

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

2024 Joint State Legislative Package



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George Latimer, Westchester County Executive
Vedat Gashi, Chairman, Westchester County Board of Legislators
Colin Smith, Chair, Committee on Legislation



Vedat Gashi, Chairman
Westchester County Board of
Legislators

**Westchester
County**

George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

February 9, 2024

Hon. Kathy Hochul, NYS Governor
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader
Hon. Carl Heastie, NYS Assembly Speaker
Honorable Senators and Assembly Members, Westchester County Delegation

Dear Colleagues,

Together, Westchester County and our New York State delegation have delivered much for our residents.

Through the coronavirus pandemic and a number of difficult budget cycles, your work in Albany secured tax relief for Westchester's homeowners; you secured crucial public safety authorizations, allowing the County to do more to protect its residents; you delivered legal support for our most vulnerable residents, ensuring Westchester County can work to represent them in severe, exigent circumstances; you provided an enhanced authorization to make more families eligible for the County's childcare.

This year, we have identified a number of further directions where – with your support – we can continue to deliver for Westchester's residents. Together, we can continue our record of cutting costs for Westchester's residents, enhancing public safety, supporting the dignity of our vulnerable populations and the health of all of our residents; together, we can develop and enhance top of the line infrastructure, and respond to the day-to-day needs of our people.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your staff, and thank you for your consideration of the items submitted herein.

Sincerely,

Vedat Gashi, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

Colin Smith, Chair
Committee on Legislation

2024 WESTCHESTER COUNTY JOINT STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

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Table of Contents

2024 Joint State Legislative Package

Budgetary Initiatives

Authorize Design Build for Westchester County	1
Continue the 18B Assigned Counsel Reimbursement	2
Restore Westchester County’s eFMAP State Reimbursement	3
Extend the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program	4
Amend the STOA Formula	5
Hold the Line on Key Revenue Streams	6
Continue to Support the Expansion of Downstate Casino Licenses	7
Extend School Bus Stop Arm Camera Authorization	8

Legislative Initiatives

Support the Governor’s Proposal on Commercial Insurance Minimum Reimbursement Rates for Behavioral (Mental) Health Services	18
Amend Custodial Intake and Interrogation Procedures for Minors	19
Support the Expansion and Enhancement of Emergency Medical Services	20
Require IDAs Include Labor and School Board Representatives	21
Prohibit Termination of Tenancy for Seniors and Disabled Tenants	22
Collective Negotiations by Health Care Providers and Health Insurance Companies	23
Remove Discriminatory Language in Restrictive Covenants	24
Develop Preventative and Mitigative Strategies to Respond to Flooding	25
State Delegation Support List	27

FINANCE

Section I

Authorize Design Build for Westchester County

REQUEST

Provide Westchester County with authorization to utilize Design-Build project delivery.

JUSTIFICATION

In 2019, seven New York City agencies received authorization to utilize Design-Build project delivery (as opposed to Design-Bid-Build) through the Public Works Investment Act (PWIA). Design-Build consolidates projects into one point of responsibility on the basis, of which, design and construction team can deliver the best project at the best value. Westchester County believes this novel strategy would allow it to save money and deliver an enhanced level of quality on forthcoming projects.

Under the current Design-Bid-Build model, the ‘Design’ and ‘Build’ components of a project are barred from collaboration, slowing project schedules, increasing cost, and resulting in lower quality in final completed projects. New York City is required to provide annual reports on design-build projects, including short lists and proposers, cost savings, time savings and MWBE utilization within the project. Westchester county would be willing to provide this information as well. We intend to work closely with organized labor representatives in implementing this program.

In order to save costs for taxpayers and implement a more logistically robust project delivery system, Westchester requests authorization from New York State to utilize Design-Build.

HISTORY

This item was requested as part of the 2023 State Legislative Package.

Continue the 18B Assigned Counsel Reimbursement

REQUEST

Continue the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement

JUSTIFICATION

In the enacted FY24 New York State Budget, the hourly rate of 18B assigned counsel attorneys was increased from \$60 per hour for misdemeanors or lesser offenses and \$75 per hour for felonies and other matters to a universal \$158 per hour rate. This rate increase became effective as of April 1, 2023.

