

New York State Assembly

Annual 2024 Report

Committee on
Higher Education



Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Patricia A. Fahy, Chair



PATRICIA A. FAHY
Assemblymember 109TH District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce, and Industry
Transportation
Environmental Conservation

MEMBER
Legislative Women's Caucus
Task Force on Women's Issues

December 15, 2024

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
New York State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 349
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of the members of the Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education, I respectfully submit to you the Committee's 2024 Annual Report, which highlights our activities over the past year.

The 2024-25 enacted state budget for higher education provides \$1.38 billion for the State University of New York (SUNY) schools and \$858 million in funding for the City University of New York (CUNY) schools. This increased investment in our public university systems includes new operating aid and capital expansion funding for each system. Notably, following the Committee's hearing on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in late 2023, the enacted budget includes the largest income eligibility expansion of the program in nearly twenty-five years.

The Committee also addressed several pressing legislative issues, including enactment of legislation that: expands eligibility for the Veterans Tuition Awards Program; authorizes the SUNY Board of Trustees to lease certain university lands for the purposes of the Albany NanoTech Complex; and authorizes pharmacies to engage in shared pharmacy services.

Thank you for your leadership and steadfast support of our state's higher education community. I am proud of my first year as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and thank you for the opportunity to continue working with you and my colleagues toward our shared goal of ensuring that our systems of public and private higher education remain the best in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Fahy".

Patricia A. Fahy
Assemblymember

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Patricia A. Fahy, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Donna A. Lupardo
Al Stirpe
Jo Anne Simon
John T. McDonald III
Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn
Alicia Hyndman
Harvey Epstein
Karen M. McMahan
Marianne Buttenschon
Sarah Clark
Phara Souffrant Forrest
Monique Chandler-Waterman
Rebecca A. Seawright
Monica P. Wallace
Christopher W. Eachus
Nader Sayegh

Minority

Robert Smullen, *Ranking Member*
Douglas Smith
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Michael W. Reilly, Jr.
Jarett C. Gandolfo
Brian D. Miller
Edward A. Flood
Scott A. Gray

Majority Staff

Maria Volpe-McDermott, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Ashley Luz, Analyst
Benjamin Decker, Associate Counsel
Jacob Egloff, Legislative Director
Alexander Flood, Committee Clerk
Joann Butler, Program and Counsel Secretary

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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education is responsible for the initiation and review of legislation relevant to higher education and the professions in New York State. It is primarily concerned with policy initiatives affecting the State University of New York (SUNY), the City University of New York (CUNY), the independent colleges and universities within New York, proprietary vocational schools, student financial aid, and the licensed professions. However, because of the complex and comprehensive nature of New York's system of higher education, the Committee has also been involved in shaping legislation in such diverse public policy fields as health care, economic and workforce development, technology, capital financing, and elementary and secondary education.

The New York State system of higher education has been heralded for decades for its quality and comprehensive service to the public with a full range of academic, professional, and vocational programs. The system includes the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY), over 100 independent colleges and universities, and approximately 400 proprietary colleges and schools located within New York State.

Founded as the Free Academy in 1847, the City University of New York has grown into the largest urban public university in the nation. CUNY comprises 25 campuses throughout Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island. It includes 11 senior colleges, an honors college, a graduate school of journalism, a school of professional studies, a law school, a graduate school of public health and health policy, a school of labor and urban studies, a graduate center, and seven community colleges. Through this network, CUNY provides educational opportunities and skills training to an ethnically and culturally diverse population. As of Fall 2023, CUNY enrolled approximately 233,352 students.

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive public university system in the nation, embracing 64 distinct individual campuses located in urban, suburban, and rural communities across New York State. These 64 campuses include 30 community colleges, 29 state-operated campuses, and five statutory colleges offering a full range of academic, professional, and vocational programs. As of Fall 2023, SUNY enrolled approximately 367,542 students in over 7,000 programs of study.

New York State is fortunate to have the most diversified and largest independent sector of higher education in the nation. The independent colleges and universities of the State enroll nearly 500,000 students annually. New York not only boasts one of the nation's largest private universities, New York University, it also prides itself on numerous outstanding small colleges as well. Independent campuses throughout New York State have a collective annual economic impact of \$94.8 billion and employ 403,000 New Yorkers.

