

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week in Focus

- On 1/13, Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered her State of the State Address at the Hart Theatre at the Egg.

Floor News

Rules Reforms

- The Assembly adopted a resolution ([E.826](#)) amending the Assembly Rules to:
 - Divide the four hours of debate equally between the conferences, with exceptions for budget bills, one-house resolutions, and constitutional amendments.
 - Provides for a waiver between the speaker and minority leader for debate beyond the two hours;
 - Clarify the speaker's authority to maintain decorum and keep debate on topic;
 - Clarify remote participation is subject to the speaker's policies;
 - Prohibit resolutions related to U.S. foreign policy and actions of other governments;
 - Reaffirm public access to central administrative records; and
 - Strengthen privacy safeguards by exempting personal identifying information of members and staff from disclosure (vote: 99-45).

Veterans Tuition Awards Program

- The Assembly and Senate passed a bill ([A.9476](#)) that amends Chapter 688 of the Laws of 2025, which expanded the Veteran Tuition Awards Program to allow the transfer of unused benefits to a spouse, survivor, or child. This chapter amendment replaces the term "survivor" with "financial dependent," limits eligible veterans to transferring unused benefits to one recipient, and caps the total number of award transfers at 100 per year (vote: 143-0).



Committee News

Aging

- The Aging Committee reported a bill ([A.4195-A](#)) that requires the NY Connects Program to specifically provide information regarding and conduct education and outreach on programs and services for individuals who have Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.
 - This bill was reported to Ways and Means.

Children and Families

- The Children and Families Committee reported a bill ([A.9481](#)) that amends Chapter 668 of the Laws of 2025, which prohibited anonymous reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). This chapter amendment maintains the prohibition on anonymous reporting but adds language authorizing the SCR to transmit a report without contact information if it is believed that the caller is under 18.
 - This bill was reported to Rules and subsequently to the Floor.

Codes

- Despite unanimous Republican opposition, the Codes Committee reported a bill ([A.9492](#)) amending Chapter 632 of the Laws of 2025, which directed the Office of Children and Family Services to establish standards to develop a training curriculum for all child protective service workers to teach appropriate investigatory techniques for reports of sexual abuse and mandates ongoing training. This chapter amendment limits the scope of those subject to training requirements to apply only to child protective service workers assigned to multidisciplinary investigative teams established by social services districts.
 - The bill was reported to Rules and subsequently to the Floor.

Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

- The Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee reported a bill ([A.9462](#)) amending Chapter 709 of the Laws of 2025, which repealed the residential benefits of the "100-Foot Rule," which is the subsidy by which the costs of gas line installations and hook-ups are allocated amongst the rest of the ratepayer base of the particular utility. This chapter amendment extends the effective date of the underlying Chapter from December 19, 2025, to December 19, 2026.
 - This bill was reported to Rules and subsequently to the Floor.

Energy

- Despite unanimous Republican opposition, the Energy Committee reported a bill ([A.9039-A](#)) enacting the "Accountability of Costs for Data Centers Act" ("AC/DC Act"). This bill seeks to ensure that particular costs are borne by "large energy use facilities," such as data centers, and forbids the Public Service Commission (PSC) from approving a utility's change of rates or related updates to a tariff unless such proposal includes a service classification for said facilities.
 - This bill was reported to the Floor.

Committee News

Environmental Conservation

- Despite unanimous Republican opposition, the Environmental Conservation Committee reported the following bills:
 - **A.9504**: Amends Chapter 712 of 2025, which established extended producer responsibility for rechargeable batteries. This chapter amendment expands the definition of “battery manufacturer” to include e-bike and e-scooter manufacturers when the rechargeable battery maker is unknown, requires retailers to accept up to five batteries per person daily, prohibits manufacturer sales in the state without participation in an approved recycling plan, and directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to consult with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control or the New York City Fire Department when reviewing recycling plans.
 - This bill was reported to Rules and subsequently to the Floor.
 - **A.9511**: Amends Chapter 671 of 2025, which prohibited the lease of state forests, reforestation areas, wildlife management areas, and unique areas for gas and oil production. This chapter amendment clarifies that the assignment, transfer, or modification of any lease entered into, on, or before December 19, 2025, is allowed, provided that no such transfer would result in the expansion of existing gas or oil wells or the drilling of new wells and that such leases cannot be continued or renewed upon expiration.
 - This bill was reported to Rules and subsequently to the Floor.
- The Environmental Conservation Committee reported (**A.9047**), which prohibits the sale of buoys, docks, or floating structures made with expanded polystyrene foam, extruded polystyrene foam, or rigid polystyrene starting January 1, 2027.
 - This bill was reported to the Floor.

Governmental Operations

- Despite unanimous Republican opposition, the Governmental Operations Committee reported a bill (**A.1037-A**), which prohibits any employer, licensing agency, or employment agency from requesting or requiring a prospective employee’s date of graduation during the hiring process.
 - This bill was reported to Codes.

Higher Education

- The Higher Education Committee reported a bill (**A.1612**) that allows certified emergency responders to provide basic first aid to cats and dogs before veterinary transfer and grants limited liability protection for responders and veterinarians acting reasonably and in good faith.
 - This bill was reported to Codes.

Committee News

Real Property Taxation

- The Real Property Taxation Committee reported a bill ([A.9448](#)) amending Chapter 672 of the Laws of 2025, which created a real property tax exemption for the primary residence of veterans who have a 100% service-connected disability. This chapter amendment makes the exemption mandatory statewide, prevents assessed values from being reduced below zero, and delays implementation to rolls with taxable status dates on or after October 1, 2026.
 - This bill was reported to Ways & Means, then to Rules, and subsequently to the Floor.