing to step back when necessary. I've seen firsthand how small acts of kindness can make all the difference. Without leaders who genuinely care, no program can ever reach its full potential, no individual can ever reach their full potential. And that's what this program is all about, stepping out of your comfort zone, learning just how much what you have to say truly matters. If leaders don't facilitate that, they surely aren't acting as a servant leader. The leaders of this program, and of our country, must hold one essential quality above all else: a sincere and unwavering commitment to the people they serve. Many of us entered this program with something to say, but not yet the courage to say it. Through compassionate leadership, I've found that confidence. And I hope to have the privilege to facilitate that for all of you. Servant leadership is about truly listening, adapting, learning and remaining authentic and genuine. A good servant leader isn't always the smartest person in the room, but instead the most compassionate. They aren't in leadership to control or impress others, but to lift people up. I run for this position as someone who sees potential in others and will work to bring it out, because I care, and because I want you all to succeed in this program and beyond

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

AvaLynn Furman

Candidate for Attorney-General

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Over the past two years, I've had the chance to serve as a justice in YAG. During my time as a justice, I've developed many skills that have allowed me to improve other programs, some of which are National Honor Society, JROTC, and the Mastic Fire Explorer Program. As a justice I've developed a higher level of patience, understanding of what it takes to be an effective leader, and critical thinking skills. During my years in JROTC and YAG, I've noticed many similarities between both programs, as they are both student-run programs that prepare students for the future. Therefore, I've applied lessons from JROTC to YAG. The most important lesson I learned was how to be an instructor. This allowed me to assist the other delegates in understanding their cases and tailoring my approach to fit each person. I've worked closely with many of them on a personal level, helping clarify issues they were experiencing with their casework. This has also helped further develop my critical thinking skills, as I've had to switch my mindset between the two sides of the argument, depending on which attorney I am helping.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I wish to be your next Attorney General because I am extremely passionate about this program and believe I can make the greatest impact in this position. I am very invested in this program because it has helped me become the confident individual I am today and has taught me how to express myself properly. Without this program, I would not have ever met my friends, who have deeply motivated me to become the person I am today. When elected as Attorney General, I would aim to ensure that every delegate has the opportunity to make new friends across the state and experience all the great things this program has to offer. I would do this by creating more opportunities for delegates to meet one another through the pen pal program. The pen pal system would operate by including a link in the monthly newsletter that allows anyone interested to sign up, and they would then be assigned someone with similar interests with whom they might get along. I would also strive to establish a method of contact between myself and each district's local representatives to ensure that every delegate has a method to reach me and that they always have a voice within the program. I would do this by creating a Google Form that allows all delegates to ask anything on their mind that may be troubling them.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Two key components come together to define a servant leader. Firstly, there is the servant portion, which involves being a helping hand to all those you serve whenever they may need it. I have aided others in numerous ways, but the most important way I have given back is as an active member of the Mastic Fire Explorer Program. In this program, we, the juniors, learn how to be firefighters and participate in many different community-oriented events. One of the most recent events we participated in was our 100th-year anniversary parade, which featured many local stores and the Scouts of America. The second aspect is the leadership portion, which consists of setting an example for those under your guidance and preparing them to aspire to a leadership position of their own one day. I have acted as a leader through my time in the NJROTC program. Within this program, I hold the position of SEL (Senior Enlisted Leader), which means I am 3rd in command out of 110 cadets who are also in the program. As part of my job, I teach our cadets how to march properly. Under my guidance, our first-year Color Guard team placed second in their very first competition. I plan to incorporate this philosophy into my role as Attorney General by prioritizing the needs of the delegates and working closely with my fellow Public Defender and Chief Justice to ensure that the upcoming year of Youth and Government proceeds as smoothly as possible for all delegates. Some ways I would do this are by creating an anonymous forum where delegates can submit things they may be struggling with in whatever capacity, and I will do my best to aid them. I would also like to check in with the delegates periodically to ensure they are doing well and aren't struggling with anything.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Sunny Park

Candidate for Attorney-General

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: During my first year of Youth and Government, I participated as a legislative delegate and was able to experience the legislative branch. But when I decided to go to conference as a Judicial attorney last year, I fell in love with the Judicial procedure. My case partner and I won our case (Case B), and I even had the privilege of earning the best attorney award. Outside of Youth and Government, I am involved in several other extracurriculars. In order to spread awareness, I founded a Mental Health Awareness Club in my school, I am the president of the UNICEF club, and I play bassoon in concert band (as well as the alto saxophone for jazz band). I enjoy being active, so I run outdoor track & field in the spring, and I'm the captain of the girls varsity tennis team. In my spare time, i'm also an active member of the community- I work as a math tutor, and volunteer as a science fair mentor and youth group leader/Sunday school teacher.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am running for Public Defender because by taking a leadership position, I hope to be more involved in the judicial procedure and to be more of service to others in the program. If I have the honor of being selected for the officer position, I will strive to make the judicial experience as impactful as possible, and facilitate the formation of real connections between the attorneys/justices. Youth and Government is a program that assembles a diverse array of individuals from across the state, and it should be a place where students find inspiration/encouragement. Especially since the Judicial and Legislative conferences will be separate next year, turning the Judicial procedure into an experience that leaves a lasting impression will undoubtedly benefit the attorney/justices outside of YAG. To accomplish this, I will stress the significance of the Judicial procedure in regards to more applicable, real life issues (via a silly video/demonstration of a case ruling), and advocate for the incorporation of more interactive/socializing elements during conference (i.e. get-to-know-each other bingo games during mealtimes).

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me, servant leadership is defined as acting as a conduit for the majority opinion and prioritizing collaboration over control. If elected into office, I will incorporate this ideal by exhibiting a welcoming/approachable character to form real connections within the YAG community. I will seek to identify common issues, as well as objects of discontent, amongst them, and strive for an environment in which all students are truly "seen." (whether it be through a survey, or personal interviews in collaboration with the Press). Moreover, I hope for the YAG community to become more close knit and involved in their communities by promoting/organizing group bonding exercises, in addition to activities that promote civic engagement.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Lily Quinn

Candidate for Comptroller

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: For the past two years in this program I have found myself becoming more confident in who I am and continuously fueled by newfound passion.In regards to my achievements, my bill has been debated in joint session and passed both of my past years in this program. At last year's conference, I had the opportunity to be a committee chair. Along with this, I received the award of Best Debater in my chamber which this year I am presiding over as your Speaker of Assembly Freedom. This past November, I had the privilege of attending the Middle School YAG conference as a part of the resource team. Through this experience I was able to work behind the scenes of the conference and see all the smaller mechanics work. This truly gave me a new perspective that will help me to better serve those around me.What I saw at the middle school conference was in simple terms, our future. Seeing the passion and love the rising generations of students have for this program was awe inspiring. Throughout my three years in this program I have gained great knowledge of bill writing and feasibility while always having a highly ranked bill.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Comptroller because I want to expand the legacy of Youth and Government and facilitate its growth as we continue into the future. Currently, the Comptroller is a position you will find yourself wondering what it does, or how it works. As of right now, the Comptroller makes sure all bills are fiscally sound and feasible, giving them the seal of approval if they are. I plan to expand the position into the realm of teaching. More specifically, I plan to make crash course videos on how to make a bill fiscally strong along with providing other resources such as fiscal checklists. I aspire to inform the overall population of Youth and Government all of the opportunities present including a multitude of scholarships available. Along with this, I plan to facilitate fundraising for the program in order to keep it as strong as it is now, and hopefully continue to build it upwards. Having seen Youth and Government from a leadership point of view and a nonleadership point of view gives a new perspective to the program, which makes me feel wholly prepared to serve both my fellow presiding officers and every delegate that is a part of this program.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Empathy is something that is so important but also so sparse in this world. This trait is one of the cornerstones of servant leadership as you have to understand the people to serve them. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes to truly hear their voice is crucial. Along with this, servant leadership promotes the idea of unity and working together which is a key part of Youth and Government to ensure that every student has a voice and the proper resources to share their thoughts. In office, I will use this to listen to student perspectives on fundraising and the opportunities available to advocate for their beliefs. Each student in this program has a stake in its present and future, and their voices deserve to be heard on every topic of it. This includes opportunities like scholarships and fundraising. I will survey the general population of the program to see what they need through things like online polls and surveys. Along with this, I plan on providing more of an insight into the behind the scenes work that goes on in this program. Youth and Government is a student-run program, so I plan to let the people know everything they need to in order to prepare for conference. In regards to specific communication tactics, I plan to send surveys to delegation advisors to find out exactly what they need.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Nizzy Hammami — Candidate for Comptroller

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: ·

YAG

- o Bill Sponsor (2024 - 2025)
- o Commissioner of Health (2025 – 2026)

· Shellie Mayer's Youth Council: A civic engagement program instituted by NY State Senator Shellie Mayer.

· Teen Changemaker Symposium: A youth program that stimulates youth to create and possibly institute initiatives and programs for local communities.

