

Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker • Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chair

Welcome Message From the Chair:



Dear Friend,

On behalf of the New York State Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions, I write to give you an update from the Committee with news from the summer and more.

With the 2017 legislative session now behind us, legislation that passed both houses will be sent to the Governor for his consideration before the end of the year. Bills that are signed will become law; up-to-date information on what has already been signed into law can be found in the Legislative Update section. The summer months were highlighted by statewide attention on the mass transit system in New York City, specifically the subway system. Committee members and myself were vocal in conveying concerns and needs of constituents to mass transit decision-makers as well as offering suggestions where there was room to improve. This discussion will no doubt continue to dominate the front pages as we head into 2018 and as we continue to find ways to bolster our most vital transit assets that help move New Yorkers.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and useful as we approach the holiday season. My colleagues and I will return to Albany in January for what we hope will be a productive session. In the meantime I wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Dinowitz
Chair, Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions

Important Contacts

NYS Public Service Commission

Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223
1-800-342-3377 • <http://www.dps.ny.gov/>

The purpose of the Public Service Commission is to ensure residential and business consumers in New York have access to electric, gas, steam, water, telecommunications, and cable TV services that are affordable, safe, and reliable – while protecting the natural environment. With input from its staff arm, the Department of Public Service, the Commission achieves its charge by setting rates, evaluating industry mergers, approving franchises, encouraging strategic investments, and assessing the siting of major gas and electric facilities. Every year, a number of binding orders dealing with these topics are issued by the Commission, typically, after hearing from advocates, affected industries, and everyday consumers.

NYS Department of State – Division of Corporations, State Records, and Uniform Commercial Code

99 Washington Avenue, 6th floor, Albany, NY 12231
518-473-2492 • <https://www.dos.ny.gov/corps/>

The Division of Corporations, State Records and Uniform Commercial Code examines, files, and maintains numerous documents vital to business and state government including state and local laws, oaths of office, trademarks, certificates of incorporation, and Uniform Commercial Code Article 9 financing statements.

NYS Attorney General

The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224
1-800-771-7755 • www.ag.ny.gov

The New York State Office of the Attorney General mediates and litigates various cases against businesses and individuals engaged in fraudulent, misleading, deceptive or illegal trade practices. The Office pays special attention to patterns of complaints involving the same company, in addition to new and unique issues. For complaints that the Attorney General is not currently handling, the office will direct consumers to the appropriate agency.

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554
1-888-225-5322 • <https://www.fcc.gov/>

The Federal Communications Commission regulates a variety of communication platforms that include radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable – in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. A U.S. government agency overseen by Congress, the Commission is the United States' primary authority for communication law and regulation.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2017

The following bills have been signed into law:

A.364 (Simon) **Chapter 15**

This chapter makes a technical correction to Chapter 406 of the Laws of 2016, which authorizes the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to provide financing and development services for capital facilities of the not-for-profit corporation known as Dancewave, Inc.

A.370 (Schimminger) **Chapter 19**

This chapter makes a technical correction to Chapter 431 of the Laws of 2016, which authorizes the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to provide financing and development services for capital facilities of the not-for-profit corporation known as Summit Educational Resources, Inc.

A.6527-A (Magnarelli) **Chapter 291**

This chapter extends the establishment of New York telecommunications relay service center until June 30, 2020.

A.7279 (Dinowitz) **Chapter 299**

This chapter authorizes the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to provide financing and development services for stand-alone clinical facilities of certain human services not-for-profit organizations for which DASNY is currently authorized to issue bonds and notes. Those organizations include: NYSARC, members of the Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc., and members of the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.

A.7284 (Dinowitz) **Chapter 192**

This chapter requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to submit an annual report regarding any reciprocal compacts and agreements entered into with other states for the purpose of enforcing toll violations through vehicle registration suspensions.

A.7578 (Schimminger) **Chapter 197**

This chapter changes the term of the non-voting member of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, recommended by the labor organization which represents a plurality of employees at the Authority, from eight to five years.

A.7656 (Dinowitz) **Chapter 78**

This chapter makes a technical correction to the Not-For Profit Revitalization Act (Chapter 549 of 2013) to ensure that a gross-revenue threshold amount regarding annual financial reporting of charitable organizations is not repealed as part of a phase-in of higher thresholds.

A.8136 (McDonald) **Chapter 100**

This chapter changes the requirement that the Albany Convention Center Authority meet every month to every quarter.

A.8148-B (Ortiz) **Chapter 304**

This chapter authorizes the Department of State (DOS) to accept from Green-Wood Cemetery, located in Brooklyn, an application for a certificate of amendment of certificate of incorporation, and also affirms Green-Wood's status as a not-for-profit corporation.

Chairman and Committee Members Hold 'Riders Respond' Transit Tour

On August 3rd and 4th, Chairman Jeffrey Dinowitz was joined by fellow Committee Members Carmen De La Rosa and Clyde Vanel as well as numerous colleagues from the New York State Assembly, New York City Council, and New York State Senate for a transit tour. The purpose of this tour was to hear directly from riders about their experiences during the current transit crisis. This was achieved by spending a total of 24 hours over the course of two days riding the subway throughout all five boroughs.