To offset this new cost, the FY24 State Budget also created a \$92 million fund to reimburse counties for 50% of eligible expenditures related to this rate increase. Entities requesting the reimbursement do so by submitting a certification form to the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services on a quarterly basis, and within 12 months of which the expenditures were incurred.

Westchester saw over \$11 million in new costs as a result of the rate increase. The Assigned Counsel Reimbursement is providing Westchester with reimbursement equal to 50% of the new cost. Westchester has budgeted a total program cost of \$25.2 million for 2024, of which New York State will reimburse \$7.6 million – or half of the \$15.2 million attributable to the rate increase.

This reimbursement allowed us to continue our work reducing costs for our tax burdened residents. Without this fund, Westchester County will be forced to look for new revenues to make up \$7.6 million – and growing – in annual expenses.

As such, Westchester County requests that the 18B Assigned Counsel Reimbursement be continued as part of the FY25 New York State Budget.

HISTORY

2023: New York State raises 18B Assigned Counsel Attorney fees and creates the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement program.

Restore Westchester County's eFMAP State Reimbursement

REQUEST

Restore Westchester County's eFMAP State Reimbursement.

JUSTIFICATION

As part of the FY24 New York State Budget, a discretionary administrative action by the Department of Budget allowed New York State to permanently intercept all Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced Federal Matching Percentage (eFMAP) funds. This action was separate from the State budget bill and could not be amended by State legislators.

ACA eFMAP funds are funds allocated by the federal government to offset the costs incurred by governments as part of the Medicaid program. New York State receives these funds and had, before FY24, passed a share of these funds to counties and New York City.

In Westchester County, this amounted to over \$20 million in annual aid from the federal government. New York State ended this pass-through, but has scheduled the end of these payments over three years. The schedule of these new expenses in Westchester will occur as below:

- Westchester saw an impact of \$1.8 million in FY23
- Westchester expects to see an impact of \$20 million in FY24
- Westchester expects to see an impact of \$23 million in FY25

This \$29 million in new annualized costs will require significant new revenues: To avoid any additional cost to county taxpayers, and in the context of New York State's improved financial position, Westchester County asks that the ACA eFMAP pass-through be restored.

HISTORY

2023: ACA eFMAP pass-through is ended by discretionary State action, creating new annualized costs over \$20 million for Westchester County, to be phased in over 3 years.

Extend the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program

REQUEST

Lift the July 1, 2025 sunset on the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program and remove the 7-year eligibility period.

JUSTIFICATION

The Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant's final reactor ceased operation in 2021. This closure resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs and millions in tax revenue in nearby communities. Westchester County's tax revenues were impacted by this closure.

New York State created the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program in 2015 to provide funding assistance to counties, towns, cities, villages, school districts and special districts that experience a reduction in property taxes due to the closure of an electric generating facility. Of the \$140 million originally allocated to this fund, a majority of the funding, over \$99.5 million, remains.

Westchester County has relied on this program to offset revenue loss and to keep costs low for its taxpayers: The County has received roughly \$2.9 million from this program so far, and would continue to receive funding for another 5 years, despite the sunset of the program.

But the job loss and loss of revenue from Indian Point's closure continue to impact Westchester and many communities in proximity to the plant. The large waterfront space is essentially impossible to redevelop, and it will take longer than 7 years to make up for the lost jobs and economic opportunity in the area.

This fund has also supported a local governments and nonprofit organizations, including:

- Town of Cortlandt and Village of Buchanan: \$7 million
- Hendrick Hudson School District: \$500,000
- Teamsters Local 456: \$250,000
- Historic Hudson Valley: \$750,000
- Hudson River Foundation: \$6.5 million

As such, Westchester requests that the July 1, 2025 sunset of the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program be lifted, and the 7 year eligibility period be waived so that the County and additional local entities impacted by the closure of Indian Point can continue to rely on this funding until the fund is depleted.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Amend the STOA Formula

REQUEST

Amend the State Operating Assistance (STOA) Formula to provide Westchester County financial parity with Nassau County's transit assistance.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County's Bee Line Bus Service has a larger ridership than Nassau County, but receives less in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA); the STOA formula currently prioritizes the distance of a transportation system rather than its ridership. This favors counties like Nassau and provides Westchester with a more limited allocation despite its higher ridership and significant transportation issues.