· School Student Government

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of comptroller because I believe in the core values of the YMCA (i.e., caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility) and that leadership is about service, responsibility, and trust. I am highly organized, scrupulous, and dependable. I will work indefatigably to make this program successful and larger than before – almost every student should be engaged in an activity related to civics and YAG is a premier option for engaging the youth. Furthermore, I bring a servant leadership model that focuses on serving my YAG community. I am prepared to dedicate the time, energy, and professionalism to accomplish the duties of the comptroller office.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is a leadership model that centers around a leader that serves others. Instead of consolidating power and attaining recognition, a servant leader prioritizes the needs, welfare, and personal growth of those he leads and the community. Servant leadership is the opposite of the traditional leadership model: the leader exists to serve the people, not the reverse. If elected into office, I would incorporate servant leadership in the following manners: active listening, impact-focused decision making, transparency, accountability, collaboration, and ethics. I would prioritize direct communication in the conference by answering questions and receiving feedback from the other officers, often collaborating with them to decide on the merit of bills. My approval of bills will focus on how these bills, if instituted, would impact the NY state community as a collective. I would be transparent on my reasons for being for or against bills. Finally, I would treat office as a duty, not a privilege.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Matthew Danielsen — Candidate for Chief Justice

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: During my 3 years in YAG, I've received and utilized many opportunities, which have helped me grow and improve. With my dedication in my freshman year, I was chosen for a justice position in my sophomore year, which I've held for the past 2 years. Last summer, I attended NJC, and I got 2nd out of 71 teams nationwide. As a justice, I've developed skills that have helped me become a better leader, not just in YAG, but also in other programs. As the first junior student body president, I've become a better leader, serving as a role model for the entire school. These roles have changed how I present myself to others as a leader. With my resilience and confidence, I've helped not just the attorneys and justices, but everyone school-wide. I've ensured that every attorney succeeds, both in and out of the case. I've also helped the new justices at my school become more confident leading a room. With my skills in leading wind ensemble and all-county honor bands, I've faced challenges and overcome them. I've seen how consistent effort can lead to success, and I will bring this effort during my time as your Chief Justice.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? As Chief Justice, I want to ensure that all attorneys and justices succeed through any difficulties they may encounter. Throughout my schooling, I have consistently prioritized the needs of others while maintaining a strong work ethic. This is especially true for Youth and Government, as I have spent hours, days, and weeks helping attorneys complete their briefs and write their arguments to the best of their ability. Throughout that time, I have also helped the justices transition into the new environment of being leaders in their rooms by teaching them how to present themselves as leaders to others. At my school, I helped the new justices develop leadership qualities, such as confidence and adaptability. As your Chief Justice, I want to expand my support to everyone in New York State and ensure that every attorney or justice has an understanding of their cases and the ideas of how to write and construct a brief and an oral argument. To accomplish this, I will create tools that make it easier for attorneys to understand the formalities of writing their arguments and briefs. As Chief Justice, I know that I will demonstrate a high standard of communication skills across the state and ensure the success of every delegate in the judicial program. To do this, I will improve communication among justices and ensure that attorneys can contact other judicial officers when assistance is needed. I would work with my principal justices, public defender, and the attorney general to create helpful guides, such as mock briefs and arguments, and videos to help attorneys begin to understand the legal formality of the judicial program.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership can be defined as prioritizing putting others first and ensuring their needs are met. I have built these skills through my time as a justice, and I plan to further apply them as Chief Justice. I intend to ensure the success of others. I already have previous experience as a servant leader. As the student body president and a class council member, I am tasked with being the voice of my entire school and serving as a role model to younger students. I want to continue this as Chief Justice by allowing younger attorneys and justices to be able to communicate with the other judicial presiding officers through the use of Google Forms and Google Classroom, so they can become knowledgeable about the judicial process and understand the ideas of how to write their briefs and arguments. As Chief Justice, I will continue to be the voice of the judicial program, understand the needs of younger attorneys, and help them thrive within it. As a servant leader, I want to find ways to help others succeed in the judicial program. To do this, I want to use the skills I gained as a justice, student president, and class council member to help others understand the basics of an attorney's practice and ensure their needs are met. I will create videos and guides with my public defender and the attorney general to explain in depth the qualities a brief and an oral argument require, and to offer tips for both attorneys and justices to understand the process they must endure.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Katlin Fifield Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Throughout the 4 years I have been in Youth and Government I have been given many opportunities I did not think I would ever have been able to achieve or receive. I joined Youth and Government in 8th grade, not knowing how much this program would change me into the person I am today. In 9th and 10th grade I served as a committee chair. During 10th grade, I was also chosen to give a speech on the Y-core value of caring during opening session, my bill sponsors and I were chosen to receive the best bill award, I personally received the outstanding delegate award, and I was given the honor to serve as one of the delegates representing New York State for the 2025 Conference On National Affairs (CONA). For this year's conference, I was given the opportunity to serve as the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets on the Governor's Cabinet. None of this would have been possible without the immense support this program and everyone in it has continued to give me throughout these past 4 years. These experiences I've had will help me to be better prepared and understanding for this position. With this position I want to help to give others the same opportunities that I have had.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office because I want to give back to the program that has given so much to me. I have seen a substantial amount of people change into who they want to be because of this program, including myself. Although I have come to realize some of us are fortunate enough to have opportunities and support that others may not have, I want to help those who need support to get where they wish to be. Whether that be applying for Cabinet, wanting to go to CONA, applying for a PO position, or just simply wanting their bill to be written and presented correctly. We don't realize how much the rest of our lives can differ from those around us, myself included, had no realization how fortunate I was to have a vast amount of support from those around me to be where I am today in this program. That should be the same for anyone. I promise to be available to answer any questions people may have about Youth and Government as well as help those who need it on applications, bills, and anything else they may need help with. Everyone should have the chance to get the most out of this program.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is to think about those around you before yourself, it is to encourage others to speak up and make their voices and opinions heard. A servant leader has the ability to make themselves available for those around them that may need help or support. If I am elected into this position, I will make myself available at any time to support/help those who need it with any type of work they are doing within our program. I also want to be there to listen to others, whether that be listening to suggestions or just if they need someone to talk to. I want to give those around me the same experience I have been given from this program. Everyone should feel included and have the same support as the rest of those around them.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Amelia Kovaci Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Through my two years of participation in Youth and Government, I have gained experience in debate, bill writing, and collaborating with other delegates to create thoughtful legislation. My time in the program has strengthened my public speaking skills, my understanding of parliamentary procedure, and my ability to engage respectfully with different perspectives. Each conference has helped me grow more confident in structured debate and more aware of the importance of organization and preparation within a legislative setting.

