

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker

Harry B. Bronson, Chair



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ON
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry



HARRY B. BRONSON
Assemblymember
138th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry Committee

COMMITTEES
Rules
Ways and Means
Labor
Education

Assembly's Legislative Liaison to
the Finger Lakes Regional
Economic Development Council

December 15, 2023

Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

With this letter, I am submitting the Annual Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry report for the 2023 Legislative Session.

The 2023 Legislative Session has been challenging due to the continued public health and economic impact of the pandemic and challenges associated with the pressure of rising inflation. In this context and to address these issues for our New York families, the Committee reviewed and participated in enactment of the SFY 2023-24 budget process and worked on legislation that impacts State and local economic development, promotes job opportunities and addresses inequities within our economy.

The enacted budget provided a \$180.36 million investment for the new Office of Workforce and Economic Development at Empire State Development that was created in 2022. This organizational approach with corresponding funding recognizes that workforce development and economic development are mutually dependent. The funding will provide resources to: leverage Empire State Development's relationships with employers to help identify employer needs; develop tailored regional training strategies based on those needs; support programs to train New Yorkers in the skills necessary to succeed in in-demand fields; and make targeted investments in teachers, healthcare workers, apprenticeships and internships, mental health professionals, and caregivers.

The Committee will continue our focus on what can be done to support businesses and the workforce they employ. The priority focus areas of the Committee during the next session, both legislatively and budgetary will include promoting job opportunities for our families as well as measures that seek to ensure the economy is both equitable and inclusive of those individuals that have historically been left on the economic sidelines, especially those from marginalized

communities. Rising inflation has a disproportional impact on the unskilled labor force, women, underserved, or otherwise marginalized communities who have historically been on the economic sidelines, the Committee will work to address this inequity.

On behalf of myself and the members of the Committee, I wish to thank you for supporting our efforts to encourage economic development and job opportunities across New York State. With your continued leadership New Yorkers can look forward to a productive session in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry B. Bronson".

Harry Bronson
Member of Assembly
Chair, Assembly Standing Committee on Economic
Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry

2023 Annual Report

New York State Assembly
Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry

Harry B. Bronson, Chair

Committee Members

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Angelo Morinello
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Debra Jenkins, Principal Analyst
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Jennifer Skoog-Harvey, Chief of Staff
Allan Richards, Legislative Director/ Committee Clerk

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I. INTRODUCTION: COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry is responsible for legislation that affects economic development and business regulation throughout the State. The Committee also provides oversight of the State's various economic development agencies, authorities and programs that notably impact the State's overall economy. The Committee's primary responsibility effects business and industries that are subject to the Economic Development, General Business, Unconsolidated Laws, Alcohol and Beverage Control, and Cannabis Laws.

The Committee interacts with many State agencies, economic development organizations and other groups and associations on these important issues. The State agencies include the Department of Economic Development, the Urban Development Corporation, the Job Development Authority, the Department of State, the State Liquor Authority, and the Office of Cannabis Management. The Committee works with numerous organizations that support economic development throughout the State, including not-for-profit local development corporations, economic development agencies, not-for-profit foundations, colleges and universities, Chambers of Commerce, Unions and Small Business Development Centers. The Committee also provides oversight of policies related to the sale of alcoholic beverages and adult-use cannabis, and the licensing, registration, and regulation of a broad spectrum of industries associated with the production, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages and adult-use cannabis.

The Committee currently has two Subcommittees that are tasked with providing more in-depth analysis on specific subject areas, which helps the committee better understand and respond to related legislation and policy proposals. The Subcommittee on Occupational Licenses focuses on reviewing and examining occupational licenses in relation to the licensing process, fee structure, educational requirements, and other aspects of these licenses as well as the contribution of these occupations to the State's economy. The Subcommittee on Export Trade provides insight about New York's international and domestic export experiences and how to bolster future expansion of New York State business exports. Currently, these Subcommittees are Chaired by Members of Assembly Gina Sillitti and Marianne Buttenschon, respectively.

II. FY 2023-24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET INITIATIVES

Empire State Development and Department of Economic Development

The Committee has long advocated for policies that support and promote economic development and job creation within the State. The New York State Budget provides funding for economic development programs through allocations to the Department of Economic Development and the Urban Development Corporation (doing business as Empire State Development). Funding through these programs is typically provided in the form of loans, grants, tax credits and other financial assistance to local governments, businesses, higher education institutions and not-for-profit corporations to develop stable and growing regional economies. In the enacted State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-2024 budget, the Committee supported key initiatives to boost New York's economy, create jobs and facilitate opportunities for all business sectors in the State in an equitable and inclusive manner.