This aid serves a crucial purpose in Westchester County. Following the decline in ridership through the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen an increase from 20.6 million passengers in 2022 to 22.5 million passengers by fall 2023. Over 2/3 of Westchester's riders are transit-dependent, meaning they rely on the Bee Line and do not have a car for their use. Our riders are also lower income, and many of them report being members of a minority group: Over 70% of passengers reported household incomes below \$50,000 and 44% reported incomes under \$25,000. Nearly 50% of our passengers identified themselves as African American/Black, and 36% identified themselves as Hispanic.

As of the enacted FY24 budget, Westchester receives \$92.7 million in STOA aid, while Nassau County receives roughly \$112.2 million in STOA aid.

Westchester's public transit policies have included a widespread conversion of its bus fleet from diesel to hybrid-electric and fully electric, ensuring reduced environmental impacts. We believe these policies place our system at the vanguard of transportation implementation and reform; amending the STOA formula will allow us to expand this work to better serve residents of Westchester County.

As New York State continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and strives to meet its net zero carbon emissions goals, supporting Westchester's public transportation system will have significant environmental and economic benefits. Westchester County therefore requests that the STOA formula be amended to give Westchester County financial parity with Nassau County.

HISTORY

This item was requested in the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Joint State Legislative Packages.

2020 – Westchester County receives \$12.9M less than Nassau County.

2021 – Westchester County receives \$12.6M less than Nassau County.

2022 – Westchester County receives \$17.9M less than Nassau County.

2023 – Westchester County receives \$19.4M less than Nassau County.

Hold the Line on Key Revenue Streams

REQUEST

Raise the Age funding: Westchester receives \$14.6 million to support local diversion programs, and comprehensive programming for youthful offenders, reducing the risk of recidivism. Westchester asks that this funding be continued.

Article 6 State Aid calculation: The calculation of Article 6 state aid for public health work was revised on 4/1/22, providing the Health Department with an additional \$3 Million in aid compared to 2021. Westchester asks that this change be maintained.

Foster Care Block Grant: Westchester currently receives \$15.1 million to support foster care through this program. Westchester has worked to maximize the impact of this funding, safely reducing costs by emphasizing kinship and family care, resulting in savings of over \$20 million since 2011. OCFS's actions to reduce its contribution or equalize its share will increase the County's costs, despite our success on this front.

Safety Net Assistance Reimbursement: In SFY 2011, OTDA reduced its share of Safety Net funding from 50% to 29%. This reduction of 21% in NYS funding of Safety Net when applied to Westchester County's budget results in a budgeted loss of \$12.9 million. Further cuts to this program would require additional cuts to county programs.

Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSPJ): This program diverts youth from detention to residential care, resulting in better outcomes for these populations. Westchester asks that this funding be continued. Please maintain the 62% matching funds allocated through OCFS (\$601,400) and the allocation of Raise the Age funding designated for STSPJ (\$874,000)

Child Welfare preventative funding: OCFS reduced its share of Child Welfare preventive funding from 65% to 62% in 2008 in what was anticipated to be a temporary action. Funding was never restored, resulting in an annual additional cost to Westchester of \$500,000. Westchester asks that this funding be restored.

Fund Eviction Prevention Legal Services: New York State has provided funding for eviction prevention legal services to represent clients in eviction cases. Courts still face a backlog of eviction cases, due to the pandemic eviction moratorium, despite recent movement. If funding is cut or reduced, enormous demand for legal support will be generated in Westchester, forcing additional costs onto the County. As such, Westchester asks that this funding be continued.

JUSTIFICATION

The above are programs identified by Westchester County as particularly sensitive – as such, the County asks that funding for these programs be addressed as expressed above.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Continue to Support the Expansion of Downstate Casino Licenses

REQUEST

Continue to support the provision of a full commercial gaming license to Empire City Casino in Yonkers.