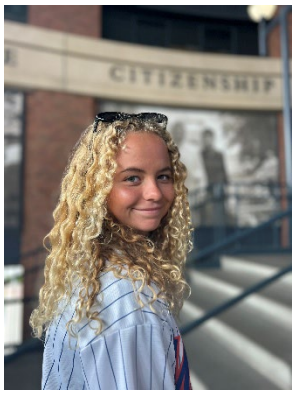
Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Speaker of Assembly Liberty because Youth and Government has become a place where I have grown not only as a delegate, but also as a leader and collaborator. Through my experience in debate and bill writing, I have developed a strong passion for respectful discussion, organization, and making sure every voice is heard. I want to create an assembly where delegates feel confident participating, supported in their ideas, and excited to be involved. If I am selected as a presiding officer, I would bring strong communication skills, fairness, and a commitment to preparation. I understand the importance of keeping debate structured while still encouraging meaningful conversations and different perspectives. Most importantly, I care about helping delegates succeed, whether they are experienced or attending their first conference. My goal would be to foster an inclusive, respectful, and engaging Assembly that reflects the best parts of Youth and Government.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is a leadership style centered on serving others first. Rather than focusing on authority or control, a servant leader prioritizes the needs, growth, and success of the people they lead. This means listening actively, creating opportunities for others to participate, and ensuring that everyone feels respected, included, and supported. If I am elected as a presiding officer, I would incorporate servant leadership by focusing on creating an Assembly environment where every delegate feels confident speaking and contributing. I would make an intentional effort to recognize newer delegates, encourage respectful debate, and ensure that discussions remain fair and balanced. I would remain approachable and supportive outside of formal sessions by answering questions, offering feedback, and helping delegates improve their skills. My goal would be to lead by demonstrating respect, professionalism, and patience while also offering my support to the assembly so we can succeed and grow together.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Casey Farrell Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I have been an active participant in youth and government since middle school and first joining in eighth grade. In fact just last year I was awarded the opportunity to attend the Conference of National Affairs and through that conference I was able to further my debating and advocacy abilities. Besides YAG I participate in Track and field where I have learned the power of teamwork and patience. As a student who actively participates in her community I have been granted opportunities within my youth bureau in the youth advisory committee, youth court, teen views on the news, and more recently a no for profit that funds scholarships for students in my community. In school I'm also an active participant in book club, youth 2 youth, environment club, and our literary magazine. And in final I have also been able to participate in field trips such as Long Island teen institute, HOBY, and RYLA to create positive mental health experiences and addiction awareness. As a student I have participated in these various and distinct to programs to further my diversity of experiences as well as knowledge of local issues.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this is office because I believe I can truly change youth and government for the better. I am someone who values three things community, equality, and justice. If selected I would plan to implement that into all platforms of youth and government for the better of the program. As a leader I believe it is my duty and responsibility to serve others and if elected I would make my main focus as an elected official to do all acts in service of the program and its participants.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is doing one's duty for others rather themselves. Now this includes being an advocate for those in need of a voice, service towards people who are struggling, and most importantly treating others with kindness and respect. If elected I would do exactly that, and even more. I would incorporate this by giving each delegation a voice that represents them and being neutral towards all delegates.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Michelle Arias Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I first heard of Youth and Government my freshman year. However, I did not come to join until last year, sophomore year. I regretted that as soon as I found out how passionate I was towards this program. Taking part in Youth and Government has taught me a lot, from bill analysis to how to speak publicly with confidence. Last year I was very shy coming to the conference but as more bills began presenting, I slowly gained my confidence. This year I am extremely excited to come to the conference full of confidence to participate in debate and listen to everyone's ideas and proposals. Outside of Youth and Government, I also enjoy participating in other programs. At my school I founded a Mock Trial club, trying to bring the Youth and Government experience into my school year-round. I do cheerleading, indoor track and lacrosse which have all taught me discipline and how to work with a team. Playing sports has shaped my work ethic and ability to collaborate effectively; skills that carry over into leadership roles and structured environments like Youth and Government. I fell in love with the YAG program last year, and this year I feel ready to run for a leadership position.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office because I want to play a larger role in shaping the experience that makes Youth and Government so impactful. As a delegate, I have seen how much a PO influences the tone, fairness, and productivity of a chamber. I want to help create an environment where the debate is respectful, structured, and engaging, and where every delegate has an amazing first experience, as I did. If selected as Speaker of Assembly Freedom, I promise for organization, preparation, and consistency. Through Youth and Government and Mock Trial club, I have developed a strong understanding on how to guide a structured discussion effectively. Most importantly, I would lead with fairness and professionalism. I am committed to making the coming year both productive and positive for all delegates.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: I am seeking this office because I want to play a larger role in shaping the experience that makes Youth and Government so impactful. As a delegate, I have seen how much a PO influences the tone, fairness, and productivity of a chamber. I want to help create an environment where the debate is respectful, structured, and engaging, and where every delegate has an amazing first experience, as I did. If selected as Speaker of Assembly Freedom, I promise for organization, preparation, and consistency. Through Youth and Government and Mock Trial club, I have developed a strong understanding on how to guide a structured discussion effectively. Most importantly, I would lead with fairness and professionalism. I am committed to making the coming year both productive and positive for all delegates.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Owen Vaughan Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I have served in many different facets of Youth and Government. In my second year, I served as a committee chair, which was my first experience in state leadership in Youth and Government. As a committee chair, I worked with others to maintain order and help others during the conference. This summer, I was a delegate of the Conference on National Affairs, spending a week working with members of Youth and Government programs across the country. During CONA, I worked to improve my debate and my proposal, but I also found a part of myself. I opened up and became more social. Working with other CONA delegates was a privilege for which I am infinitely grateful. This year, I am serving on the Governor's Cabinet, where I am excited to work with our Governor to learn about more of the inner workings of our conference. Locally, I was my district's secretary and am currently the vice president. In both positions, I have managed delegates and led part of my local program. Within my school, I serve on the Student Government and Class Council, representing my grade level, and I'm a member of the National Honor Society, where I serve my community and help others.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this position because I believe it is the next step in my Youth and Government journey. Since my freshman year, I have been extremely committed to Youth and Government, and I have known that I wanted to hold a state position to help others. I would strive to make Youth and Government a friendly environment where everyone can learn and grow. Within Youth and Government, I have grown as a person, becoming more confident and learning how good leadership impacts everyone. So far, I have held two local positions, which helped me learn leadership on a smaller scale, but I have also experienced conference as a committee chair, where I led on a larger scale. These experiences showed me the importance of leadership to me, and have developed my own sense of leadership. As a Presiding Officer, I will help others grow into better versions of themselves. I plan to implement a program that provides people with an outlet to voice their concerns and seek help with any issues through a Google Form I will use to answer questions. I have always sought to help others, and I believe that, as Speaker of Assembly Freedom, I will be able to provide the resources they need to succeed with a passion for learning and a strong sense of leadership.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is using your position to help others and lift them up, rather than enriching yourself. To be a servant leader is to take charge and encourage people to be their best selves. In office, I will practice servant leadership by supporting delegates and offering resources to help them improve, because everyone can always improve. I believe that to be a servant leader, a person must be willing to sacrifice their own freedoms for the greater good of a group. I have previously demonstrated servant leadership in many ways. For example, last year I served as a committee chair and urged others to push themselves and grow, while working tirelessly to ensure the conference ran smoothly. Another way I have demonstrated servant leadership is through my school's class council, where I represent my grade. By practicing selflessness, servant leadership is bound to grow and spread to others. As Speaker of Assembly Freedom, I will ensure that the practices of servant leadership are passed down to delegates and provide a pathway for others to become great leaders by making Youth and Government a friendly environment where everyone can grow.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Gabriel Villacis Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I joined YAG as a timid freshman. Currently it is my second year of YAG and the growth I've seen in myself is immense. My first conference changed everything. I grew confident in debate and realized that we all have opinions and how valuable they are. Last year my bill passed in the joint session. This gave me the push to see how valuable our ideas are. Along with YAG I'm a part of National Honor Society, and a part of my grades class council, teaching me how much we can help the people around us and how valuable our voices are even though we think the world won't listen to a bunch of highschoolers. Also I am one of the legislative secretaries at my local branch and I also got the honor to chair at my local District conference and this year at the state conference. I've attended many chair training sessions at my local branch to fully understand parliamentary procedure. I've gotten to know my fellow delegates and work with the other officers to work behind the scenes and make magic happen. All together these experiences have given me the leadership and supportive abilities to see the value in our voice and how when we come together and work as a team we create a fun and safe space.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? At my first conference I was terrified, scared and anxious. I was even extremely nervous to raise my placard.However it was the officers that helped me navigate and successfully conquer my first state conference. I want to take this time to thank them for all they've done and will do in the world. The officers have helped me find my voice and see that I want to give back and help everyone I can, as the officers once helped me. I want to not only help other delegates to say their opinion but to also show them how valuable their opinions are. I know how scary it can be to speak and I know what it's like to feel that your voice isn't heard, but there are people who care. Others may think that our voices aren't as important or that we don't know what we are saying, but we can't let them silence us. We have to stand up for what we believe in. In this position I want to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, by promoting spirit fingers and celebrating new debate, to encourage others to say their opinions.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is listening to others and not forcing them to follow one person's belief. I want to work with the delegates to express our opinions and concerns. This ensures that we all have a say and no one's voice is covered up and lost. This also means working to implement these ideas and not just let them get buried under other plans. A good leader listens to others, and cares about what they say. I want to listen to my fellow delegates and see ways in which they believe we can improve. As teens sometimes we may believe our voices have no power, however I want to challenge this belief and break it to prove that our voices matter and if we use them they can have a triumphant outcome. I plan to work with my fellow delegates, whether that be through online surveys via a google form, answering emails, creating polls, and talking to different local leaders, to execute and create a safe, fun and respectful space where we can all share our opinions and our love for government.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Sophia Leigh — Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: 2026 will be my second year in this program. During my time in Youth and Government, I have learned so much and grown as an individual. I joined this program by request of a friend, I reluctantly agreed not knowing much about it but wanting to try something new. When I walked into my first district conference I was very nervous not knowing how much work needed to be put in, but in the end it was all worth it. At the state conference last year I found myself becoming very comfortable voicing my opinions, this was very new to me because public speaking was never something that came naturally to me. I felt comfortable and at home in this community of such amazing people. Other than Youth and Government I am extremely involved in my school's music program. I have had the honor to participate in every musical, variety show, NYSSMA, and CASSMA sense 7th grade. I was also in this year's Area all State for choir. I love being a role model and helping those around me achieve things that they have a passion for.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? Unlike most, I did not join Youth and Government until my sophomore year of high school. Soon after I joined I realized that I had been missing out on this amazing program for the past 2 years. My fear of public speaking led me to not even bat an eye towards this opportunity that was sitting right in front of me. I never really fit into any clubs besides music programs so naturally I was very nervous for my first district conference, while I was there I mostly observed trying to learn the ropes of the whole thing. During my second district conference I became more comfortable and more familiar with how the program worked. When we got to the state conference I was very excited, by that point in time I found myself being comfortable and very confident in my public speaking. At the end of that conference is when I knew that I wanted to be more involved in this program. I immediately asked my teacher how I would go about being a candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty. I hope to help delegates from all over the state learn and grow, becoming comfortable voicing their opinions and being confident with them. I want to be a source of encouragement for next year's delegates as the previous officers were for me.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: The definition of servant leadership is "where the primary goal of the leader is to serve employees, customers, and stakeholders, prioritizing their needs, growth, and well-being over personal power or recognition." To show the idea of servant leadership in my leadership I will make sure that every delegate in my chamber is confident in what they say and not second guessing themselves. I know what it is like to feel silenced and I don't think anyone should ever have to feel like that. I believe that all ideas are good ones, some students just need a little push of encouragement to show those ideas. Another way I will show servant leadership is by being open and answering any and all questions from delegates to make sure that they feel confident in the things that they are saying. I will also help them improve their debating skills, so in my eyes servant leadership is being a leader who genuinely cares and wants to help others and bring out the good in others while putting them first.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Mario Novello — Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I joined Youth and Government during my sophomore year after being hesitant to join freshman year, an experience that became one of the most best parts of my high school career. Through debate and collaboration, I developed confidence, and composure under pressure Outside of Youth and Government, I serve as a Class Officer, Vice President and Co-Founder of Mock Trial Club, Yearbook Photographer, and track athlete. These roles have strengthened my leadership, organization, and teamwork skills. My friends and i founded mock trial club as a way to bring the yag experience to our highschool, As Vice President I help guide meetings, support members, and foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable participating, skills directly transferable to presiding over debate. Across all of my leadership positions, I bring energy, loyalty, and a strong sense of responsibility. I thrive in fast-paced environments, work effectively under pressure, and prioritize fairness and encouragement. These experiences have prepared me to lead efficiently, support delegates thoughtfully, and uphold the standards expected of a Presiding Officer.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? When I joined Youth and Government my sophomore year, I was hesitant. As a freshman, I avoided joining because of my fear of public speaking. Choosing to step out of that comfort zone was one of the best decisions I've made. Youth and Government pushed me to grow, and now I want to give back to the program that helped shape me. being involved in so many different extracurriculars, I've learned how to bring energy, organization, and encouragement into every space I'm part of. I believe strong leadership means making sure every voice is heard. As Speaker of Assembly Liberty, I will prioritize fairness, efficiency, and inclusivity. I want first-year delegates to feel welcomed and confident raising their placards. I want debate to be engaging, structured, and motivating. Most importantly, I want every delegate to leave committee knowing their voice mattered.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is the idea that a leader's primary role is to serve others before serving themselves. Instead of focusing on authority or recognition, a servant leader prioritizes the growth, confidence, and success of the people they lead. It is leadership rooted in empathy, fairness, and intentional support. If elected as Speaker of Assembly Liberty, I will incorporate servant leadership by ensuring every delegate feels heard, valued, and encouraged. As someone who once hesitated to join Youth and Government due to a fear of public speaking, I understand how intimidating debate can feel, especially for first-year delegates. Because of that, I will be intentional about creating a welcoming and structured environment where everyone feels comfortable raising their placard and participating in pro and con debate. My goal is not simply to preside over debate, but to empower delegates to grow in confidence and leadership themselves. By prioritizing the needs of the assembly before my own recognition, I will strive to make committee a space where every voice matters and every delegate leaves stronger than when they arrived.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Paige Dreon — Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: This past summer, I had the opportunity to attend the first Y-Corps trip since before COVID. Through this experience I had the opportunity to truly experience and deepen my understand of the values that define the YMCA and Youth and Government while also further strengthening my collaboration abilities with fellow Youth and Government delegates from New York and Pennsylvania outside of my home community. This year, I am serving as Commissioner of Education. This is giving me the ability to continue to strengthen these previously mentioned skills as well as apply what I've learned from my experience at Y-Corps (as well as from the past two years of participating in YAG) to our NYS program.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this role because Youth and Government has had a profound impact on my life. Through my personal experience, I have come to understand just how important Presiding Officers are to the overall experience. After two years of witnessing and participating in this program, I have decided that I now want to serve in that role and help make fellow delegates' time in (and out of) chamber as joyful and impactful as mine has been. This desire has only been strengthened through Y-Corps and my service as Commissioner of Education, where I have seen how strong leadership leads to respectful and productive delegates. I want to act as that strong leader, ensuring chambers are conducted professionally and that every delegate feels heard, encouraged, and challenged to grow not only as a delegate, but as a person. If selected as Speaker of Assembly Liberty, I would bring organization, dedication, and fairness to run an effective and respectful chamber while making quick and just decisions that uphold the rules and values which Youth and Government stands for.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me, servant leadership is leadership gained not through actively seeking it, but instead through one's actions in serving their community and those around them. A servant leader is someone who prioritizes those around them, listening to them and hearing them in order to ensure that they feel seen. It is also the encouragement and upliftment of those around them, to make them understand how important their voice and actions are and inspire them to get involved in the community around them. For Youth and Government, this goes even further, also incorporating, and ensuring, that Youth and Government's core values are strengthened, upheld, and reflected through not only their actions but also within their community. If elected, I would incorporate servant leadership into my role by ensuring that every delegate feels heard, respected, and encouraged to participate and grow with confidence. Furthermore, I would conscientiously work towards ensuring that the chamber would reflect all of these values and act not only as a facilitator but also as a source of inspiration and encouragement for fellow delegates to take action and feel empowered doing so.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Lydia Phelps Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Excelsior