In addition to providing support to the state-operated campuses of SUNY and the senior college programs of CUNY, New York State contributes financially to community colleges and provides direct aid to independent colleges and universities. The State also demonstrates its commitment to higher education by funding one of the country's largest state-supported Tuition Assistance Programs (TAP), a need-based grant program that helps eligible New York State

residents pay tuition at approved public and private higher education institutions in the State.

The Committee on Higher Education also monitors the ongoing activities of 56 professions, which the State Education Department (SED) is charged with licensing and regulating. Through careful consideration of legislation affecting the professions and by monitoring the professional discipline functions of SED and the Department of Health (DOH), the Committee endeavors to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to ensure the maintenance of high standards and competence within the professional realm.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education in each of its major areas of responsibility during the 2024 Legislative Session.

II. HIGHER EDUCATION

A. State Budget Highlights

1. SUNY and CUNY

The 2024-25 enacted state budget included:

- \$60 million in additional operating aid for SUNY, for an increase of \$114 million over the 2023-24 academic year;
- \$40 million in additional operating aid for CUNY, for an increase of \$76 million over the 2023-24 academic year;
- \$4 million in operating aid to the CUNY Medical School;
- \$60 million for SUNY and \$40 million for CUNY in additional expansion capital funding;
- \$150 million in capital funding for SUNY hospitals; and
- \$79.1 million in forgiveness for SUNY hospital debt service for fiscal year 2024-25.

Notably, the final budget included provisions requiring the utilization of project labor agreements for SUNY Construction Fund projects that cost \$10 million or more. In addition, the enacted budget authorized the SUNY Board of Trustees to lease lands on SUNY Stonybrook's Southampton campus to the Town of Southampton for the purpose of rehabilitating and restoring a historic windmill. However, the final budget did not authorize the lease of certain lands at SUNY Farmingdale and SUNY Stonybrook for the purposes of developing, constructing, maintaining, and operating multi-purpose facilities to support housing needs and related amenities.

Further, the Legislature modified the Executive proposal to make certain provisions of the NY-SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program Act permanent, by extending such provisions for three years instead.

The Legislature also ensured that SUNY and CUNY's nursing and mental health programs received much needed funding. This included a restoration of \$1 million in increased support for each system's nursing programs, for a total of \$3 million for CUNY's expansion of nursing programs and \$2.7 million for SUNY's high need nursing programs. Funding for mental health services at both systems were fully restored, providing a total of \$2 million for SUNY and \$2 million for CUNY.

The Legislature also provided funding for the following initiatives within SUNY:

- \$500,000 for the University at Buffalo Law Institute;
- \$433,000 for the Immigrant Integration Research and Policy Institute;
- \$350,000 for the SUNY Black Leadership Institute;
- \$350,000 for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Research Institute;
- \$250,000 for SUNY Farmingdale Aviation Tuition Assistance;
- \$200,000 for the University at Buffalo Regional Institute;
- \$1.7 million for the Cornell Cooperative Extension, including \$500,000 for the New York City program;
- \$200,000 for SUNY Schenectady Community College;

- \$300,000 for SUNY Dutchess Community College, including \$150,000 for Housing and Food Insecurity Services;
- \$165,000 for the Long Island Veterans Home for the hiring and retaining of nurses; and
- \$150,000 for the SUNY Benjamin Center.

Finally, the Legislature provided funding for the following initiatives within CUNY:

- an additional \$250,000 for the School of Labor and Urban Studies, for a total of \$6.2 million;
- \$250,000 for Medgar Evers Election Data Analysis and Research;
- \$750,000 for the Medgar Evers Du Bois Bunche Center for Public Policy;
- \$1.2 million for the CUNY Black Male Initiative;
- \$500,000 for the CUNY Midwifery Program;
- \$500,000 for the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy Sexual and Reproductive Justice Program;
- \$350,000 for the W. Haywood Burns Chair in Human and Civil Rights at CUNY Law;
- \$350,000 for the Asian American Research Institute; and
- \$150,000 for the CUNY Mock Senate.

