

During the 2023 New York State Legislative session, NYSPHA weighed in to support a number of bills. For those bills that passed the legislature, we sent letters or signed onto partner letters to the Governor on several bills recommending that she sign them. Of the 15 bills that NYSPHA supported, the Governor signed nine, vetoed eight, and three didn't pass both houses of the legislature. Many of the bills vetoed were on the basis of cost and that state agencies were already dealing with these issues. The status of the bills that NYSPHA supported is listed below:

Among Bills that NYSPHA supported, the Governor signed

1. S.1196A. Biomarker bill. Requires health insurance policies and Medicaid to cover biomarker testing for certain purposes (ex. BRCA)
2. A.7429. Birds & Bees Protection Act. Prohibits neonicotinoid insecticides in NYS including coated seeds. Effective date in the next couple of years.
3. S.599-A/A.1707-A to increase transparency around prescription drug prices.
4. S4548. Provides for automated identification of people eligible for utility affordability programs. Utilities must work with people behind in payments to avoid shutoffs
5. A3706-A. Allows increased use of simulation up to 30% in nursing education.
6. A. 6275-A – Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act forbids inclusion medical debt on credit reports. This allows people to get credit to continue their lives and pay off medical debt. Medical debt major is a common cause of bankruptcy. NYSPHA supports a national level effort to do this at the federal level as well.
7. S211 – Clean Slate Act expunges the criminal record of certain non-violent offenders after a period of time with no further violations.
8. A6798 – bans the sale of sodium and nitrate and nitrite to those under the age of 21. These compounds have been used in youth suicide attempts

Among Bills that NYSPHA supported, the Governor vetoed

1. A.5960 – Taskforce to identify evidence-based solutions to reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACES). Reason: The Governor vetoed the same bill last year with the justification that the work was already ongoing and that there was no budget to support a new Taskforce. Presumably the same reasons apply this year.
2. S629A – Provided additional duties of the community gardens taskforce to determine if community gardens on public property are eligible for designation as Critical Environmental Areas.

Bills NYSPHA supported that didn't pass the legislature

1. A3281 – Expand Absentee voting to not require a specific reason for voting absentee, as was allowed during the pandemic.
2. S4364 – Healthier food guidelines for state facilities (state purchases much food. This is repeatedly not acted on by Legislature)
3. S2127-A. - To establish emission reductions plans for mega-warehouse facilities.
4. S1531. - Opt-out Reporting of adult vaccinations to the state immunization registry.
5. S2441 – Ban on flavored tobacco products including menthol