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Throughout my 3 years in the Youth and Government Program I have served as leadership for my district, as a Service Learning Liaison for the program, and as a committee chair for the state conference. Beyond the Youth and Government program I have had the privilege of being elected as my class president, Secretary and Treasurer of student council, Vice President of my schools Key Club, as well as being a member of the National Honor society and serving on a youth board for my county to help ensure that the youth of my community continue to have a voice in our local government. I cannot explain how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to fill each of these roles as each has worked to challenge me in unique ways. They've helped to test and develop my leadership skills while teaching me how to balance many different responsibilities. Ultimately these experiences have been some of the best learning experiences of my life and each has culminated to teach me how to be a better leader for tomorrow.

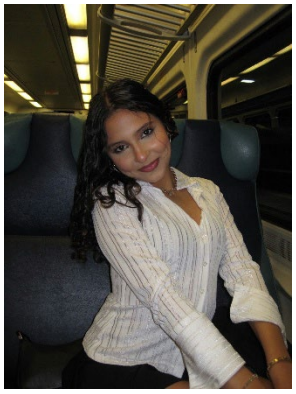
Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? The position of Presiding Officer is one that not only comes with great responsibility but one that requires a very specific set of skills and style of leadership. As a PO you need to be able to keep the best interests of your fellow delegates in mind as you represent them at conferences as well as being able to act as a role model for the new generations of Youth and Government delegates. In particular PO's need to manage time effectively so that each and every bill has a chance to be heard, argued, and defended equally. It is unfortunate that every year there are bills that aren't granted the same amount of time and attention in chambers as other bills. This issue of time management is one that I would personally plan on paying a lot of attention to for this reason in particular. Many of you reading these responses do not know me very well but if you asked anyone who does, I can guarantee they would vouch for the fact that I am efficient, detail oriented, and precise in any and all work that I do. I constantly strive to put myself out there and experience new things and on top of that actually learn from these new experiences. When it comes to the position of Presiding Officer these attributes in particular will make me a quality candidate that plans on utilizing this opportunity to the fullest by becoming a leader that puts the interests of the program far above my own. This position isn't just an opportunity for me either, it's something that I've been striving for since I first had the chance to attend and witness all of the leaders that I looked up to fill these roles and utilize those platforms to make a bigger difference both in and out of this program. These role models inspired me to push myself and test my leadership capabilities so that one day I might have the opportunity to be a role model for someone else as I fill the shoes of the leaders that came before me. At the end of the day I may fill the requirements of this position but I'd like to make it known that I don't plan on simply serving as PO I plan on making a real difference in the program and in my community like the predecessors that I looked up to so much. My innate desire to do more than the bare minimum, and to go above and beyond for the people I'd represent is just one of the many reasons why I want to serve as a Presiding officer in the Youth and Government program that we all love and cherish so much.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership on the whole is a very simple, yet profoundly important concept. It's the concept that our nation was built upon and is a quality that is, or at least should be, emulated throughout the entirety of our government. As a servant leader it is your duty to serve the people you represent in a way that reflects their best interests rather than simply your own. It's the action, as a leader, of putting your people first without sparing a thought for what you might have to gain from the situation. In short a servant leader is a representation of the core values that we as a country were built off of, empowerment of the people through the setting aside of self interest and prioritizing the needs of the people over your own. This concept is highly applicable to the Youth and Government program and can be seen in many of the leaders throughout the program. As far as applicability goes, I fully plan on following in my predecessors footsteps, following their example, and If I can, going one step further in applying servant leadership to this position. As a PO it is your responsibility to ensure that time is managed in a way that divides the schedule guaranteeing that each and every bill is given the time and attention it deserves. On a larger scale making sure that I am available to help any delegate that needs assistance in or out of the conference. This hope aims to ensure that no delegate is left without support and in the face of any difficulty they will have somewhere to turn to, whether it be to me or one of the many other servant leaders present at today's conference. As a program we are so lucky to have so many enthusiastic and welcoming members of leadership to help guide and build this program and each and every one of them are prime examples of what servant leadership should look like. Through their leadership and by following their example I can confidently say that I know how a servant leader should conduct themselves and I cannot express how eager I am to be given the opportunity to emulate these qualities myself as a Presiding Officer of the Youth and Government Program.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Olivia Pesso Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Excelsior

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Last year I was a Bill sponsor for YAG. My other experience includes being a class officer my school for the class of 2027, youth leader for my religious community, the girls varsity basketball manager and photographer for my school. I have great leadership skills and conversation skills.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I want the position of speaker of Assembly Freedom because i genuinely care about students voice and making sure every member feels heard, respected and represented. With my leadership, this would be an environment where all ideas are taken into consideration. I'm a huge believer in that no opinion or idea is a bad one and every individual is entitled to their thoughts and beliefs and i want to create a community that fosters that. I am organized, confident in public speaking, and comfortable leading discussions while keeping things structured and engaging. If selected as a PO, i will bring my communication skills, fairness, and reliability. I am committed to listening to different perspectives keeping meetings inclusive and ensuring that we can work together to make meaningful contributions to the YAG program.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is a style focused on serving others first. instead of leading for power, a servant leader prioritizes listening, supporting and aiding those with powerful ideas and voices. They uplift the people they represent so that everyone can succeed as a collective. If elected as a presiding officer, i plan to incorporate servant leadership by actively listening to members of the Assembly, valuing different positions, approaches, and perspectives. i would lead by example, stay approachable and put the needs of the group above my own. My goal is to create a an inclusive, respectful environment where collaboration is encouraged and decisions are made with the best interest of the entire Assembly in mind.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Steven Lin Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Excelsior

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I am privileged to be your candidate for the Speaker of Excelsior Assembly. Besides having 3 years of experience in Youth and Government and serving as a chairperson at my district conference, I am included in multiple extracurricular activities that each contribute distinctly to my qualifications.

At my local EMS branch, I manage and encourage participation among youth members. In addition to meetings, I have helped fundraise in my local community for 2 years, raising an exceptional amount that was later allocated towards equipment in the EMS program. My position in our local Youth Squad has challenged me to improve my management skills and responsibility.

Additionally, I help manage my family restaurant. I introduced new team members, socialized with complaining customers to maintain a peaceful working environment and translated for colleagues including my parents with language barriers. My experience volunteering in a family restaurant awakened me to the uncertainties leaders must face from communication to budgeting. Overall my qualifications have ensured that I will serve each of you.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this position to encourage fellow delegates to express their authentic opinions without the fear of judgement. Being selected as a presiding officer for the coming year, I can offer my own experiences to enhance our Youth and Government program.