JUSTIFICATION

The provision of a full commercial gaming license to Empire City Casino in Yonkers will bring new jobs, new tourism and tax revenue, new opportunities for MWBEs and local businesses, and additional funding for education to Westchester County.

Tourism Revenue: New York City has an average of 62 million tourists visit on an annual basis. Despite this fact, millions of dollars in gaming revenue go to neighboring states due to New York City and Westchester County's limited gaming opportunities. New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania all have some of the highest gaming revenue statistics in the country, and greatly benefit from New York's casino licensing moratorium.

Job Creation: Unemployment in Westchester County continues to decrease, in part due to private employers such as Empire City, who currently employs over 1,200 people in the City of Yonkers. These are highly sought-after jobs, many of which have union representation.

Education Funding: Counties throughout New York State remain concerned about the lack of funding for education. The expansion of commercial casino licenses would generate increased education dollars not only for Westchester County, but for school districts throughout New York State.

MWBE/ Diversity Opportunities: The economic and employment benefits of casino expansion are far reaching, and would have a significant impact on Minority, Women and Veteran Owned Businesses. New casino development would provide opportunities for service providers, vendors and consultants who work in the gaming industry, and are part of these traditionally underrepresented groups.

As such, Westchester County requests that members of its delegation continue supporting the provision of a full commercial gaming license to this facility.

HISTORY

This item was included in the 2021 and 2022 Joint State Legislative Packages.

Extend School Bus Stop Arm Camera Authorization

REQUEST

Extend counties' authority to implement school bus stop arm cameras.

JUSTIFICATION

New York State provided counties with the authority to implement a school bus stop arm PILOT program, as part of a broad initiative to improve school bus safety. School bus stop arm cameras are broadly supported by parents, and are a proven and effective deterrent. Unfortunately, the authority for counties to implement this PILOT expires December 1, 2024.

Westchester County has passed legislation to develop a school bus stop arm program for school districts in Westchester County, and has been working to implement this program. Parents and school districts have stressed the urgency of this program, for its capacity to enhance safety for schoolchildren County-wide. In order to continue supporting the safety of Westchester's school-age population, Westchester asks that this authorization be extended.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Section II

Support the Governor’s Proposal on Commercial Insurance Minimum Reimbursement Rates for Behavioral (Mental) Health Services

REQUEST

Support the Governor’s Executive Proposal on Commercial Insurance Minimum Reimbursement Rates for Behavioral (Mental) Health Services.

JUSTIFICATION

As part of the proposed FY25 Executive Budget, Governor Hochul included legislation which would require New York State-regulated insurers to reimburse providers licensed by Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) at or above the Medicaid rate for outpatient behavioral health services.

Currently, insurance coverage for behavioral health care is very limited. Commercial health insurance carriers pay 60-90% of what Medicaid pays providers for behavioral health care. These rates are so low that many providers do not even accept insurance. This means that many in need of mental health service are forced to pay for a majority of the cost out of pocket – and those unable to afford that expense are unable to get assistance, meaning that their symptoms will worsen until they are in need of hospitalization.

As such, Westchester County supports Governor Hochul’s proposal to require that insurers licensed by OMH and OASAS reimburse providers at or above the Medicaid rate.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

2023-2024: [S8307](#) Part AA (Budget)
 [A8807](#) Part AA (Budget)

Amend Custodial Intake and Interrogation Procedures for Minors

REQUEST

Westchester County urges the adoption of legislation that would amend procedures required for the custodial interrogation of children to provide additional protections and for taking juveniles and sixteen and seventeen year olds into police custody.

JUSTIFICATION

Minors taken into custody by law enforcement are often unaware of their rights, and may waive them believing it will help their case, resulting in custodial interrogation by law enforcement before they have ever consulted with an attorney. History shows that the rights of youth, especially those of minority demographics, have not been sufficiently protected in this regard, as evidenced by the “Central Park Five” case.

Legislation proposed by Senator Bailey helps to clarify and protect the rights of children in custody, as well as making associated changes to NYS Criminal Procedure Law to help ensure minors in police custody understand their rights before deciding whether or not to give them up and would seek to raise to age 18 existing protections for youth under the age of 16. Additionally, this legislation also requires that a minor arrested without a warrant be brought directly to court, instead of the police station, if a parent or legally responsible adult is not expected to appear for them and they are not being questioned, unless otherwise required by law.