The enacted State Budget provided an All Funds appropriation of \$107.3 million, an increase of \$4.4 million over the Executive proposal, for the Department of Economic Development. Further, the budget provided an All Funds appropriation of \$1.58 billion, an increase of \$292.3 million over the Executive proposal, for the Urban Development Corporation. The following are highlights of some of the programs that are funded to promote economic development and businesses in New York via the State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget:

- **Workforce Development**

- \$2 million for the Empire State Entertainment and Diversity Training.
- \$400,000 for the establishment of a pilot entrepreneurship training grant program.
- \$180.360 million to support the new Office of Workforce and Economic Development at Empire State Development to provide resources to: leverage Empire State Development's relationships with employers to help identify employer needs; develop tailored regional training strategies; support programs to train New Yorkers in the skills necessary to succeed in in-demand fields; and make targeted investments in teachers, healthcare workers, apprenticeships and internships, mental health professionals, and caregivers. The following is a breakdown of this allocation:
 - \$47 million for the program to related to financial burden relief for healthcare workers;
 - \$39 million for caregiver flexibility for direct care workers;
 - \$30 million for the Teacher Residency Program;
 - \$10 million for Expansion of Alternative Teacher Certification;

- \$10 million for internships at the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY);
- \$8 million for the program aimed at upskilling school para-professionals;
- \$5.3 million for the expansion of psychiatric rehabilitation services at the Office of Mental Health;
- \$5 million for apprenticeships at SUNY and CUNY;
- \$2.4 million for the Diversity in Medicine Program;
- \$1 million for the expansion of the SUNY Pre-Medical Opportunities Program;
- \$160,000 for employment and training programs at the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities; and
- \$22,500,000 for loans, grants, and costs associated with raising capacity expansion for statewide institutions.

- **University-Based Programs:**

- \$15.03 million in total support for the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs). The CATs collaborate with New York companies on the development of new technologies and products and create new businesses and high-quality jobs throughout the State;
- \$14 million in total support for each of the Centers of Excellence (CoEs). The CoEs collaborate with New York companies in commercializing scientific discoveries in fields such as nanoelectronics, bioinformatics, photonics, environmental systems, wireless applications, and information technology;

Also, the following additional CoE programs received funding as follows:

- \$1 million to the University at Albany CoE in data science in atmospheric and environmental prediction and innovation
- \$1 million to New York Medical College to create and operate a CoE in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disaster
- \$1 million to the Clarkson - SUNY ESF CoE in Healthy Water Solutions
- \$1.503 million for SUNY Polytechnic Institute College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Focus Center;

- \$1.503 million for Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute Focus Center;
 - \$1 million University of Rochester Laser Energetics Program;
 - \$2.7 million for Small Business Development Centers; and
 - \$1 million for Stony Brook Medicine's National Cancer Institute.
- **General Economic Development:**
 - \$400 million for the New York Works Economic Development Fund;
 - \$50 million for the Restore New York Communities Initiative;
 - \$45 million for economic development initiatives of the State for promoting tourism and expanding business investment and job creation and retention;
 - \$26.18 million for the Empire State Economic Development Fund;
 - \$15 million for the Market New York Program; and
 - \$7.5 million for retention of professional football in western New York.
- **Business Assistance:**
 - \$15.470 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program;
 - \$12 million for the High Technology Matching Grants Program which includes Security Trough Advanced Technology (START) initiative, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program;
 - \$5 million for the New York State Innovation Hot Spots/ New York State Incubators;
 - \$1.76 million for the Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP);
 - \$1.382 million for the Technology Development Organizations (TDO);
 - \$1.495 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Program;
 - \$2 million for the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Development and Lending Program and for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Development;
 - \$921,000 for the Industrial Technology Extension Service Program;