Community Colleges

Community colleges are unique in that they are financed cooperatively by three partners: the State, a local sponsor, and the students. Base aid is the State's responsibility for its share of community college budgeted operating costs; therefore, the level of State support that community colleges receive directly affects tuition rates and local contributions. Statutorily, the State is obligated to pay one-third of a community college's operating costs and up to forty percent of these costs for full opportunity schools.

The 2024-25 enacted budget included \$424.6 million for SUNY and \$223.3 million for CUNY so that no community college receives less than 100% of the base aid funding that it received in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This includes a \$8 million increase for SUNY and \$5.3 million for CUNY over the 2023-24 academic year.

For community college capital projects, the locality in which the community college is located must advance their half of the project cost, which is then matched by state funds. The 2024-25 enacted budget included \$138.2 million in capital funding for SUNY and \$15.7 million for CUNY.

2. Independent Colleges and Universities

Bundy Aid, formally known as Unrestricted Aid to Independent Colleges and Universities, provides direct support to higher education institutions based on the number and type of degrees conferred by the college or university. As part of the Executive proposal to limit Bundy Aid eligibility to institutions of higher education with total endowment assets less than \$750 million and reduce each institution's apportionment of funding if total funding exceeds the appropriation, funding for Bundy Aid decreased by \$13.4 million for a total of \$22.3 million.

Additionally, the enacted budget included \$40 million for an additional round of the Higher Education Facilities Capital (HECap) Matching Grants Program, a \$40 million increase over the Executive's proposal.

3. Financial Aid/Access Programs

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

New York State is fortunate to have one of the most comprehensive systems of financial aid in the United States. At the forefront is the Tuition Assistance Program, New York's largest grant program that helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in the State. Award amounts are determined by net taxable income and financial status (independent or dependent). Depending on income, TAP awards have ranged from \$500 to \$5,665 with low-income students receiving larger awards. TAP helps keep college accessible and affordable for students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Students who attend a private, not for profit college or university in New York may be eligible for the Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA). The program offers eligible students \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, the Enhanced Tuition Award, and a matching award from the college or university. The Executive provided \$3.8 million in funding for the ETA program.

The Legislature provided \$55.7 million over the Executive budget proposal to enact the following changes to TAP:

- increase the minimum award from \$500 to \$1,000;
- expand part-time TAP to students attending proprietary colleges; and
- increase the income threshold for award eligibility from:
 - \$80,000 to \$125,000 for dependent students, certain independent students, and students who qualify as an orphan, foster child or ward of the court;
 - \$40,000 to \$60,000 for independent married students who have no other tax dependents; and
 - \$10,000 to \$30,000 for single independent students who have no tax dependents.

Scholarships

The Legislature restored:

- \$1 million in funding for the Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship, for a total of \$4.9 million;
- \$2.5 million and provided an additional \$5 million in funding for Say Yes to Buffalo, Inc., for a total of \$7.5 million;
- \$100,000 in funding for the Child Welfare Workers Scholarship, for a total of \$150,000; \$50,000 in funding for the NYS Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program, for a total of \$200,000; and
- \$1 million and provided an additional \$1 million in funding for the Maritime Appointments Program at SUNY Maritime, for a total of \$2.2 million.

Access Programs

Access to higher education has been a long-standing concern of this Committee. Over the years, the Legislature has created programs that provide special assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged students, underrepresented groups, and “at-risk” youth (students who require additional support in order to achieve academic success). The Assembly has been committed to ensuring that all students have access to higher education and ensuring their academic success through the support of access programs.