The most common complaints were about incessant delays and overcrowding problems, as well as lack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in most stations. Many riders said they were forced to extend their commutes by a half hour every day in order to account for unforeseen delays and service changes. Of particular ire was the lack of transparency and communication with passengers when trains broke down or were forced to change their route. Overall, riders were happy to see their elected officials recognize the transit crisis as a top priority and appreciated that they were interested in the day-to-day problems that subway users experience.



Chairman Dinowitz is joined by Assembly Subcommittee on Infrastructure Chair Clyde Vanel on the Riders Respond Tour

Chairman Dinowitz speaks to a commuter and a Riders Respond Tour volunteer about issues facing everyday commuters



47 Assembly Members Send Letter to MTA Requesting Basic Bus Improvements

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz circulated a letter among his colleagues calling for bus service to be included in plans to address the transit crisis. The letter was signed by 47 members of the New York State Assembly, including 13 members of this Committee, and has support from a variety of transit advocacy organizations. Included are requests for an accelerated implementation of transit signal priority, the adoption of all-door boarding technology, and a collaborative effort between New York City Transit (NYCT), NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), and respective communities to reexamine bus routes and street-level infrastructure such as dedicated bus lanes and bus islands.

NYCT and NYCDOT recently announced they would expand use of transit signal priority to 10 additional bus lines, but not until the year 2020. Average bus speed in New



Chairman Dinowitz is joined by Committee Members and colleagues to announce their plan for bus service improvements.

York City is seven miles per hour and even slower in high congestion areas, which lags behind most major cities in the United States. Bus ridership has steadily declined over the past decade despite record levels in other modes of mass transit, as riders are forced to reckon with buses that

are both slow and unreliable. Of notable exception is Select Bus Service, which has seen ridership increases of up to 30% after implementing changes that reduced travel times by over 15%.

Chairman Dinowitz meets with Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chair Joe Lhota to discuss ways to improve the transit system in New York City.



Helpful Information

Disputes with Public Utilities?

For assistance with a dispute with an electric, gas, telecommunications, or water utility, please contact the Office of Consumer Services within the Department of Public Service. There are a number of ways to contact the Office of Consumer Services:

Online: <http://www.dps.ny.gov/> and go to complaints

Phone: Toll Free at 1-800-342-3377 or 1-800-662-1220 for those with Hearing/Speech Impairments

Fax: 518-472-8502

Mail or In Person:

Albany • Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223

Buffalo • Ellicott Square Building
295 Main Street – 10th Floor, Room 1050, Buffalo, NY 14203

NYC • 90 Church Street, New York, NY 10007

Long Island • Department of Public Service – Long Island Office
125 East Bethpage Road, Plainview, NY 11803

Utility Emergencies

If you smell, see, or hear a natural gas leak in your immediate area, **evacuate and call 911** or your local gas provider! Do not try to find the leak or use anything that is electronically powered as that can ignite the gas. Let your local utility company handle the situation for everyone's safety.

If you see downed powerlines, **stay away and call 911** or your local electric provider! Always assume that it is a live powerline and do not touch anything the line is in contact with. When moving away, shuffle your feet, **do not run!** If your vehicle is in contact with downed powerlines, **stay inside** until electrical workers tell you it is safe to leave! If you must evacuate your vehicle due to other imminent danger, **jump** from the vehicle away from the downed power line, land with your feet together and shuffle away from the vehicle.

If there is a water main break, please contact your local water provider **as soon as possible!** If asked to by your water authority, please use bottled water or conserve your water supply and ration its usage. A good way to do this is to fill up your bath tub before water service is shut off. After water service has been restored, please run your taps for a period of time to ensure that there is no dirt, fungi, or bacteria in your water supply that can cause harm to yourself and family.

NY Dig Safely

To protect our underground utilities and structures from damage and service disruption, please call, toll free, 811 before digging. The 811 service ensures that everyone involved in the process, including the excavator, business or homeowner, and utility companies, are all on the same page so a project runs smoothly and safely for everyone involved. For more information about the NY Dig Safely program please go to <https://www.digsafelynewyork.com/safety-training/education>.

Public Transit

New York State has an extensive public transportation system made up of regional transportation authorities. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), and the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) make up just part of the more than 130 transportation authorities within the state. Using public transportation is an environmentally friendly method of transportation, which saves 1.3 billion gallons of gasoline and 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released annually. Public transportation is an economically sensible method of transportation as well; saving the average commuter almost \$10,000 annually. Nearly 60% of New York State residents use public transportation to commute to and from their workplace. Public transportation supports more than 400,000 jobs required for moving millions of New Yorkers across the State.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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2017 Legislative Update from the New York State Assembly

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To update or remove your name from the Committee mailing list, email committeemailinglist@nyassembly.gov. Please include the Committee name in the subject line. Please provide the name and address as it appears on the mailing label and any changes you would like made.

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Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chair