- \$343,000 Science and Technology Law Center; and
- \$3.404 million for the Urban and Community Development Program.
- **Commerce, Regional Economic Development, Trade and Tourism:**
 - \$130 million for the redevelopment of the Bronx's Hunts Point Produce Market;
 - \$30 million for the replacement of absorption chillers in the central chiller plant SUNY Albany;
 - \$24 million for FeedMore Western New York;
 - \$19 million for the redevelopment of Monument Square in the City of Troy;
 - \$10 million for the redevelopment of Victory Mills in Saratoga County;
 - \$7.5 million for the American Museum of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History and Culture;
 - \$7.5 million for the Dominican American Cultural Center;
 - \$5 million for the Pace University Performing Arts Center;
 - \$5 million for arts and cultural venues of ALIVE! Downtowns;
 - \$1 million for a statewide study of public and private museums;
 - \$700,000 for CenterState CEO;
 - \$650,000 for the Brooklyn Alliance, Inc.;
 - \$650,000 for the Queens Chamber of Commerce;
 - \$250,000 for the Adirondack Sports Council;
 - \$100,000 for the Adirondack North Country Association;
 - \$750,000 for the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty (RMAPI) Initiative;
 - \$150,000 for the Historic Hudson Hoosick Rivers Partnership;
 - \$50,000 for the Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce;
 - \$50,000 for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation;

- \$225,000 for the North Country Chamber of Commerce;
- \$150,000 for Harlem Week, Inc.;
- \$75,000 for the People's Theatre Project;
- \$375,000 for the New York Medical College BioInc;
- \$100,000 for the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association;
- \$100,000 for the Queens Economic Development Council;
- \$140,000 for the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.;
- \$150,000 for the Association of Community Employment Programs;
- \$150,000 for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce;
- \$150,000 for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance;
- \$700,000 for the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation; and
- \$100,000 for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

Reginal Economic Development Councils

The 10 Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) of New York State, which include community, business, academic leaders, and members of the public in each region, use their knowledge and understanding of local priorities and assets to help direct state investment in support of job creation and economic growth. REDCs have developed and implemented comprehensive Strategic Plans for their respective regions and regularly issue updated plans. These plans play an important role in determining how millions of dollars in existing economic aid are awarded through the State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

- \$150 million for REDC grants program.
- \$200 million for a seventh round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) to be used to revitalize downtowns areas in each of the 10 economic regions of the State. Funds are to be distributed as follows:
 - \$100 million for main street redevelopment programs; and
 - \$100 million for the NY Forward grant program to support redevelopment in smaller and more rural areas.
- **Other notable NYS Budget related to economic development:**
 - \$455 million for Renovation of Belmont Park Racetrack

Article VII – Economic Development

In the 2023-2024 enacted State budget, the Legislature:

- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to increase the Excelsior Linked Deposit, by increasing the maximum loan amount from \$2 million to \$4 million and the lifetime cap from \$2 million to \$6 million.
- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to extend the general loan powers of the Urban Development Corporation by providing a one-year extension to July 1, 2024.
- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to extend the authorization of the Urban Development Corporation to administer the Economic Development Fund by providing a one-year extension to July 1, 2024.
- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to establish a matching grant program for small businesses who have been awarded funds under the federal Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer programs by increasing grant amounts, authorizing Empire State Development (ESD) to issue a commitment letter to those seeking a federal grant and to provide businesses with assistance to access the entire suite of all ESD grant, lending and financing programs as well as business mentoring and related services.
- The Legislature added a statewide study of public and private museums.
- The Legislature added a new Pilot Entrepreneurial Training Grants Program. This program will provide grants to entrepreneurs and small businesses of at least \$5,000 up to \$25,000. Eligible businesses would have to successfully complete the Entrepreneurial Assistance Center training program to qualify for a grant. This pilot program would sunset after two-years.
- The Legislature modified and enhanced the Film Tax Credit as follows: extended the program for an additional five years; increased the annual aggregate cap from \$420 million to \$700 million, beginning in tax year 2024; increased the annual post-production credit amount from \$25 million to \$45 million; increased in the credit for qualified expenses from 25 percent to 30 percent; included “Above the Line” salaries of writers, directors, and other such professionals in the calculation of the credit; included language to allow non-wage production costs within the enhanced portion of the Upstate credit computation, for certain productions with a minimum budget of \$500k and shot principally Upstate; amended language to remove the current \$5 million annual aggregate cap for the Enhanced Upstate portion; included language to allow qualified relocation costs to be included in the calculation of the credit, to the extent such costs do not exceed \$6 million; and included language to allow for a certain re-branded variety show to be eligible for the credit.
- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to extend the Application Deadline for COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program from March 31, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

Under this program, small businesses with \$2.5 million or less of gross receipts are eligible for a credit of 50 percent of their qualifying costs, up to \$25,000, with a minimum credit of \$1,000.

- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to create a Tax Credit for Childcare Creation program which establishes a two-year, \$25 million refundable tax credit program for certain businesses that create or expand childcare slots for the children of their employees, by making a technical correction to a reference of law. The program will be available for eligible businesses statewide and would be administered by the Office of Children and Family Services.
- The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to authorize the City of New York to provide a tax credit for certain small- and medium-sized businesses that operate in the biotechnology industry, by making conforming changes to the City of New York's Administrative Code and other technical changes. The City of New York previously offered a tax credit for biotechnology companies, which expired in 2019. This proposal would reinstate that authorization for three years, through 2025.
- The Legislature modified the existing the New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit, to: extend the \$3 million per production cap to productions that have their first performance prior to January 1, 2025, extension of the initial application deadline to June 30, 2025, increase of the overall cap from \$200 million to \$300 million, provide a technical correction to ensure that successful production companies are required to make contributions to the New York State Council on the Arts Cultural Programs until December 31, 2027, and to allow certain Off-Broadway productions with budgets of at least \$750,000 to be eligible for a credit up to \$350,000.
- The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to establish a cosmetology trainee program.
- The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to rebrand the START-UP NY program as EPIC.

New York State Liquor Authority and Office of Cannabis Management

- The enacted 2023-24 State Fiscal Year Budget provided the Division of Alcohol Control with an All Funds appropriation of \$83.2 million, a decrease of \$29.2 million or 26 percent below the SFY 2022-23 level. The Division includes the State Liquor Authority (SLA) and the Office of Cannabis Management, the respective entities charged with enforcing the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law and Cannabis Law in New York State.

Article VII – Alcohol Beverage Control and Cannabis

- **Cannabis**
 - The Legislature included language to provide the Office of Cannabis Management and the Department of Taxation and Finance with expanded enforcement authority over illegal and legal adult-use cannabis businesses. The language also includes enhanced civil penalties for people found possessing large amounts of illicit cannabis for sale in a commercial setting.
- **Alcohol Beverage Control**
 - The Legislature modified the Executive proposal to extend temporary retail permits for one year.
 - The Legislature included language to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Production Credit amounts for wine and liquor with the intent to provide parity to the various small producers of these New York State beverages.
 - The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to direct the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to review and re-write the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.
 - The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to authorize the State Liquor Authority to issue temporary permits to applicants with pending wholesale license applications.
 - The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to issue pending applications for permission to make a corporate change to be deemed approved if the State Liquor Authority does not act within 90-days.
 - The Legislature rejected the Executive proposal to allow a State Liquor Authority license applicant to submit a required notice to a municipality and an application to the SLA on the same day.

III. IMPROVING NEW YORK'S ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS

The Committee plays an important role in facilitating economic development policy in the State with an overarching objective to ensure an equitable and inclusive economy. The State's role should be to partner with local governments and the private sector to grow regional economies and to focus its incentives to support clusters such as emerging high-technology industries in New York. The Committee supports legislation that focuses economic development efforts toward assisting companies that retain and create jobs and contribute to the economic stability and revitalization of communities across New York. Companies that seek and receive State financial assistance should commit to retain or create jobs in their communities. Where appropriate, the State should seek to leverage resources and help emerging industries, thereby supporting the growth of specialized clusters in growing fields of employment.

The Committee's primary responsibility in the area of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Law is to ensure the safe and lawful manufacturing, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages in the State. In addition, the Committee has recognized the changing market for alcohol products in relation to agri-business and tourism. New York State has committed to utilizing New York's farm products to produce alcoholic beverages and encourage the expansion of local craft beverage markets.

The Committee's responsibility related to the Cannabis Control law is still evolving as adult-use cannabis is a new industry in New York State. The Committee's role is to review bills related to manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale of adult-use cannabis in New York.

The Committee will continue its review of the ABC and Cannabis Law to ensure the law is supporting a market that functions best, and in a balanced manner, for consumers and businesses. The Committee will review legislation that ensures communities have adequate information and notice as they make decisions about the future of cannabis, alcoholic beverage manufacturing businesses and retail establishments located in their neighborhoods.