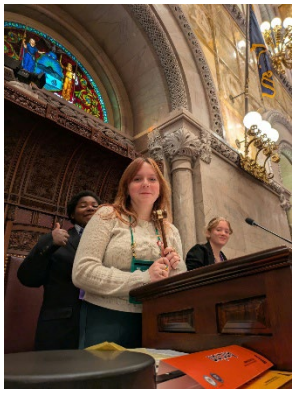
Through serving in my community, I've recognized the importance of cooperation. Tutoring passionate students who were facing difficulties in their classes was an experience that required patience and the ability to socialize in a way that was understandable to the specific individual. Thus far I have accumulated over 50 hours, helping other students pass classes and standardized tests. My tutoring experience taught me that everyone struggles with something, whether in school or debating during state conference. I want to connect members along Youth and Government, similar to introducing students around my school to tutors. We as a society tend to overlook the qualities of those less outspoken, but just because someone's voice may be softer it doesn't diminish the value that it carries. Inclusion maximizes success, hence I plan to utilize my skills in communication and cultivate the potential in my peers to optimize the Youth and Government experience.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: When defining servant leadership, it's about the ability to put yourself in other's shoes and lead while respecting the qualities in others. Everyday, we encounter experiences that shape how we characterize people. Over my 8 years of managing a family restaurant, I've understood the stresses that come in most scenarios; the inability to communicate with customers, facing complaints from frustrated customers, and the lack of worker morale. I've utilized these problems as an opportunity to socialize and cooperate to resolve issues, often having to make split second decisions to logically resolve complicated situations, reassuring customers with proper food care and encouraging colleagues to express their problems. To simplify, being able to disable a language barrier between consumers and providers allowed me to attain a proficient way of communicating and staying calm in stressful situations. Being a servant leader is not just about noticing these qualities of others, it's about acknowledging the unheard voices and supporting the ones who lack courage. Similarly to my working background, during my experience in Youth and Government, I've often recognized that delegates showed timidness when near presiding officers. Creating an environment where delegates feel free to participate is essential to maximizing success and defines what a servant leader truly is. If given this position, I will uphold the qualities of a servant leader , supporting peers to openly express their opinions without fear and allow them to feel included.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Sophie Valentine Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Excelsior

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I joined youth and government in 8th grade, shooting for the confidence to instantly share my voice. Even then, both the pandemic and fear kept me from speaking. And like that, I thought I'd lost my chance. The next year I hesitantly rejoined and I will never regret it. This program has given me friends and self worth. Today, I am running Youth and Government through my school as president, and last year I served as secretary. As a leader, I've realized that I didn't have to be born with some special ability to speak. Instead, I was given the opportunity to create that strength. I strive to make people around me realize they truly are unstoppable. Additionally, I am part of my school's student senate, making everlasting memories in my town. Among many tasks, one of my favorite services came from working a parent's night out. Just being there, I was able to give parents the chance to enjoy themselves while I aided children in crafts! I've carried the responsibility of helping others with me throughout each conference as a delegate and a committee chair in the middle and high school program, and I'd love to carry it to next years conference as Speaker of the 5th Chamber Assembly.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? For a significant period in my life, I thought I was born to fit the narrative of the insecure, relatively quiet student in class. Overall, I only spoke aloud when I was called on by a teacher or when I was surrounded by things or people that I, myself, had deemed safe. Sure, I always had the desire to speak up more, but I never took the chance. This program encouraged me to come out of my comfort zone and has created the person you see at the conference today. I give the most credit to the advisors and student leaders who have supported me during my years within Youth and Government. My favorite thing about the program is that I've never felt alone. I want to be the reason other people can agree with that statement. Every voice holds power, especially student voices, including my own "robotic voice" - Kenzie Clark. As the future generation, we must listen to every voice and ensure everyone is truly considered when making decisions. If elected, I vow to produce an environment that succeeds through collaboration, passion, respect, and compassion.

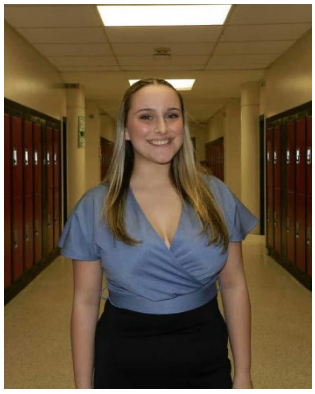
Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: I think of a servant leader as someone with a constant desire to improve. Someone willing to take charge in situations ranging from simply answering another person's question all the way to putting their own comfort or reputation at risk to support the people around them. More than anything else, I believe a servant leader is someone who strives through empathy. I look up to graduated leaders because without their support, I can say I wouldn't be writing this right now. Even today, while in college, they make time to help me and empower my voice. I strive to do that for others. I know that voices around the world have been neglected due to the barriers of language, religion, value, discrimination, and oppression, making it crucial that every delegate is heard. As a leader, I will promise to hear everyone. I want to help people raise and formulate their voice rather than redrafting their words as my own. I am willing to mess up and set that real-life example of being human and working to improve. Not only will I provide feedback for other delegates, but I will also listen to the critique from others because I believe the greatest leadership comes from improvement and collaboration.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Madison Spanarelli

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I'm a sophomore and this is currently my second year in YAG. Prior to joining I struggled with public speaking and I often felt that my opinions were not heard or given value. I've noticed a lot of change, especially with presenting and sharing my opinions, and my bill even received the best bill award in Senate Freedom. I met some really great people who've helped me grow. They've impacted the way I express my opinions when showing the importance of my beliefs. I've learned that everyone has a different opinion and story on why they feel that way. I feel that I truly belong. I take part in Music Honors Society and varsity sports. This prepared me for this position by showing me that everyone has their own voice and their own way of sharing opinions. I've learned how to be a good listener and to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and valued. I learned the meaning of teamwork. Also, I chaired at my local district conference, and in a state committee. I attended local chair training and understood the parliamentary procedure. This allowed me to get to know my fellow delegates and how to properly control a room. I'm grateful for the opportunities and those who've supported me.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? When I was at my first state conference I felt very nervous and scared. However, the officers were there to offer me support and help me get through my first conference. As someone who is proud to say that I have shown immense growth, I hope to give back to the Youth and Government community and help my fellow delegates to grow and feel confident when speaking. The main reason I am seeking office is to help other delegates who have faced the same obstacles I have. I know how scary it is to stand up and speak in front of so many people and what it feels like to believe that our voices are incapable of making a change in the world that we live in. With this position I hope to encourage my fellow delegates to feel welcome and feel confident when they share their opinions and stories. I hope to help show other delegates that their opinions are truly valued. My biggest goal is to make a difference in the world and show that teens just like me can make a change as long as we put our minds to it, and it starts with Youth and Government.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me servant leadership is when you listen to what people have to say and be a leader for them. I believe that a leader should get input and thoughts from others before making any decision. Being a leader is not just about making decisions, it's about being there for all of the people who rely on you. As a leader I would want everyone's voice to be heard and most of all, respected. I feel that a leader should push others to become the best version of themself that they can. I hope to do this by encouraging my fellow delegates to debate. By debating and asking technical questions, my fellow delegates can start to feel more confident in themselves and the way they speak. I plan to help my fellow delegates feel that they are heard and that they are very capable of making a change as long as they put their mind to it. As a leader I would have a monthly survey for you all to anonymously enter any questions that you may have. At the end of each month I would go through and answer all of the questions with videos that can be found on my YAG instagram. Ultimately, my goal as a leader is to be a good role model and push my fellow delegates to be the best that they can and to reach their full potential.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Addison Bradt

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 4



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I have been strongly involved in Youth and Government since seventh grade. My first year, I had the privilege to be elected as Lieutenant Governor and serve as a presiding officer during my eighth grade year. In 2025, I was selected to be my school's community service liaison and a committee chair for the high school conference, which truly meant a lot to me. During the summer of 2025, I was proudly accepted to CONA, which was an incredible honor that I cherish deeply. This year, at the middle school conference, I was invited to be a resource officer and had the privilege of being the leader of my group while in the capital.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am applying for this position because I see the presiding officers from years past and I realize the difference they have made on not only the conference but on the delegates themselves. I have always been amazed by their confidence, kindness, courage, honesty, and integrity. I wish to be as amazing as them and live up to the roles they have set before me if elected into office. I believe I am well suited for this office position because I have a strong enthusiasm for YAG, I am passionate about servant leadership, I have been involved in YAG which can be helpful for those who are still learning. Not only are these important qualities for a candidate but I have the opportunity to know what it is like in rural America which has given me opportunities to see how the state works outside of the cities, and see what problems and challenges that we face.

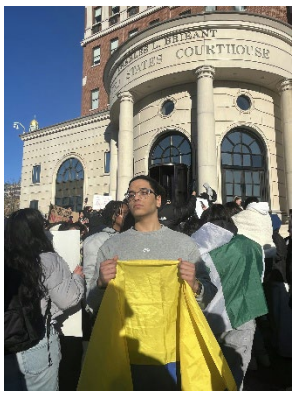
Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: I believe that servant leadership means always putting the communities needs and concerns before yours to prioritize the wellbeing and growth of the people. By focusing on serving others first it promotes equality, trust, and collaboration within the group. I plan on shifting the focus from a chain of power to prioritizing team oriented work and encouraging open communication.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Karim Hammami

