



Legislative Update



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ON YOUR BEHALF

Meeting with Business Leaders and Legislators:

The NYSSCPA's President Lynne M. Fuentes, Past Presidents Rumbi Bwerinofa-Petrozzello and Joseph M. Falbo Jr., Northeast Chapter President Beth van Bladel, Legislative Task Force member Philip J. London, and CEO Calvin Harris Jr. attended the Business Council of New York State's annual Government Affairs Roundtable, the Annual Legislators' Reception, and the inaugural New Legislators Breakfast. During these events, our leaders were able to talk to other business leaders, members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and Gov. Kathy Hochul. Our leaders expressed the importance of the accounting profession to business leaders and our legislative agenda to the Albany stakeholders, while also urging them to pass legislation that we worked on, such as non-CPA firm ownership and financial literacy in schools.



NYSSCPA Leadership at the Annual BCNYS Legislator's Reception in Albany

NYSSCPA at the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators 52nd Annual Legislative Conference Weekend:

Vice President Orume Hays, Board Members A'Isha Torrence and Michael Durant and Past President Rumbi Bwerinofa-Petrozzello attended the 52nd Annual Legislative Conference hosted by the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislators Caucus. During the conference the members were able to have conversations with Gov. Kathy Hochul, Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, Second Lady Lacey Delgado, Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Public Advocate Jumanne Williams, Senators Jamal T. Bailey, John C. Liu, Julia Salazar, Iwen Chu, Kevin Parker, and Zellnor Myrie; and Assembly Members Khaleel Anderson, Latoya Joyner, Latrice M. Walker, Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Inez E. Dickens, Harvey Epstein, Pamela J. Hunter, Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes (Assembly Majority Leader), Jenifer Rajkumar, and Yudelka Tapia. Conversations ranged from financial literacy, non-CPA firm ownership, and how CPAs can work with the local, county and state governments for the public's best interests.



NYSSCPA at the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian NYSSCPA Leadership at the Annual BCNYS Legislator's Reception in Albany

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HOW IT WORKS

How a Bill Becomes Law in New York State: When legislators propose an idea for legislation, they submit their suggestion to the Bill Drafting Commission, where it is translated into formal language. After receiving its formal language, the bill is introduced and assigned a bill number. Historically, this is where the legislator who authored the idea for the legislation begins to communicate with his or her colleagues to gain co-sponsors, who are legislators that agree with the bill's intent and will help the author get the bill passed through the process.

The bill is then assigned to the appropriate committee or committees for discussion and analysis. If a majority of the members on the committee support it, the bill is reported to the floor. If not, it can be said to have "died in committee." All bills requiring an expenditure of state funds must be sent to the Ways and Means Committee, one of the most—if not *the* most—vital committees in the Legislature. They make sure that the state can afford the cost of the bill. These bills won't reach the floor of the Legislature for a vote unless the Ways and Means Committee approves the legislation. Similarly, bills that impose criminal and civil sanctions must go before the Codes Committee. Bills can be modified during the committee process. Committee members are known for suggesting amendments to the bills that they may not agree with, or if they don't think the bill goes far enough.

A final version of the bill must age for at least three days before being voted on, unless the governor authorizes, and the legislature accepts, a Messages of Necessity for that bill. The bill is sent to the floor of one of the legislative chambers, either the Senate or Assembly floor, for debate and a vote. If the bill passes one chamber, it is sent on to the other chamber for a similar process. If both houses pass the bill, it is sent over to the governor for her signature.

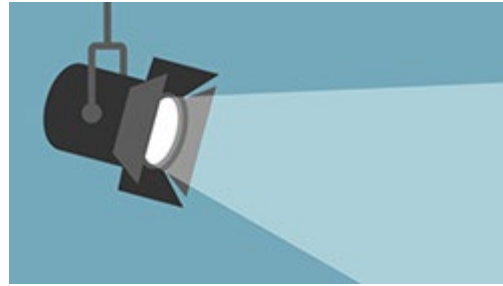
The governor can sign a bill, which approves the bill; veto the bill, which rejects the bills and sends it back to the Legislature; or gives it a "pocket approval," which means that if the governor fails to act on a bill within 10 days of receiving it, the bill is automatically approved. If the governor decides to veto the bill, but the Legislature feels strongly about it, the Legislature can override the governor's veto by voting on the bill again by a two-thirds majority vote from both chambers. Currently, both chambers of the Legislature have the necessary democratic party line supermajority, which is enough to override any veto from the governor.

Once the governor signs the bill and approves the legislation, that bill becomes law, per the bill's effective date.

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA SPOTLIGHT

The Legislative Agenda is currently being developed and will go through Board of Directors approval. The 2023 Agenda should be released in the next edition of the *Legislative Update*.



Power of Attorney E-Signature Expansion

BACKGROUND: Although New York state recently passed its historic e-signature bill, the NYSSCPA is looking for an expansion that would allow documents to be signed electronically by someone holding Power of Attorney.

UPDATE: A.7955 (Magnarelli)/S.6851 (Liu) was introduced late in the 2020 legislative session. Legislation is currently in committee for the 2022 legislative session.