Through counseling, remedial coursework, financial assistance, drop-out prevention, and skills training, these programs are dedicated not only to encouraging enrollment in college, but also helping to ensure success in the postsecondary academic environment. New York’s access programs include:

- The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides critical access programs for educationally and economically disadvantaged students who attend independent institutions of higher education. HEOP programs serve over 4,000 students through nearly 50 programs including pre-freshman summer programs, remedial and developmental courses, tutoring, and counseling. The Legislature restored support for HEOP by \$1.4 million and provided a \$714,000 increase, for a total of \$49 million.
- The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides academic support and financial aid to students who attend public institutions of higher education and show promise for mastering college-level work, but who may otherwise not be admitted. EOP services are available at most SUNY schools, at all CUNY senior colleges through the Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) program, and at all CUNY community colleges through the College Discovery program. The Legislature provided \$44.4 million in funding for EOP; \$38.7 million for SEEK; and \$1.9 million for College Discovery.
- The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) serves middle, junior, and senior high school students who are at risk of dropping out. LPP also assists students in completing high school, preparing for and entering college, and obtaining meaningful employment. The Legislature restored funding for the Liberty Partnerships Program by \$738,000 and provided an additional \$369,000, for a total of \$25.3 million.
- The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) and Collegiate-STEP (CSTEP) programs were created to encourage the attendance of more students of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged populations by helping these students enter collegiate study and careers in scientific, technical, and health-related fields. The Legislature restored funding for STEP by \$636,000 and provided a \$318,000 increase for a total of \$21.8 million. Similarly, the Legislature restored funding for CSTEP by \$482,000 and provided a \$241,000 increase, for a total of \$16.5 million.
- The Foster Youth College Success Initiative provides support services to assist youth in foster care to apply for, enroll in, and succeed in college by allowing SED to allocate additional funding to expand opportunities through current postsecondary opportunity

programs for foster youth. The Legislature provided a total of \$8.3 million in funding, a \$241,000 restoration and \$121,000 increase.

Additional Aid

The Legislature included a total of \$4 million for students with disabilities, restoring \$2 million in funding. Administered by SED, this funding helps public and private degree-granting colleges and universities to enhance supports and services for enrolled students with disabilities.

Additionally, the Legislature restored funding for the following initiatives:

- \$750,000 for the Associated Medical Schools of New York Dental Grants program;
- \$350,000 for the Latino U College Access; and
- \$200,000 for On Point for College.

B. Legislative Highlights

Extending Tuition Waivers for Police Officer Students Attending CUNY

A.5918 Williams, Chapter 155 of the Laws of 2024. This law extends, for two more years, the tuition waiver program for police officer students attending CUNY. New York City police officers, who are enrolled in programs leading to a baccalaureate or higher degree at a CUNY senior college, can attend one course, without tuition, provided that the course is related to their employment as police officers and that such tuition-waived attendance does not deny attendance at CUNY by an individual who is otherwise qualified.

Distributing Information Regarding Certain Mental Health Resources

A.6563-A Clark, Chapter 312 of the Laws of 2024. This law requires institutions of higher education to establish an education campaign on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line. Under the law, such education campaigns shall include information on when to utilize 988 and the crisis text line, and contact information for such services on student identification cards. Institutions that do not issue student identification cards shall annually distribute contact information for such services.

Making Experiential or Applied Learning Opportunities Available at SUNY and CUNY

A.8346-A Fahy, Chapter 478 of the Laws of 2024. This law requires the SUNY and CUNY Boards of Trustees to develop a plan, by June 1, 2025, to make experiential or applied learning activities available to students starting in the 2025-26 academic year. Such opportunities or activities include, but are not limited to, paid or unpaid internships, production or performance of creative works, and partnerships linking curricula to temporary, paid positions in industry or the public sector.

Expanding the Veterans Tuition Awards Program

A.9205-A Buttenschon, Chapter 453 of the Laws of 2024. This law expands eligibility for tuition benefits under the Veterans Tuition Awards Program to include all veterans discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces under honorable conditions.

Extending Tuition Waivers for Firefighter and Fire Officer Students Attending CUNY

A.9669 Cunningham, Chapter 138 of the Laws of 2024. This law extends, for two more years, the tuition waiver program for firefighters and fire officers attending CUNY. Under the law, firefighters and fire officers employed by the New York City Fire Department who are enrolled in programs leading to a baccalaureate or higher degree at a CUNY senior college, can attend one course, without tuition. The law requires that the course be related to employment as firefighter or fire officer, and that such tuition-waived attendance does not deny attendance at CUNY by an individual who is otherwise qualified.