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I started Youth and Government as a sophomore, and my first year was an amazing experience. I got to participate in legislative simulations, practice parliamentary procedure, and even passed my first bill, which gave me a real sense of how government works. This year, I've returned as a committee chair and am running for PO, where I hope to support new members, and help maintain the structure and decorum that make our chambers run smoothly. Outside of Youth and Government, I've worked to bring these leadership skills into my school and community. I founded my school's Mock Trial Club to create a space for students to develop critical thinking and advocacy skills, and I serve in Student Government, where I help facilitate discussions, maintain order, and make fair, organized decisions. As Treasurer of Key Club and a member of multiple youth councils, I've strengthened my ability to manage responsibility, stay impartial, and lead respectfully under pressure. When I'm not in chambers or meetings, you can usually find me at the gym benching with my boys and having fun. These experiences have shaped my approach to leadership and prepared me to serve effectively and confidently as a PO.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the position of Presiding Officer because I value fair, organized debate and want to help create a chamber environment where every delegate feels heard and respected. Through my experience in Youth and Government, Mock Trial, and student leadership, I have developed a strong understanding of parliamentary procedure, effective communication, and the importance of impartial leadership. If selected as a Presiding Officer, I would bring consistency, professionalism, and calm leadership, ensuring that sessions run efficiently while maintaining respect, decorum, and equal opportunity for all participants.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is a leadership philosophy where the leader prioritizes the needs of others, focuses on the growth and well being of their team or community, and leads by serving rather than by commanding. It emphasizes empathy, active listening, and empowering others to achieve their full potential. If elected into office, I plan to incorporate servant leadership by actively seeking input from those I represent, making decisions that benefit the people as a whole, and supporting initiatives that help others grow and succeed. I will lead with humility and ensure that my actions reflect the best interests of the people, not personal gain. As Napoleon once said, "A leader is a dealer in hope." I will embody this by inspiring confidence and providing support to help others reach their goals, fostering a culture where service to the community comes first.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Alan Guevara Hernandez

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: Last year was my first year of Youth and Government. It was the greatest experience of my life. I've met so many people from across the state of New York. I've learned a lot since then, and this year I'll be a committee chair. Outside of Youth and Government, last year I was my school's, mock trial treasurer. I am in a dual enrollment US History class with Mount Saint Mary College. I've loved history since I was very young. History, law, and government go hand in hand so I fell like this is very good to have under my belt. I've lived in New York all of my life, and my priority is to make this a better place for all of us. I'm in my school's Chamber Orchestra, which is more selective than normal Orchestra. I've played the violin since I was 7 and its what got me over my stage fright.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I'm seeking this office because I hope to truly make a difference one day. I've have been in to politics since I was 5 years old. I saw the rise of Donald Trump and his hateful rhetoric towards hispanic people and other groups that goes on to this day. I've always known I wanted a job in government and this is my calling. A lot of people say I am a good debater. I am also a good leader and teacher. Whenever my friends need help in any subject I'm always of great help. I speak English, Spanish, and French fluently and I'm currently learning German.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me, servant leadership is putting everyone else before you and having their priorities in mind. Selflessness is one of the most important traits anyone can have. I've been taught to always take care of other people before me, especially if their less well off than me. I plan to help any new delegates with their speeches if they're struggling, or if they need help during debates. I hope to be a leader that people can lay their trust into me.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Maira Siddiqi

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: With my pervious experiences in Youth and Government, this being my 4th conference, I had the chance to partake in numerous debates from seventh grade to now and serve as our club's secretary. This conference I'll be serving on cabinet this year as Commissioner of Transportation and working alongside governors' cabinet to thoroughly go through each bill and make sure they receive the same recognition as others. Over this past summer, I got the chance to be selected and attend the Conference on National Affairs, creating and debating proposals with students from all over the country. I have also taken the initiative to grow our middle school program, volunteering to help them with their own bills and debate skills, fostering a safe environment to learn what YAG is all about. I've also participated in the Youth Advocacy program, encouraging change and advocacy for all. I have also received 'Best Bill' and was placed amongst the highest ranked bills, allowing my group and I to present in joint sessions. Outside of Youth and Government I try to maintain a positive environment, I play for my school's varsity tennis and badminton team which allowed me to work collectively with my team.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? In my almost 4 years of doing Youth and Government, I've seen how it is led, the impact it leaves on others, and the way it allows and affects people to grow. I want to not only present my ideas to others but incorporate and collaborate with others and their ideas. The PO's works with hearing people's ideas, and I want to foster and inclusive space for others to feel safe giving their ideas, and better the program as a whole. Each year we grow this program, we grow in numbers tremendously, and this means we allowed new delegates in; I want to show them that YAG is a space they can come back to and show them that their voice matters. Each delegate, each delegation big or small, deserves its own representation and each have feedback on how to better our program they all deserve to be known, they all deserve to be heard, and never under minded. As your next PO I can ensure an inclusive, respectful and representative space for all delegates and delegations. I can offer my own insight into how we can solve issues that occur, collaborate with members of the team and delegates, as well as also leading everybody in the program. Everybody's voice is valuable.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Being a servant leader means leading for the sake of others, and not for your own personal benefit or gain. Being a servant leader means to benefit others, encourage them, and allow them to voice their opinions and thoughts. It's for the good of the people for the people, and being selfless. They stay on task and focus, but presenting oneself as a servant leader means that you are willing to listen, to learn, and to understand. They try to accommodate to the best of their abilities and put their words into action. All of this while fostering and encouraging a healthy place for succession and learning. They stay structured and organized in their planning and execution, and show how to lead by example, never by opting to follow what others do just for the sake of it. My aim is to allow growth and solve problems all while also making sure everybody is comfortable and satisfied. If elected into office I plan and promise to take each person's thoughts and opinions seriously and in careful consideration, allowing and support collaboration on ideas and put the people first and listen to what they advocate for. While also considering the positive change and what is best not just for one but for everybody involved.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Arihanna Smith

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: This is my second year of Youth and Government. I am a district chair for my school and a committee chair for this state conference. Youth and Government has unlocked multiple opportunities for me to meet new people while taking a different look at my community, which has taught me essential skills I use on a daily basis, as well as taught me who I am as a person. I've learned to reach outside the box to make the seemingly impossible possible. This program has helped me grow my public speaking skills, teaching me how to create a strong, articulated message, whether that be in a debate or just trying to advocate for something I may be passionate about, with the ability to communicate with people I never thought I'd get the chance to. Alongside Youth and Government, I am a delegate in my school's Model UN program, where I have continued to advance my problem-solving skills. These experiences have taught me a plethora about how local, state, and national governments work and how their policies are. These skills provide me with an abundance of knowledge that has helped me expand my youth and government abilities tremendously.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office as I am able to provide numerous points of view to the table from being in numerous programs. I intend to improve communication within Youth and Government by checking in and aiding my fellow delegates to the best of my ability. I will also encourage delegates to reach their highest potentials while going the lengths needed for you to feel represented and heard. Within my fire department branch, I was selected as both the youngest and first female lieutenant officer. This honor is not just a title; as a lieutenant, I use my voice to express my concerns, but not just my own concerns; I have also helped advocate for others. Additionally, with my role, I was able to be a mentor for others. I have taught strong advocacy in drills by working with others, giving our junior firefighters the support they may need. Through my programs, I have learned how to work with others as a mentor, learner, and aid. In addition to my work ethic, I pay attention to the small things I listen to and put in the work to fix them, no matter how the issue presents itself. I will incorporate the experience I had while being the lieutenant officer of my fire department into the office of President Pro Tempore. In addition, I have gained the experience it takes to be a leader, a helping hand, and a support system. When elected into office, I will be able to foster an environment of hospitality and advocacy. Additionally, I would like to be more transparent to the delegates about opportunities such as scholarships, which seem to be known by very little.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: To me, a servant leader should not just be a person who knows how to help others. A servant leader is someone who can step into the shoes of others and use their experiences to enhance the proceedings of others. To be a leader is not just a title. Leadership is what defines you as a person; it encompasses the characteristics and traits that are most admirable, as well as what you do with them. There is no one specific outline for being a leader in my book. A leader is the person who can take the best of themselves and pour it into others in a beneficial supporting manner. I plan to incorporate this into Youth and Government as President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty being I believe everybody is a leader in some way, so I would be able to tend to each and every concern, meeting them with the best possible accommodations. Whether that be connecting them with veterans or simply highlighting the result that will provide the best outcome by using resources like Group Me, Remind, Zoom meetings and many others to communicate. With me your voices will not only be heard, but they will be fought for because being a leader is not being for yourself. Being a leader is to be able to bring out the best in others, guiding those new and continuing members, communicating effectively and efficiently, and to give a voice to those too shy to use their own to bring a smile and laughter on those incredibly long nights you've spent debating on bills.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Teddy Phelps

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 3



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: This will be my fourth year as a legislative delegate for Youth and Government and my second year as a committee chair. I've been an active member of Youth and Government since the 8th grade. At first I was hesitant to join but my brother, who had been part of the program for multiple years before me, was able to convince me to give it a try. Since then, I've created numerous bills, met so many new and amazing people, and learned a great deal about myself, others around me, and the world we surround ourselves with. Last year, I decided to be a committee chair, another decision that has greatly altered me as a person. We learn so much on how to be effective leaders and make many new friends while doing so. Outside of YAG, I've taken on numerous leadership roles and opportunities to be able to better myself and the way I lead others, including being elected the president of my school's Key club, participating in student council, attending the HOBY youth leadership conference, serving on my school's Student Culture Leadership committee and even being selected to join my school's chapter of National Honor Society.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I seek this position because I've always looked up to and been inspired by the Speaker's and Pro Tempore's dedication to their members and how they work to make sure everyone's voices are heard in their chambers. Making sure that people's voices are heard is the pinnacle of what these positions encompass. If elected, I intend to maintain the equality and the reputation of the Senate by maintaining the principle of servant leadership and promoting a space where people's ideas and opinions are seen and acknowledged without judgment or bias.