This is beneficial to youth as they are still developing, both neurologically and socially. Young people may not understand their rights or the consequences of waiving them. Additionally, the historically tenuous relationship between youth, especially those of color, and law enforcement makes it difficult for young people to assert their rights or make clearheaded decisions about waiving them. The proposed legislation addresses deficiencies in existing law by considering both science and power dynamics when youth are in the custody of law enforcement and validates their rights by ensuring counsel is granted that will help them understand these rights.

HISTORY

This item was requested in the 2022 and 2023 Joint State Legislative Packages.

2023-24	S.1099 – Bailey A.1963 – Joyner
2021-22	S.2800C – Bailey A.5891C – Joyner
2019-20	S.4980B – Bailey A.6982B – Joyner

Support the Expansion and Enhancement of Emergency Medical Services

REQUEST

Westchester County urges the adoption of legislation that relates to emergency medical services (EMS) and includes the establishment of an EMS quality and sustainability assurance program, a statewide comprehensive EMS plan, and an EMS training program.

JUSTIFICATION

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems throughout our nation have been facing a crisis in recent years. The problems leading to this situation have been building, and have now been pushed to the point of crisis by the coronavirus pandemic. This situation exists here in Westchester County, where staffing shortages have led to dramatic increases in mutual aid calls and increases in wait times for a responding ambulance. In 2021 over 7,000 requests for EMS mutual aid were received, a 58% increase from the previous year. When someone is having a critical health emergency, and calls for an ambulance, time matters, and a delayed response to a critical patient can make the difference between life and death.

Many people are surprised to learn that EMS is not designated as an "essential service" by state or federal law, as police and fire service are, resulting in fewer revenue streams to support paid positions and state of the art equipment. As a result, EMS providers, including those in Westchester, are struggling to find and retain staff. In addition, EMS personnel feel that they are undervalued and under respected, exacerbating an already serious shortage of trained personnel. Yet people expect EMS services to be available at all times and in all locations.

Legislation proposed by Westchester Senator Shelley Mayer takes steps to recognize EMS as an essential service that must be provided in every area of the state. Requiring at least a minimum level of uniform EMS service ensures that all residents receive these public health and safety protections, especially during emergencies, and have access to early intervention health care which will help provide better care for patients, assist medical providers at the hospital, and lower overall medical costs. Additionally, to incentivize retention among EMS personnel, this bill expands access to health insurance and retirement benefits available to EMS providers, and sets quality standards for EMS.

HISTORY

2023-24	S.4020B – Mayer A.3392B – Otis
2021-22	S.8432A – Mayer A.9509A – Otis

Require IDAs Include Labor and School Board Representatives

REQUEST

Require all industrial development agency boards have at least one representative from a local labor union and at least one representative from a school board.

JUSTIFICATION

New York State law authorizes industrial development agencies to grant incentives to businesses and projects to promote job growth and the vitality of our local economies. These incentives, which often include significant tax abatements, may reduce local tax revenue and impact residents, workers, and local school districts.

Westchester County has voluntarily required that labor unions be represented on its industrial development agency board and is open to the inclusion of a school board representative. Implementation on a statewide scale will ensure diverse representation on crucial economic development initiatives throughout Westchester County.

As such, Westchester County asks that legislation be adopted requiring that labor and school board representatives be included on all industrial development agency board.

HISTORY

- 2023-2024 [S.4040](#) – Mayer
 [A.7532](#) – Solages
- 2021-2022 [S.237](#) – Mayer
- 2019-2020 [S.7347](#) – Mayer

Prohibit Termination of Tenancy for Seniors and Disabled Tenants

REQUEST

Require court approval before the termination of, or failure to renew, a lease for tenants in rental buildings where substantially all of the lessees or tenants occupying such units are sixty-five years of age or older and/or are persons with disabilities.