Expanding Withdrawals Under Tax Advantaged College Savings Accounts

A.10209 McDonald, Chapter 310 of the Laws of 2024. This law expands the allowable withdrawals under New York's 529 College Savings Program to include payments on certain education loans and rollovers to a Roth IRA, as provided for in federal law.

Authorizing SUNY Albany to Lease Lands to the Fuller Road Management Corporation

A.10456-A Fahy, Passed Both Houses. This law authorizes the University at Albany to lease certain lands to the Fuller Road Management Corporation for the purposes of the Albany NanoTech Complex.

III. LICENSED PROFESSIONS

New York State currently licenses 56 professions under Title VIII of the Education Law. Legislation to license a new profession or alter the practice of an existing profession falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Higher Education. SED, through its Office of the Professions, regulates the practice of licensed professions on an ongoing basis.

An essential component of the monitoring process is to ensure that existing standards and qualifications reflect current practices and needs, especially in light of shifting demographics and rapidly changing technologies. Each year, the Committee reviews numerous pieces of legislation that propose to change the scope of practice of currently licensed professions. Ensuring that any modification to current professional standards is thoroughly examined and appropriately executed provides a means by which the Committee fulfills its obligations to protect the well-being of the public.

A. State Budget Highlights

The Legislature rejected the following proposals in this year's Executive budget to modify the scope of practice of professions under the Committee's jurisdiction:

- authorizing physicians and nurse practitioners to prescribe and order non-patient specific regimens to registered nurses for undertaking the collection of specimens necessary to test for the Hepatitis B virus;
- authorizing licensed pharmacists to execute non-patient specific orders for the dispensing of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) pursuant to a prescription or order from the Commissioner of Health, a physician, or nurse practitioner;
- authorizing licensed pharmacists to administer immunizing agents to adults to prevent mpox pursuant to a patient specific or non-patient specific order;
- authorizing certain physician assistants to practice without physician supervision;
- removing the limit on the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise;
- authorizing physician assistants to prescribe and order non-patient specific regimens to pharmacists and registered nurses for administering immunizations;
- authorizing school districts to employ physician assistants to perform the duties of a school health services director;
- authorizing certain certified nurse aides to administer medication related tasks in residential health care facilities;
- authorizing New York State to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Nurse Licensure Compact;
- authorizing medical assistants to administer immunizations under the supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner;
- authorizing dentists to administer vaccinations against influenza, SARS-CoV-2, HPV, and vaccinations related to a declared public health emergency;
- authorizing dentists to offer HIV, Hepatitis C, and hemoglobin A1C screening or diagnostic tests;
- authorizing dental hygienists to administer block anesthesia, place pre-fit orthodontic bands, use light cure composite material, take cephalometric radiographs, take two and

- three-dimensional photography of dentition, and adjust removable appliances;
- authorizing certain dental hygienists to enter into collaborative practice agreements to perform services without supervision and without prior evaluation by a dentist or medical professional; and
- authorizing direct support staff in non-facility Office of People with Developmental Disabilities programs to provide nursing services under the instruction of a service recipient, family, or household member as determined by a registered nurse.

The final budget included provisions extending, for two years, the authorization for:

- certified school psychologists employed by certain pre-school programs to provide non-early intervention services;
- physicians and certified nurse practitioners to prescribe and order non-patient specific regimens to registered nurses for administering COVID-19 and influenza tests;
- licensed pharmacists to direct limited service laboratories and order and administer COVID-19 and influenza tests; and
- licensed pharmacists to perform collaborative drug therapy management with physicians in certain settings.

The provisions of law exempting certain nurse practitioners from requirements related to written practice agreements and collaborative relationships were also extended for two years. Additionally, the final budget modified the Executive proposal removing the authorization for certified school psychologists employed by certain pre-school services to provide early intervention services. The implementation of such proposal will take effect April 1, 2025.

B. Legislative Highlights

Expanding Professionals Authorized to Apply Topical Fluoride Varnish

A.7402-B Peoples-Stokes, Chapter 457 of the Laws of 2024. This law expands the licensed professionals authorized to apply topical fluoride varnish to include licensed practical nurses and dental assistants.