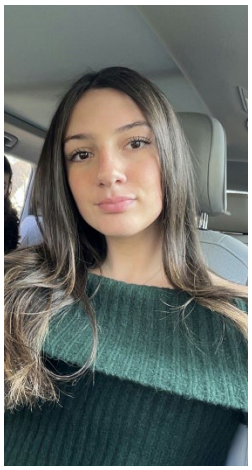
Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant Leadership can be defined by many different things, but at its core it stands for an effective leader who caters to the needs of their people, ensuring that everyone's needs are represented without judgement or bias. I've had three years of experience being a member of the Assembly/Senate. I plan to incorporate this value effectively by placing myself in the shoes of the people who look up to me, who trust me to lead them in an honest and meaningful way. Listening and reaching out will be another way I will incorporate this principle, by fostering an environment that makes people feel safe and open to asking questions and coming to me to voice concerns and other ways to improve everyone's experience in the senate.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Layne Tasnady

Candidate for President Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty

Years in Youth and Government: 1



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I joined Youth and Government last year and quickly developed a strong interest in debate, collaboration, and civic engagement through the legislative process. Through participating in committee sessions and legislative simulations, I gained experience in parliamentary procedure, respectful debate, and effective communication. This year, I am returning as a committee chair, where I hope to guide discussion and help create a productive and organized environment for delegates. Outside of YAG, I am a dedicated student-athlete who plays basketball and lacrosse and serve as captain of my school's field hockey team. Being a captain has strengthened my ability to communicate clearly, motivate my peers, and remain calm under pressure. Balancing athletics with academics and extracurricular activities has taught me responsibility, teamwork, and leadership skills that I can bring into a leadership role within Youth and Government. When I am not at practice or in class, I enjoy going on Dunkin' runs with my friends.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office because I want to take on a greater leadership role within Youth and Government and contribute to creating a positive and productive environment for all delegates. As someone who has benefited from supportive leadership during my first year, I hope to provide that same guidance to new members while helping experienced delegates engage in meaningful and organized debate. As a Presiding Officer, I would bring strong communication skills, fairness, and the ability to remain composed in fast paced situations. My experience as captain of my school's field hockey team has taught me how to manage responsibility, lead respectfully, and ensure that everyone feels heard and valued. I am committed to maintaining order, encouraging participation, and helping the chamber run smoothly so that all delegates can have an engaging and rewarding experience.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is about putting the needs of others first and helping them grow and succeed. If elected, I will listen to the community, make decisions that benefit everyone, and support initiatives that empower others. I will lead with humility, focusing on service rather than personal gain. As John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country," and I will use my role to inspire and support those I represent.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Christopher Schelhas — Candidate for Public Defender

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I've been an attorney for the past 3 years, during which I've acquired many skills that qualify me for the Public Defender position. For example, I've developed my public speaking skills by constantly presenting to others, and I've also developed my ability to help others by teaching new delegates how to properly create briefs and oral arguments. Last year I had the opportunity to argue for case C, and with my skills, I've learned I ended up winning my case. The leaders around me have helped me become a more effective leader; they have always believed in me, no matter what, and have always shown up for me, motivating me to do greater things. I'm in the NJROTC and am currently a petty officer third class. I'm also a second-year student, and as such, I've to look after the first-year cadets. My time in NJROTC has taught me the qualities of a leader through various presentations and practical experience. I always try my best in every situation, no matter what, and strive to do the best in life. I will bring that same dedication serving as your next public defender.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? As the Public Defender, I would love to be someone that attorneys can look up to for mentorship and someone who inspires them to be more active in the program. I aspire to gain their trust by introducing myself to them and being very open with them, so they can come to me for their issues or help with briefs or the oral argument. Additionally, I will actively ask attorneys and justices for their feedback and figure out ways to balance and implement their ideas in the program. I aim to ensure that all attorneys practice their public speaking by having them speak in different environments to try and help them practice projection by dedicating a small amount of time to practice speaking. Many attorneys are shy and haven't found their voice yet, and this could be because this may be their first time public speaking, so I would like to incorporate a question-and-answer system for attorneys and justices to make it easier for them to state their opinions if they have trouble speaking. An example could be a Google form. Lastly, if attorneys also need help with briefs and arguments, I wish to work to implement a video for briefs and oral arguments to show how to properly create a brief and an oral argument throughout the state. I would also make sure to go more in-depth with them on vocabulary and help them make their arguments cleaner. I also help them understand the cross cases better by going more in-depth with them and going over case laws. Through these actions, I will unite the judicial branch and improve the program for future attorneys and justices for the reasons stated above.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership is a philosophy where a leader's primary goal is to serve their team or organization in any way possible, whenever feasible, to gain trust and respect, and to be the best leader they can be. I would implement this philosophy as Public Defender by always being there when attorneys need help, regardless of the nature of the assistance required. I would love to befriend as many attorneys as possible to make sure they always feel welcome and at home in this program. I will also guarantee that their voices are being heard by ensuring they feel included, by listening to their complaints, and by introducing them to new people through judicial game night, where people will be allowed to come and interact with their fellow judicial people and have fun at the same time. I will communicate consistently with the Chief Justice and Attorney General to ensure this happens. I will serve the judicial program the best I can and ensure that the people of the judicial system have their voices heard and taken into account, hopefully in turn gaining their trust.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Calliope Bellas

Candidate for Public Defender

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: I have been a part of Youth and Government for 2 years now and have served as an attorney for both years. During my freshman year, I served as a Case A Attorney and gained firsthand experience with how the Judicial system works. I also gained more confidence in public speaking and improved my ability to think on the spot. This gave me the courage to work myself up to Case B in my sophomore year. Within that year I continued to grow as an attorney and even helped new attorneys with my previous knowledge on arguing cases by giving them tips on how to improve their arguments. As a Junior, I am continuing my role as an attorney working on Case C and growing as a member of the Judicial system. Outside of YAG, I play varsity lacrosse as a goalie and I am a part of many clubs like, VAASA, Film club, Science Honor Society and History Honor Society. I also work part-time as a hostess and participate as well as compete in a Greek Dance group. Due to these extracurriculars, I have learned how to manage my time well and juggle multiple commitments at a time. These are skills that would continue to foster as Public Defender.

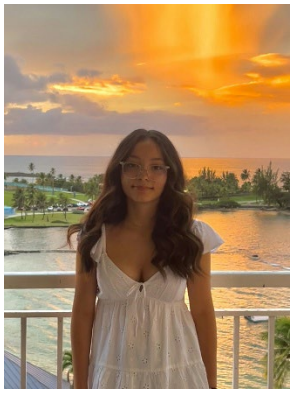
Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? Becoming Public Defender means playing a bigger role in Youth and Government and taking up more responsibility with the fellow Presiding Officers. YAG is so important to me and has taught me so many important life skills like, independence, confidence, and critical thinking. I want to take these skills and apply them to a position like Public Defender where I can use them to lift and support not only the attorneys but all members of Youth and Government. A Public Defender is someone who fights for someone when they cannot fight for themselves. I know what it feels like to come to Conference your first year and feel like an outsider in a new environment. The Justices and Presiding Officers during my freshman year helped to make this experience more manageable and aided me in strengthening arguments. As Public Defender, I will continue to do the same by being someone for new attorneys to reach out to so facing your first case doesn't feel so daunting. I feel I can offer helpful insights onto cases and give members of YAG the same confidence I obtained through the club.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership means to step up in order to serve and aid others, an act of leadership to foster a future of new leaders. As Public Defender, I am willing to take up the responsibility of helping all members of the Judicial branch with any needs they have. Being a servant leader means to be someone who puts others first. New attorneys need someone who is willing to be that servant leader who steps up. Being on a lacrosse team has taught me how stepping up as an individual leader benefits a whole team. As a goalie, my team relies on me to be one of these leaders on the field. Serving as a commander in the goal allows the whole team to be successful. I can apply this to Youth and Government by being a servant leader so that all attorneys are able to be successful in their cases. I plan to incorporate servant leadership by providing resources to attorneys to support them and be someone they can rely on to lead them. I feel that my years in Youth and Government have filled me with the expertise to fulfill the role as a servant leader and Public Defender.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Jennae Carrion — Candidate for Editor-In-Chief

Years in Youth and Government: 4



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: My qualifications for this position come from both my leadership experience and my involvement in Youth and Government. At my school, I serve as the president of a club, which has helped me develop strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Within Youth and Government, I am currently serving as your Executive Editor, where I have gained valuable experience working in the press branch and collaborating with other members of the media team. I have also taken marketing classes and am a member of the English Honor Society, both of which have strengthened my writing, communication, and media skills. I have been involved in Youth and Government since 8th grade and have been part of the press branch since 9th grade. During our district conference, I had the opportunity to work closely alongside previous Editors-in-Chief, such as Josie and Sofie, where I was able to observe and learn how they successfully managed the position. These experiences have prepared me to step into this leadership role and continue improving the press program.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking this office because Youth and Government means a lot to me, and the opportunity to serve as a Presiding Officer would be incredibly meaningful. Being part of this program has allowed me to grow as a leader, and I would love the chance to give back by helping lead and strengthen it. Serving as Editor-in-Chief would allow me to work alongside the other Presiding Officers to continue improving the program and making it an even better experience for all participants. In this role, I would also focus on strengthening and highlighting the press branch. The work that the press does is incredibly important, but it is sometimes overlooked. I want to create more opportunities for recognition and help more students become aware of the impact that press has within Youth and Government. By encouraging creativity, collaboration, and stronger visibility, I hope to help the press branch continue to grow and thrive.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership means leading by putting the needs of others first and focusing on helping the people around you succeed. A servant leader supports their team, listens to different perspectives, and works to create opportunities for others rather than seeking recognition for themselves. If elected, I would incorporate servant leadership by prioritizing the needs of the press branch and making sure every member feels heard, supported, and valued. I would work to create an environment where students feel comfortable sharing ideas, improving their skills, and taking on new opportunities. By focusing on collaboration and support, I hope to strengthen the press branch and ensure that everyone involved feels confident in their role and proud of the work they produce.