[Read the 2022 NYSSCPA Legislative & Regulatory Agenda in full.](#)

STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATES

Get the latest information from the following statewide officials and the federal government:

Governor Kathy Hochul:

- [Gov. Hochul Announces More Than \\$62 Million to Strengthen Emergency Communications and Interoperability Infrastructure in New York State](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$658 Million to Strengthen Access to High Quality Health Care](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$7.6 Million Available to Support Improvements to Animal Shelters](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Opening of the Third Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensary in Manhattan](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$234 Million in Additional Food Assistance for February](#)
- [Governor Announces Over \\$40 M Investment in Infrastructure, Including First NY Drinking Water Project Funded by Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Details of \\$1 Billion Plan to Overhaul New York State's Continuum of Mental Health Care](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Highlights of FY 2024 Executive Budget](#)

Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli:

- [DiNapoli Calls for Long-Needed State Debt Reform](#)
- [New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli Statement on Executive Budget Proposal](#)
- [DiNapoli: Local Sales Tax Collections Grew 12.7% to \\$22.1 Billion in 2022](#)
- [State Comptroller DiNapoli Releases School Audits](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Pension Fund Valued at \\$242.3 Billion at End of Third Quarter](#)
- [DiNapoli Seeks Increased Diversity at Pension Fund's Portfolio Companies](#)
- [Local Sales Tax Collections Grew by Over 9% in January Compared to Last Year](#)
- [DiNapoli: Thruway Authority Toll Increases Should Be Last Option](#)

Attorney General Letitia James:

- [AG James Secures \\$410,000 from Tech Companies for Illegally Promoting Spyware and Violating New Yorkers' Privacy](#)
- [AG James Successfully Defends New York's Rent Stabilization Laws](#)

The New York State Senate:

- [Senate Approves Greater Limousine Safety Reforms, Passenger Protection Protocols](#)
- [Legislature Announces 2023 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Schedule](#)
- [Senate Approves Measures to Attract, Develop, and Retain Greater Diversity of New York State Educators](#)

The Blue Book: Senate Majority Staff Analysis of the 2023-2024 Executive Budget Proposal

The New York Assembly:

- [Legislature Announces 2023 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Schedule](#)

The White House:

- [Statement from President Joe Biden on Travel to Kyiv, Ukraine](#)
- [FACT SHEET: President Biden Signs Executive Order to Strengthen Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Across the Federal Government](#)
- [FACT SHEET: White House Highlights Infrastructure Progress in Every Corner of the Country, Updates State-by-State Fact Sheets](#)
- [FACT SHEET: In State of the Union, President Biden to Outline Vision to Advance Progress on Unity Agenda in Year Ahead](#)

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NYSSCPA COMMENT LETTERS

Stay up-to-date with NYSSCPA Comment Letters:

- [Comments to the New York State Office of Cannabis Management Invitation to Comment—Adult-Use Cannabis Proposed Regulations in New York](#)
2/13/23 Comments on adult-use cannabis proposed regulations for the implementation of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act of New York.



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ARTICLES ON LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY

To keep you informed of the latest news:

- [At Confirmation Hearing, Nominee for IRS Commissioner Questioned About \\$80B in Funding](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [New York Orders Crypto Firm to Stop Issuing Binance Stablecoin](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [IRS Announces That Special Relief Payments by States Are Not Taxable](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [Fixing Social Security and Medicare: Where the Parties Stand](#), *The New York Times*



- [New York, Oregon, and Other States Eye Much Higher Taxes on High Earners](#), *Tax Foundation*
- [Cannabis Tax Reform, Illegal Market Crackdown Eyed for State Budget](#), *Spectrum 1 News*
- [New York Gov. Hochul, Sen. Addabbo on Opposite Sides of iGaming, Gambling Revenue Issues](#), *Gaming Today*
- [New York Lawmakers Weigh How to Make Companies Pay for Climate Change](#), *Spectrum 1 News*
- [Democrats Ridicule GOP's Proposal to Eliminate Most Taxes and the IRS—And Create One National Sales Tax Instead](#), *Forbes*
- [G.O.P Legislative Agenda Hits Snags Amid Party Divisions](#), *The New York Times*

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Have a Leg/Reg Issue?

Your issues matter to us! The NYSSCPA Government Relations Team wants to help you be heard in the halls of power. If you have a suggestion for our legislative agenda, if you are having trouble getting through red tape, or would like assistance reaching your local or state officials, please email Media & Government Relations Manager Jovan C. Richards at jrichards@nysscpa.org.



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THE CPA PAC AND THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

The [CPA Political Action Committee](#) (PAC) is bipartisan and raises funds to amplify the NYSSCPA's collective voice in Albany. The NYSSCPA distributes PAC donations to New York political candidates who understand the profession's needs and concerns. When you [donate to the PAC](#), you help send a clear message to legislators that issues important to the profession affect the wider business community and the public interest—and that we will be heard.



The [Legislative Task Force](#) (LTF) is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of New York state laws, legislation, rules and regulations related to the accounting profession, in particular, and business, in general. In conjunction with the Society's legislative staff, the LTF proactively recommends to the NYSSCPA Board various amendments and changes to existing legislation and regulations, on a continual basis.

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