Amending Provisions Related to the Distribution of Registration Applications to Licensees

A.7716-A Hyndman, Chapter 346 of the Laws of 2024. This law allows the State Education Department to provide professional licensees with applications for registration by means determined by the Department. Under the law, applications would continue to be mailed to any unregistered licensees forty-five days before the end of their registration period.

Authorizing Professionals Appointed by the World Triathlon Corporation

A.8206 Jones, Chapter 124 of the Laws of 2024. This law authorizes certain health care professionals who are licensed in another state or territory, who are in good standing in such state or territory, and who have been appointed by the World Triathlon Corporation, to provide services to participating athletes at the Ironman Lake Placid, being held on July 21, 2024.

Expanding the Practice of Physician Assistant

A.8378-A Paulin, Chapter 520 of the Laws of 2024. This law expands the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise in private practice and when rendering services to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision from four to six, and six to eight, respectively. The law also authorizes physician assistants to prescribe and order non-patient specific regimens to registered nurses for a variety of tests and treatments, including immunizations, pregnancy tests, and the emergency treatment of opioid overdoses. Additionally, the law authorizes physician assistants in hospitals to write medical orders for durable medical equipment.

Amending the Authorization for Public Accountancy Firms to have Minority Ownership by Non-licensees

A.8510 Peoples-Stokes, Chapter 96 of the Laws of 2024. This law extends the effective date of Chapter 701 of the Laws of 2023, authorizing public accountancy firms to have minority ownership by non-licensees, by six months.

Amending Provisions Related to the Licensure of Athletic Trainers

A.8511 Solages, Chapter 104 of the Laws of 2024. This law amends Chapter 733 of the Laws of 2023, providing for the licensure of athletic trainers, by clarifying that athletic trainers may perform initial evaluations and triage emergent neurological conditions, and work with individuals to manage and treat certain injuries after clearance from a physician.

Amending Provisions Related to the Distribution of Continuing Education Resources to Physicians

A.8512 Rosenthal, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2024. This law amends Chapter 743 of the Laws of 2023, requiring the State Education Department (SED) to maintain and distribute a resource library related to continuing education and training opportunities regarding nutrition to physicians. The law provides that SED shall be responsible for compiling such resources in consultation with the Department of Health. The law also removes certain surveying and reporting requirements and ensures that resources are available on each department's website.

Amending the Authorization for Pharmacists to Dispense Certain Hormonal Contraceptives

A.8540 Paulin, Chapter 90 of the Laws of 2024. This law extends the effective date of Chapter 128 of the Laws of 2023, authorizing pharmacists to dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives to patients pursuant to a non-patient specific order, to January 1, 2024.

Authorizing Pharmacies to Engage in Shared Pharmacy Services

A.9729 McDonald, Chapter 491 of the Laws of 2024. This law authorizes pharmacies to engage in shared services, and establishes the parameters for such engagement. Under the law, a pharmacist or pharmacy registered with the State Education Department may process or fill a

prescription or order from another pharmacist or registered pharmacist pursuant to certain requirements, including those related to: patient consent, patient confidentiality, patient notification, the tracking of personnel and prescriptions, and the oversight of controlled substances.

Authorizing Professionals Appointed by the New York Road Runners

A.9766 Chandler-Waterman, Chapter 141 of the Laws of 2024 This law authorizes certain health care professionals who are licensed in another state, who are in good standing in such state, and who have been appointed by the New York Road Runners, to provide professional services at the following events sanctioned by the New York Road Runners: the New York City Marathon on: November 3, 2024; the Brooklyn Half Marathon on May 18, 2024; the Bronx 10 mile on September 22, 2024; the New York City Half Marathon on March 17, 2024; the Staten Island Half Marathon on October 13, 2024; and the Queens 10k on June 15, 2024.

Allowing Optometrists to Use and Prescribe Nasal Sprays for the Treatment of Dry Eye Disease

A.9902 McDonald, Chapter 516 of the Laws of 2024. This law allows optometrists certified to use certain therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to use or prescribe nasal sprays for the treatment of dry eye disease.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS
The Utilization of Capital funding at Colleges and Universities

December 3, 2024, 10 a.m.