The following is a list of significant legislation worked on the Committee in 2023:

- **Helping 9/11 Victims**
A.75-B, Sayegh, Chapter 364 of the Laws of 2023

This law requires the Department of Economic Development (DED), in consultation with the Department of Labor and any other appropriate State or municipal entities, to adopt rules and regulations to necessary to promote notification and awareness to businesses and their past and present employees of their potential eligibility for compensation from the September Eleventh Victim Compensation Fund and the World Trade Center Health Program. This law also provides DED with authorization to consult with the Special Master of the federal funds relating to providing notification to businesses and their employees.

- **Human Trafficking Awareness Curriculum**
A.616, Jean-Pierre, Chapter 12 of the Laws of 2023

This law reflects a change to the effective date from 30-days to 180-days that human trafficking awareness curriculum will be included in alcohol training awareness programs approved by the State Liquor Authority.

- **Clarifying Qualifying Uses of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Development Lending Program**
A.968, Bichotte Hermelyn, Chapter 25 of the Laws of 2023

This law makes technical changes and clarifies that the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Development and Lending Program may only be used to refinance existing commercial or business debt.

- **Assisting a Business in Onondaga County**
A.2884, Magnarelli, Chapter 379 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Onondaga County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Authorizing Alcoholic Beverages Prepared Using Pressurized Draft System**
A.2902, Cunningham, Chapter 522 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the preparation and on-premise consumption of alcohol beverages that are dispensed and served via a pressurized draft system.

- **Ensuring Release of Retainage Fees for Subcontractors**
A.4167, Hunter, Chapter 657 of the Laws of 2023

This law provides for the release of retainage fees from a contractor to a subcontractor upon substantial completion of a project as described in the terms of a contract and to set retainage fees at a maximum of five percent of a contracted sum.

- **Providing Information Human Trafficking Victims**
A.4264, Paulin, Chapter 492 of the Laws of 2023

This law requires truck stops to provide informational signage related to services available to human trafficking victims in public lactation rooms.

- **Expanding Allowable Gift and Promotional Items for Retailers for Off-Premise Consumption**
A.6050-A, Bronson, Chapter 526 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes wholesalers and retailers for off-premise consumption to transport and sell gift and promotional items as well as glasses associated with the consumption of distilled

spirits. This law defines gift and promotional items as complimentary and directly associated with the sale of wine or distilled spirits they are gifting or promoting and shall mean: (i) items that are de minimis in value, but in no instance shall merchandise be valued at more than fifteen dollars in total; (ii) items that are imprinted with the wine or spirits brand logo on the gift or promotional item; and (iii) items that are included as part of a manufactured pre-sealed package with the wine or distilled spirit that is being gifted or promoted. Further, for the purposes of this law, gift or promotional items shall not include any food, non-alcoholic beverage, or other drink or food mix, nor shall these items be offered for sale to the public as individual items.

- **Assisting a Business in Suffolk County**
A.6085-A, Brown, K, Chapter 396 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Suffolk County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Expanding Brewer License Duration**
A.6134, Clark, Chapter 523 of the Laws of 2023

This law changes the license duration of brewers, farm brewers and restaurant-brewer licenses from one-year to three-years.

- **Assisting a Business in Orange County**
A.6751, Jacobson, Chapter 406 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Orange County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Assisting a Business in Kings County**
A.6793, Bichotte Hermelyn, Chapter 408 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Kings County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Changes Reference for the Definition of Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise**
A.6903, Stern, Chapter 409 of the Laws of 2023

This law makes a technical reference change related to the definition of "Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise" from the now repealed Executive Law § 369-1 and § 369-I to Article 3 of the Veterans' Service law which became effective on April 1, 2023.

- **Requiring Cosmetology Education to Include All Hair Types**
A.6927-A, Solages, Chapter 664 of the Laws of 2023

This law requires the Department of State to promulgate regulations to require cosmetologists and natural hair stylists to receive education related to all hair types including, but not limited to, various curl patterns, hair strand thicknesses, and volume of hair. This law also requires the licensure examination to include questions on all hair types and textures.

- **Expanding the Hours of Sunday Sale of Beer**
A.6941, Bronson, Chapter 524 of the Laws of 2023

This law repeals a section of Alcoholic Beverage Control Law that restricts the sale of beer by licensed off-premise retailers between the hours of 3 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Sundays and make conforming technical changes.

