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RMS End of Week Update 5/22/2026



Happy Memorial Day Weekend From All Of Us At Reid, McNally & Savage!

First Budget Bills Pass With Rest Expected Next Week

Seven weeks after the April 1 budget deadline, New York's budget negotiations are finally coming in for a landing, as voting on the remaining nine budget bills began Wednesday afternoon. Lawmakers approved the Education, Labor, Housing and Family Assistance late Wednesday. In addition to a two-year extension of mayoral control in New York City, Wednesday's debates focused on what will be a 2% minimum increase in Foundation Aid for school districts. That's up from 1% in the executive budget.

Additionally, while Hochul said earlier this year there would be no changes to the Foundation Aid formula, the primary mechanism used to allocate state funding for schools, the Legislature succeeded in securing two changes: additional weighting for English language learners and students experiencing homelessness.

Also included in the budget bill was a five-year delay of the state's zero-emission bus mandate. Under current law, districts would be expected to begin purchasing

electric buses next year and aim for full fleet conversion by 2035. Once signed, that deadline will shift to 2040.

Speaker Heastie told reporters that despite ELFA making it to the floor, the exact parameters of how the state will provide promised assistance for the zero-emission bus transition are still taking shape.

“We haven’t nailed down that breakdown, but there will be something to help with infrastructure and purchasing the buses,” he said.

Speaker Heastie also provided additional information on other aspects of the budget, including how the spending plan will assist municipalities in bearing the brunt of an impending \$500 million pension sweetener for public employees who are part of Tier 6, amid concerns from already fiscally strapped local governments.

“There’s also some aid that will go to municipalities that will help them cover the cost of pensions, I think it was \$50 million. The state has a part, school districts have a part, and the city has a part,” he said.

The legislature approved another major state budget bill this week, the Public Protection and General Government bill, advanced several significant policy and regulatory changes that may impact businesses, regulated entities, insurers, public agencies, and advocacy organizations across the state.

Key highlights include:

- **Immigration & ICE Accountability Measures**

The bill includes a broad package of immigrant protections and new accountability measures for ICE operations, including provisions allowing individuals to sue ICE officers over alleged constitutional rights violations retroactive to January 2025.

- **3D-Printed Firearms Restrictions**

New requirements will mandate “blocking technology” on 3D printers sold in New York to prevent the printing of firearms or automatic weapon conversion parts. The legislation also criminalizes the possession or sale of certain firearm blueprints without appropriate federal and state licensing.

- **Expanded Drone Restrictions**

The state is significantly expanding prohibited drone-use areas, including schools, correctional facilities, police and fire stations, and large public gatherings. New penalties are created for unlawful or “nefarious” drone use, including interference with emergency response operations.

• **Auto Insurance Reform Measures**

Several provisions target rising car insurance costs and fraud:

- Expanded criminal liability for organizers of staged crashes
- Elimination of “flex rating” increases that previously allowed insurers to raise premiums up to 5% without prior state approval
- Restrictions on underwriting factors, prohibiting use of zip code, education level, homeownership status, and certain occupational factors in premium calculations

• **Workers’ Compensation Changes**

The bill establishes additional funding mechanisms for workers’ compensation fraud enforcement and streamlines provider participation by allowing any state-licensed healthcare provider to treat injured workers beginning in 2028.

• **Procurement & Oversight Changes**

Procurement thresholds for discretionary purchasing will increase from current levels to \$150,000, though lawmakers scaled back broader proposals that would have significantly reduced State Comptroller oversight authority.

• **Lobbying & Ethics Compliance**

Lobbying registration fees will increase, and the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying will gain authority to assess late fees for delayed ethics training compliance by lobbyists and clients.

• **Additional Public Safety & Judicial Measures**

- Extended National Guard recruitment tuition incentives through 2031
- Expanded protections related to orders of protection in court proceedings
- New leave policies for State Police involved in critical incidents
- Extension of the state Reparations Commission reporting deadline to 2029

The legislature also passed 14th budget extender this week which runs through Tuesday, May 26th as negotiations continue on remaining budget bills, including Revenue, Transportation/Economic Development, Health, and several spending measures.

As of early Tuesday evening, it appeared likely that voting on state budget bills would not begin until after the Memorial Day weekend, but sources said a late push by Governor Hochul’s team to get the process moving was successful in teeing up the two bills that were passed this week.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie acknowledged Wednesday that key number breakdowns in the state budget have not yet been finalized, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee, criticized the majority for moving budget bills forward without a fully completed spending plan and related analysis.

“We should have a financial plan in front of us before we’re considering more than a quarter-trillion-dollar budget and doing it bill by bill, with education having such a financial impact on it,” he said.

For more information, please click [here](#).

OHIP April 2026 Medicaid Update Released

This week the Office of Health Insurance Programs of the New York State Department of Health approved the release of the April 2026 [Medicaid Update](#). Please find the print-ready version of the issue available for download at:

https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2026/docs/mu_no05_a_pr26_pr.pdf.

You may also go straight to an article or topic that pertains to you by selecting from the current issue’s table of contents below.

All Providers

- [Continued Development of the New York State Medicaid Provider Services Portal: New Enrollment for All Provider Types Now Available \(Cover\)](#)
- [Reminder: Disenrollment Rules and Recovery Rules for Mainstream Medicaid Managed Care, Health and Recovery Plans, and Special Needs Plans](#)

Policy and Billing

- [Obstetric Billing Changes for Prenatal Services Related to Upcoming Global Obstetric Fee Changes](#)
- [Submission of Secondary Claims to New York State Medicaid and Use of Claim Adjustment Codes](#)
- [Updates to Fee Schedules for Physician, Nurse Practitioner and Midwife Services](#)
- [Coverage of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System "G2211": Add-On Code for Complex Pediatric Care](#)

Helpful Links and Resources

[RMS Budget One House Revenue and Tax Table](#)

[RMS Health/Mental Hygiene One House Budget Table](#)

[Assembly Yellow Book](#)

[Senate Blue Book](#)

[FY 27 Senate Finance Economic and Revenue Report](#)

[FY27 Assembly Ways & Means Economic and Revenue Report](#)

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Department of Financial Services information and resources
New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>