New York State
Youth and Government
Officer Application

Michelle Ordway — Candidate for Editor-In-Chief

Years in Youth and Government: 2



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications: This will be my third year in Youth and Government. I will also be serving as your Social Media Editor. I'm very grateful for this opportunity and plan to take it to its full potential. Since 7th grade, I have ran our yearbook club at my school. Through yearbook I have learned an immense amount about editing and creating. As member of our school's creative magazine Ember I have taken an active role in selecting artwork, photographs, and creative writing pieces for publication. That has taught me even more about writing and sharing information. Youth and Government has given me the opportunity to showcase these skills. All of these have been great opportunities and led me to be who I am today. Making me highly experienced and I want to share these skills through the Youth and Government community.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year? I am seeking the office of Editor in Chief because I feel I can bring new ideas to Youth and Government. For several years, I have held office in Yearbook and have learned a great amount. This is a great opportunity for me to expand my horizons and learn even more. I want to take Press to the next level and continue to adding to our amazing program. Since I have joined Press it has been something I have loved and appreciated. I want to give everyone an amazing experience with Press, much like I have been given. Those around me have taught me great amounts and continue to do so. Social media can be used in a very positive way and that's what I intend to do if elected. I think spreading positivity and showing what changes we can make as leaders is important. I want to make a positive impact on the Youth and Government community, and everyone around me.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: Servant leadership means being involved and helping others. Volunteering is something I have valued my whole life. Being a servant leader means helping those around you and being dedicated. Spending your time volunteering is one of the best things you can do. If I was elected as the Editor in Chief, I would use social media as a way to promote servant leadership. Showing delegates the positive impacts of servant leadership. Encouraging everyone and myself to continue the volunteering. Sharing the importance and just how impactful we can be. While encasing the togetherness it creates for people and all of the connections you can make..

Youth and Government Code of Conduct

Each participant must abide by the program Code of Conduct explained below during the conference weekend.

1. BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT: Essential to the Youth and Government program is the concern and respect for the rights of every individual. Being responsible for your own behavior and attitude at all times is an essential element of self-government benefiting not only ourselves, but fellow delegates and the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Program. All facilities placed at the disposal of the Youth and Government program are to be given the greatest care and attention. It is a PRIVILEGE to use them; treat them with respect.

2. GENERAL RULES: Infractions of the following general rules shall result in expulsion from the YMCA Youth and Government program functions and conferences. In addition local law enforcement agencies may be contacted and the participant/advisor/staff member turned over to them:

a. Laws of the State, County and City are always observed.

b. State Capitol Chamber/State House rules restrict all beverages, food, gum, or other items that might damage or disrespect the premises, including phone limitations.

c. Possession or consumption of weapons, alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed drugs are not permitted.

d. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, or misuse of a facility may be a crime and will be treated as such.

e. Attendance and punctuality is mandatory at all work sessions.

f. Those who decide to be present when a violation occurs shall be considered a participant in the violation.

g. This is a tobacco free event. There will be no smoking, chewing, use of e-cigarettes etc. in the Government buildings, in the hotel or any other facility where Youth and Government activities

take place.

h. Badges shall be worn by individuals whose name is on the badge. BADGE SWITCHING OR SHARING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Participants will wear their assigned badges at all times when they are not in their sleeping rooms, and must be able to produce their badges at all times. Badges are to be worn above the waist and must be visible. Badges are not to be defaced or altered in any way.

i. Delegates will be expected to dress professionally and respectfully. Delegation Advisors will be the ultimate authority on evaluating this for their students.

j. Delegates may enter only their own assigned hotel room unless in the presence of their advisor.

k. Curfew and quiet hours must be observed with each delegate in her/his own room defined by the official schedule

l. For the safety of all each delegate's advisor may check their luggage, carry-on bags, coat pockets prior to departure similar to the security check process at an airport.

m. Participants are not permitted to drive vehicles to or from an event sponsored by the statewide program without prior permission from both the state program and their advisor.

n. Artificial Intelligence(AI) tools shall be only used for research and should not be used to directly compose speeches or bills for the conference. Any concerns or suspicions about the use of Artificial Intelligence(AI) should be brought directly to the Conference Staff and not voiced in debate. Idea do not have to be original, but crediting your sources is a crucial skill.

o. All Participants will be treated and treat others with respect. Insults, bullying, or other inappropriate behavior towards others will not be tolerated and can result in the immediate dismissal from the conference of the participant.

p. No refunds will be given for any delegate asked to leave due to a violation of the code of conduct.

3. Disciplinary Action: This code of conduct is considered binding on all participants, advisors

and staff. Each YMCA and its advisors shall be held accountable for all actions and conduct of their participants. The intent is to hold each participant accountable for his/her own actions

The State Director, and your advisor, Have the authority to interpret the Code of Conduct and administer any disciplinary action deemed necessary.

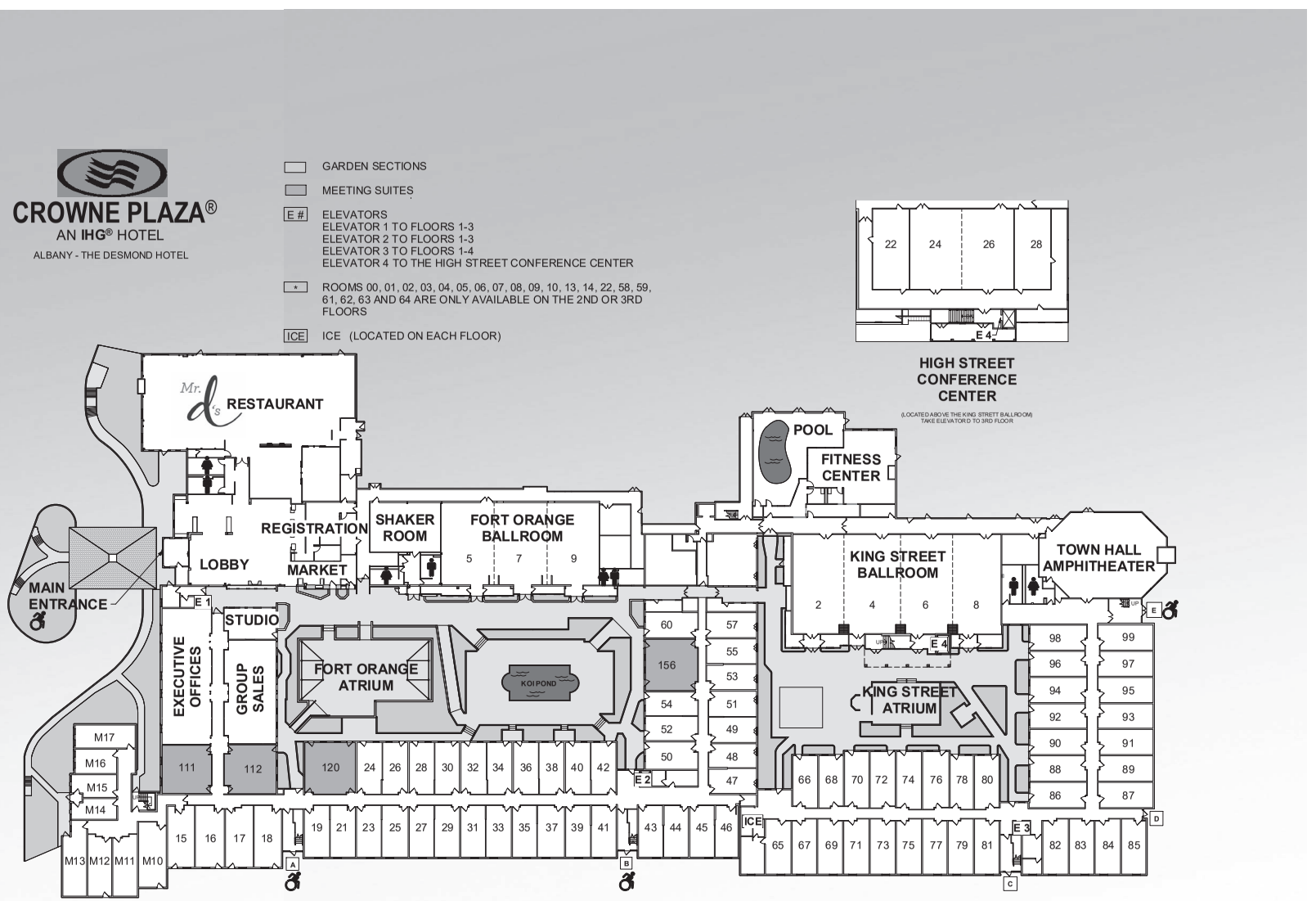
I have read and understand the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Code of Conduct and I agree to follow it. I understand that failure to adhere to the Code's minimum standards of conduct may result in my immediate expulsion from the New York State YMCA Youth and Government program.

Printed name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Printed name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____


CROWNE PLAZA®
AN IHG® HOTEL
ALBANY - THE DESMOND HOTEL
GARDEN SECTIONS
MEETING SUITES
E # ELEVATORS
ELEVATOR 1 TO FLOORS 1-3
ELEVATOR 2 TO FLOORS 1-3
ELEVATOR 3 TO FLOORS 1-4
ELEVATOR 4 TO THE HIGH STREET CONFERENCE CENTER
* ROOMS 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 13, 14, 22, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63 AND 64 ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON THE 2ND OR 3RD FLOORS
ICE ICE (LOCATED ON EACH FLOOR)
22 24 26 28
E 4
HIGH STREET CONFERENCE CENTER
(LOCATED ABOVE THE KING STRETT BALLROOM) TAKE ELEVATOR D TO 3RD FLOOR
Mr. d's RESTAURANT
POOL
FITNESS CENTER
REGISTRATION
SHAKER ROOM
FORT ORANGE BALLROOM
5 7 9
LOBBY
MARKET
KING STREET BALLROOM
2 4 6 8
TOWN HALL AMPHITHEATER
MAIN ENTRANCE
E 1
STUDIO
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
GROUP SALES
FORT ORANGE ATRIUM
KOI POND
KING STREET ATRIUM
E 2
E 3
E 4
ICE
M17 M16 M15 M14 M13 M12 M11 M10
111 112 120
15 16 17 18 19 21 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43 44 45 46
24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42
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