- **Assisting a Business in Nassau County**
A.7073, Curran, Chapter 413 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Nassau County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Assisting a Business in Queens County**
A.7113, Mamdani, Chapter 457 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Queens County that is within 200 feet of a school.

- **Assisting a Business in Queens County**
A.7275, Vanel, Chapter 416 of the Laws of 2023

This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Queens County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

- **Extends the Advisory Panel on Employee-Owned Enterprises**
A.7292, Stirpe, Chapter 159 of the Laws of 2023

This law extends for one year the advisory panel on employee-owned enterprises which is tasked with reporting and making recommendations on how best to support such businesses and promote the formation and growth of new employee-owned enterprises in New York State.

- **Providing a Tied-House Exemption of SUNY Broome County Community College and Cornell University's New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**
A.7293, Bronson, Chapter 713 of the Laws of 2023

This law provides a tied house exemption to the ABCL normally prohibiting a manufacturer or wholesaler and a retailer from having an interest in each other's business for SUNY Broome County Community College and Cornell University's New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences located in Ithaca and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station located in Geneva, New York.

- **Authorizing Expanded Sunday Hours at Wine and Liquor Stores**
A.7305, Cunningham, Chapter 525 of the Laws of 2023

This law expands Sunday hours for retail off premise consumption licensees to from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- **Improving High Speed Broadband**
A.7333, Bronson, Vetoed

This bill would require the Department of Economic Development to provide annual reporting on high-speed broadband internet service. This bill would also add access to high-speed broadband internet service as a grant consideration for projects under the Urban and Community Development Grant Program and RESTORE-NY Grant Program.

- **Extends Authorization for One-Year Conditional Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses And Conditional Adult-Use Processor Licenses**
A.7430, Peoples-Stokes, Chapter 135 of the Laws of 2023

This law provides a one-year extension to the conditional adult-use cultivator licenses and conditional adult-use processor license from June 1, 2023, to June 1, 2024.

- **Strategic Investment Workforce Development**
A.336, Bronson, Ways and Means Committee

This bill would create the strategic investment workforce development program and would have the Urban Development Corporation collaborate with the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development, the State University of New York, the City University of New York and the State Education Department to identify the training needs of employers, employees and perspective employees, as well as identify areas of the state where there is a shortage of skilled workers and identify ways to strengthen prospective employees.

- **Adds Distributed Ledger Technology to the Excelsior Jobs Program**
A.1052, Vanel, Ways and Means Committee

This bill would add " distributed ledger technology" into the definitions of businesses engaged in "financial services data centers or financial services customer back-office operations" and "software development" within the Excelsior Jobs Program.

- **Investing in Public Housing Through Excelsior Jobs Program**
A.1361, Joyner, Ways and Means Committee

This bill would amend the Excelsior Jobs Program to establish community significant projects as eligible to receive Excelsior Jobs Program tax credits if associated costs were incurred by a business improving spaces in public housing developments.

- **Establishes Who Pays for False Alarms**
A.2477, Bronson, Passed Assembly

This bill would provide definitions for the terms "alarm system," "false alarm," "municipality," and "alarm system company." This bill would also establish that a municipality to enact, adopt, or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or regulation requiring any alarm system company to pay for or be responsible for any fines, fees, or other penalties relative to false alarms only when the false alarm is attributed to a deficiency in the alarm system or an error of the alarm system company or central station. Finally, this bill would shield alarm system companies from liability and civil penalties in the event of a false alarm that is not attributable to a deficiency in the installation or equipment installed.

- **Authorizes Mobile Barber Shops**
A.2785-A, O'Donnell, Rules Committee

This bill would repeal the prohibition against itinerant barber shops and authorize the licensing of mobile barber shops in the State.

- **Establishing Public Convenience, Advantage, and Interest Standards**
A.3231, Epstein, Assembly 3rd Reading Calendar

This bill would establish a consistent standard with respect to the factors that may be considered by the State Liquor Authority (SLA) when determining whether public convenience, advantage, and interest will be promoted by the grant of a specific on-premises liquor license to a particular applicant. The bill would also require that before issuing a license within 500 feet of three or more existing licensed establishments, the SLA consider any formal communication received from the municipality or community board.