Albany, NY

The Assembly Standing Committees on Higher Education convened a hearing to examine how colleges and universities have utilized capital funding appropriated by the State, with a particular emphasis on how such funding is being used to support State sustainability goals.

Individuals who testified at the hearing include: Bob Haelen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities & General Manager of the State University Construction Fund, SUNY; Nora McCabe, Deputy General Manager, State University Construction Fund; Scott Clay, Director, Opportunities Programs, State University Construction Fund; Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer, SUNY; Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action, SUNY; Mohamed Attalla, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management, CUNY; Tria Case, University Executive Director of Sustainability and Energy Conservation, Facilities Planning, Construction and Management, CUNY; Dimitrios Katehis, Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer, Facilities Planning, Construction and Management, CUNY; Tom Schnurr, Director of Government Affairs, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities; Jonathan Furlong, Clean Buildings Campaign Manager, New York League of Conservation Voters; and Allison Considine, Senior Manager, NY Campaigns & Communications, Building Decarbonization Coalition.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2025

As the Committee looks ahead to the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session, many of the traditional goals relative to higher education and the professions will continue to be a priority.

Foremost among the Committee's priorities for the 2025 session will be to secure funding during the upcoming fiscal year that is sufficient to meet the needs of SUNY, CUNY and the independent sector. This is especially crucial in the wake of enrollment declines at our public university systems, a nationwide trend. We will also continue to fight for funding for access programs and promote the recognition of these highly successful educational services to assist more students in realizing their higher education aspirations. As always, the Committee will continue to focus on financial aid, including TAP, and ensure the availability of such assistance at current or enhanced levels. The Assembly Higher Education Committee is proud of this comprehensive financial aid program and will fight to continue its success in opening doors to college students throughout the state.

In 2025, the Committee will also address several important legislative issues. Among these will be measures relating to the licensed professions overseen by SED's Office of the Professions, especially initiatives aimed at preserving the integrity of the individual professions and ensuring that professional competence translates into increased public protection and safety. In addition, the Committee will continue to study the evolution of existing professions to assess the possible need for statutory changes to reflect the changing needs of consumers.

APPENDIX A

PROFESSIONS LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Acupuncture	Mental Health Practitioners
Applied Behavior Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative Arts Therapist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Licensed Behavior Analysts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marriage and Family Therapist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified Behavior Analyst Assistants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental Health Counselor
Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Psychoanalyst
Athletic Training	Midwifery
Audiology	Nursing
Certified Shorthand Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Registered Professional Nurse
Chiropractic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nurse Practitioner
Clinical Laboratory Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Nurse Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Laboratory Technologist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Licensed Practical Nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cytotechnologist 	Occupational Therapy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Laboratory Technician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Occupational Therapist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Histotechnician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Occupational Therapy Assistant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Histotechnologist 	
Dentistry	Ophthalmic Dispensing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dentist 	Optometry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dental Hygienist 	Perfusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Registered Dental Assistant 	Pharmacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dietetics and Nutrition 	Registered Pharmacy Technician
Engineering	Physical Therapy
Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical Therapist
Interior Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical Therapist Assistant
Land Surveying	Podiatry
Landscape Architecture	Polysomnographic Technician
Massage Therapy	Psychology
Medical Physics	Public Accountancy
Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified Public Accountant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Accountant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physician Assistant 	Respiratory Therapy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specialist Assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respiratory Therapist
Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respiratory Therapy Technician

• Licensed Master Social Worker	Veterinary Medicine
• Licensed Clinical Social Worker	• Veterinarian
Speech-Language Pathology	• Veterinary Technician

APPENDIX B

2024 SUMMARY SHEET

Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the Committee on Higher Education

	<u>Assembly Bills</u>	<u>Senate Bills</u>	<u>Total Bills</u>
<u>Bills Reported Favorable To:</u>			
Codes	2	0	2
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	5	0	5
Rules	5	0	5
Floor	10	0	10
<u>TOTAL:</u>	22	0	22
<u>Committee Action</u>			
Held for Consideration	5	0	5
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	6	0	6
<u>Remaining in Committee</u>	345	38	383
<u>Bills Reference Changed:</u>			
Ways and Means	7		
Total Number of Committee Meetings Held	7		