JUSTIFICATION

As Westchester’s senior population continues to grow, more and more seniors require access to stable, affordable and physically accessible housing. To ensure these needs are met, many opt to move into senior living facilities. Many residents who move into senior housing expect they may live there for the rest of their lives.

Recently in White Plains, the Esplanade Senior Living facility decided to repurpose their property into higher-end apartments. The facility gave their senior tenants notice of their pending eviction, despite the fact the facility allowed new tenants to move in and renew leases as late as one month before announcing the evictions. Many of the approximately 150 senior citizens forced out of their homes were on fixed incomes and were not able to quickly secure new housing or had limited mobility and were not easily able to move to a new location.

Westchester seeks to protect and support its senior population. As such, we believe that court approval should be necessary to terminate leases for senior tenants.

HISTORY

This item was requested as part of the 2023 State Legislative Package.

2023-2024 [S.286](#) – Stewart-Cousins
 [A.308](#) – Burdick

2021-2022 [S.1106](#) – Stewart-Cousins
 [A.5970](#) – Burdick

2019-2020 [S.2592](#) – Stewart-Cousins
 [A.46](#) - Burdick

Collective Negotiations by Health Care Providers and Health Insurance Companies

REQUEST

Allow independent contractor physicians to conduct collective negotiations.

JUSTIFICATION

Currently, federal antitrust laws prohibit individual physicians from collectively negotiating any provisions of contracts they sign with insurance corporations. This has resulted in many individual practitioners closing their businesses, or selling their business to larger corporations.

This has had a tremendous negative impact on communities throughout Westchester County. Independent physicians are able to offer more direct, personalized care, and often perform pro bono work for low income members of the community, providing an outsize benefit to their typical footprint. But with the inability to negotiate, these practitioners are unable to receive sufficient compensation to remain operational.

As such, Westchester asks that legislation be adopted to allow collective negotiations by independent physicians, to ensure that its network of family and community physicians can be sustained and improved.

HISTORY

2023-2024 [S.4785](#) – Rivera
 [A.6019](#) – Paulin

2021-2022 [S.1575](#) – Rivera
 [A.951](#) – Gottfried

2019-2020 [S.3462](#) – Rivera
 [A.2393](#) – Gottfried

Remove Discriminatory Language in Restrictive Covenants

REQUEST

Pass legislation mandating the removal of discriminatory language in restrictive housing covenants.

JUSTIFICATION

A ‘covenant’ is a contract imposed on the purchaser of a property. Historically, many properties in Westchester County were subject to covenants – and many of these covenants still exist, containing harsh, discriminatory sensibilities and prohibiting minority groups from buying or owning the property in question.

These restrictive covenants are thankfully illegal and unenforceable in modern day – but reflect the inhumane and discriminatory practices of the past. However, under current law, there is no requirement for sellers of real property to remove these illegal restrictive covenants.

Virginia, Florida, Washington and Maryland have enacted legislation which mandated the removal of this language. In December 2020, a group in Brighton, New York removed racial covenants from deeds of nearly 300 homes.

Westchester County has many properties which retain racially discriminatory housing covenants. Although unenforceable, the legacy of racism and discrimination is still with us today. Mandating the removal of this language sends a clear message to members of our diverse communities that they are accepted in Westchester, and more broadly, in New York State.

As such, Westchester supports any legislation which would mandate the removal of these illegal, discriminatory covenants.

HISTORY

2023-2024 [S.1728](#) – Sanders
 [A.4428](#) – Steck

2021-2022 [S.4740A](#) – Sanders
 [A.6152A](#) – Steck

Develop Preventative and Mitigative Strategies to Respond to Flooding

REQUEST

Develop a statewide preventative and mitigative strategies to respond to severe flooding.

JUSTIFICATION

Flooding has become more frequent and severe in Westchester County and across New York as a result of climate change. New York State currently relies on a variety of task forces, commissions and other state-level entities dedicated to specific aspects of flooding. Unfortunately, and given the enhanced frequency and severity of flooding, a more direct response is necessary in order to keep our communities safe.

Westchester supports initiatives by Senators Mayer and Harckham and Assrmblymember Steve Otis to address this problem by creating a centralizing entity to tackle the challenges of flooding on a comprehensive basis, and the development of a fund dedicated to supporting and protecting critical infrastructure put at risk by flooding.