- **Ensuring Technical Assistance in Minority Communities**
A.5648, Cook, Ways and Means Committee

This bill would require an evaluation study to be performed on programs overseen by the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and any other programs funded with State money that provide technical assistance services to communities with predominantly minority populations. Further, this bill would require the UDC to partner with not-for-profit organizations to provide technical assistance if any gaps in coverage are found in minority communities.

- **Expanding the Definition of Zone Pricing**
A.5698, Thiele, Codes

This bill would clarify the definition of zone pricing and expand the prohibition on zone pricing to cover dealers of retail motor fuel. The bill would also authorize a wholesaler or dealer to bring an action in court to enjoin a violation of zone pricing.

- **Ensuring Community Board Comments are Included in Public Records**
A.5856, Glick, Assembly 3rd Reading Calendar

This bill would require the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) to create a standardized form that a municipality or community board may use to provide comments on the renewal of a license. Any comments made by municipalities or community boards would become part of the record in the renewal application proceedings and used by the SLA when making a renewal decision.

IV. PUBLIC OUTREACH

- **Adult-Use Cannabis Banking**

On May 11, 2023, the Committees on Banks and Economic Development held a Public Hearing to examine how to establish a legal framework in providing banking services to adult-use cannabis businesses in New York State.

This hearing sought to provide Committee Members with information related to the challenges and barriers to providing banking services to legal adult-use cannabis businesses and examine pathways to allowing banking services to the burgeoning cannabis industry in New York.

- **Oversight of Economic Programs funded in the enacted 2023-2024 State Budget**

On October 26, 2023, the Committees on Economic Development and Small Business held a hearing to examine the impact and effectiveness of the economic development programs funded in the enacted 2023-2024 State Budget.

This hearing sought to provide Committee Members with information related to the effectiveness of State funded economic development programs as they relate to promoting an equitable and inclusive economy and ensuring that such programs are meeting the needs of businesses, the workforce, and communities historically or currently disproportionately impacted by economic pressures. The hearing also examined how programs can be improved to provide a greater economic impact across the State and enhance their impact in promoting equitable and inclusive policies.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2024

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Committee oversaw the continued re-opening of New York's Economy from the pandemic and continues to monitor and address the issues facing businesses in all sectors as they resume their core business operations, including new recessionary pressures. While great strides have been made in keeping business whole and operational, it is essential that the Committee continues to help businesses succeed, support job opportunities and in doing so help New York families and communities in which these businesses operate.

During the 2024 Session, the legislative and budgetary focus for the Committee on Economic Development will include developing approaches that recognize economic development and workforce development are interconnected and mutually dependent. The focus will also include measures to ensure economic development that is both equitable and inclusive of those individuals historically left on the economic sidelines, especially those from marginalized communities. Committee priorities will include:

- Expanding and improving workforce development strategies within economic policy and oversight of the funds allocated for workforce development in the SFY 2023-2024 enacted budget. To this end, the Committee will focus on expanding work training and employment programs, as well as coordinating workforce development throughout State policy development, implementation, and funding. To ensure that existing State programs, across agencies and other State entities, are coordinated, promoted and accessible to employers and workers. Importantly, we will work to ensure workforce development strategies are aligned with job availability as well as meeting industry needs;
- Continuing to examine existing State economic development programs and incorporate inclusive workforce development policies that are not just about counting job numbers but creating opportunities for true career development and up-skilling those that are unemployed or underemployed as well as aligning funding priorities with the needs of those individuals by supporting additional funding for apprenticeships, skills training, and other career pathways to enhance their skills and give them the ability to thrive economically;
- Improving transparency through committee's oversight role. The Committee is responsible for legislation that affects economic development and business regulation throughout the State but also has an oversight role of the State's various economic development agencies, authorities, and programs that notably impact the State's overall economic health; and
- Providing oversight of the new adult-use cannabis industry in New York State, especially related to reviewing the evolving regulatory structure necessary to implement the licensure of the manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale of adult-use cannabis.