These initiatives will facilitate a direct, coordinated response to the statewide issues of flooding, while providing local governments and communities with the financial support they need to keep their people safe.

HISTORY

Establish an Office of Flood Prevention and Mitigation

2023-2024 [S.3335A](#) – Mayer
 [A.132A](#) – Cruz

2021-2022 [S.7581](#) – Mayer
 [A.9190](#) – Cruz

Establish the Water Resiliency Project Fund

2023-2024 [S.7764](#) – Harckham
 [A.9121](#) – Otis

STATE DELEGATION SUPPORT LIST

Section III

State Delegation Support List

1. [S.1179](#) (Harckham) / [A.7269](#) (Levenberg) – Provides an exemption from requirements for the alienation of parkland for renewable energy generating projects with a generating capacity not exceeding two megawatts and which are located above real property currently used for vehicle parking.
2. [S.4246A](#) (Harckham) / [A.5322A](#) (Glick) – Enacts the "packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act" to require companies selling, offering for sale, or distributing packaging materials and products to register with a packaging reduction organization to develop a packaging reduction and recycling plan.
3. [S.4882](#) (Mayer) / [A.2877](#) (Otis) – Relates to strengthening of utility storm response and compliance by reviewing mitigating factors including but not limited to mitigating factors and the specifics surrounding the violation or violations.
4. [S.6557A](#) (Mayer) / [A.7502](#) (Barrett) – Requires electric corporations, gas corporations, steam corporations and water-works corporations to adopt the common equity ratio and rate of return on equity authorized by the public service commission unless such utility can successfully demonstrate that such authorized rates do not meet their capital and/or operating needs.
5. [S.7697A](#) (Harckham) / [A.8373A](#) (Burdick) – Provides for adult changing tables to be placed within an enclosed restroom facility or other similar private facility that is for use by persons with disabilities who need help with diapering at commercial places of public amusement, public roadside rest areas with sanitary facilities, museums, public libraries or public buildings.
6. [S.8379](#) (Ramos) / [A.6397](#) (Burdick) – Establishes the task force to promote the employment by state agencies of people with disabilities; provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof (Part A); requires the commissioner of the Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Health, to create a sustainable, comprehensive strategy to accomplish various goals aimed at bringing persons with disabilities into employment; provides for grants to counties and local workforce investment boards to develop local strategies for enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities and to fund programs to assist people with disabilities in overcoming barriers to work (Part B).
7. [S.7079A](#) (Harckham) / [A.7552A](#) (Burdick) – Establishes the "first responder peer support program act" which supplies peer-to-peer mental health programs to first responders.
8. [S.7515](#) (Stewart-Cousins) / [A.7748](#) (Shimsky) – Enacts the "climate change property tax assessment relief act"; provides assessment relief to property owners within eligible municipalities; relates to payments of real property tax refunds and credits as a result of participating in the climate change property tax assessment relief act.
9. [S.6701](#) (Fernandez) / [A.1056](#) (Rosenthal) – Establishes the problem gambling advisory council.
10. [S.6899](#) (Harckham) / [A.7371](#) (Thiele) – Enacts the "state and local clean energy partnership", directing the public service commission to establish a standard New York state community choice aggregation program for all utility service territories.
11. [S.8333](#) (Ramos) / [A.8424](#) (Levenberg) – Requires health insurance for state officers and employees who receive health insurance benefits from the state to take effect immediately upon employment.

12. [S311B](#) (Salazaar) / [A4927A](#) (Paulin) – Establishes a duty to inform maternity patients about the risks associated with cesarean section for patients undergoing a primary cesarean section; establishes a duty to inform maternity patients about the reason for performing a primary cesarean section delivery.
13. [S4905A](#) (Mayer) / [A5846A](#) (Burdick) – Provides earnings limitations for retired police officers employed part-time by municipalities with a population of less than 25,000; permits such officer to work up to five hundred twenty hours in any consecutive six-month period, with no suspension or diminution of retirement allowance; establishes villages or towns shall report such hours and salary earned on a monthly basis.