APPENDIX A

**2023 SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION, COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRY**

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 6

2023 SUMMARY SHEET

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total
Codes	2	0	2
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	7	0	7
Rules	17	0	17
Floor	6	0	6
TOTAL	32	0	32
COMMITTEE ACTION			
Held For Consideration	0	0	0
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	3	0	3
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	149	16	165
BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO			
Ways and Means	4	0	4
Banks	1	0	1
TOTAL	5	0	5

APPENDIX B

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION, COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

2023 Bills Considered (Chapters/Vetoes are included in Appendix C)

Assembly Bill #	Assembly Sponsor	Last Assembly Action	Description
A.336	Bronson	Referred to Ways and Means	This bill would create the strategic investment workforce development program.
A.1052	Vanel	Referred to Ways and Means	This bill would add distributed ledger technology to the Excelsior Jobs Program.
A.1361	Joyner	Referred to Ways and Means	This bill would allow businesses investing in public housing to qualify to benefits though Excelsior Jobs Program.
A.2477	Bronson	Passed Assembly	This bill would clarify who is responsible to pay 1 st responders if a business has a false alarm.
A.2785-A	O'Donnell	Rules Committee	This bill would repeal the prohibition against itinerant barber shops and authorize the licensing of mobile barber shops in the State.
A.3231	Epstein	3 rd Reading Calendar	This bill would Establish Public Convenience, Advantage, And Interest Standards when considering a State Liquor Authority license application.
A.5648	Cook	Referred to Ways and Means	This bill would require an evaluation study to be performed on programs overseen by the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and any other programs funded with State money that provide technical assistance services to communities with a predominantly minority populations.
A.5698	Thiele	Referred to Codes	This bill would clarify the definition of zone pricing and expand the prohibition on zone pricing to cover dealers of retail motor fuel.
A.5856	Glick	3 rd Reading Calendar	This bill would require the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) to create a standardized form that a municipality or community board may use to provide comments on license the renewal of a license.

APPENDIX C

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION, COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

2023 Chapters/Vetoes

Assembly Bill #	Assembly Sponsor	Chapter #	Description
A.75-B	Sayegh	Chapter 364	This law provides for 9/11 Victim notification of potential federal assistance.
A.616	Jean-Pierre	Chapter 12	This law extends the effective date of the State Liquor Authority Human Trafficking Awareness Curriculum must begin.
A.968	Bichotte Hermelyn	Chapter 25	This law clarifies the qualifying uses of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development Lending Program.
A.2902	Cunningham	Chapter 522	This law authorizes alcoholic beverages prepared using pressurized draft system.
A.2884	Magnarelli	Chapter 379	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Onondaga County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.
A.4167	Hunter	Chapter 657	This law provides for the release of retainage fees from a contractor to a subcontractor upon substantial completion of a project as described in the terms of a contract and to set retainage fees at a maximum of five percent of a contracted sum.
A.4264	Paulin	Chapter 492	This law requires truck stops to provide informational signage related to services available to human trafficking victims in public lactation rooms.
A.6050-A	Bronson	Chapter 526 Message No. 11	This law authorizes wholesalers and retailers for off-premise consumption to transport and sell gift and promotional items as well as glasses associated with the consumption of distilled spirits.
A.6085-A	K. Brown	Chapter 369	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Suffolk County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

A.6134	Clark	Chapter 523	This law changes the license duration of brewers, farm brewers and restaurant-brewer licenses from one-year to three-years.
A.6751	Jacobson	Chapter 406	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Orange County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.
A.6793	Bichotte Hermelyn	Chapter 408	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Kings County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.
A.6903	Stern	Chapter 409	This law makes a technical reference change related to the definition of "Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise" from the now repealed Executive Law § 369-1 and § 369-I to Article 3 of the Veterans' Service law which became effective on April 1, 2023.
A.6927-A	Solages	Chapter 664	This law requires the Department of State to promulgate regulations to require cosmetologists and natural hair stylists to receive education related to all hair types including, but not limited to, various curl patterns, hair strand thicknesses, and volume of hair.
A.6941	Bronson	Chapter 524	This law repeals a section of Alcoholic Beverage Control Law that restricts the sale of beer by licensed off-premise retailers between the hours of 3 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Sundays.
A.7073	Curran	Chapter 413	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Nassau County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.
A.7113	Mamdani	Chapter 457	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Queens County that is within 200 feet of a school.
A.7275	Vanel	Chapter 416	This law authorizes the State Liquor Authority to issue an on-premise liquor license to a business located in Queens County that is within 200 feet of a religious institution.

A.7292	Stirpe	Chapter 159	This law extends for one year the advisory panel on employee-owned enterprises which is tasked with reporting and making recommendations on how best to support such businesses and promote the formation and growth of new employee-owned enterprises in New York State.
A.7293	Bronson	Chapter 713	This law provides a tied house exemption to SUNY Broome County Community College and Cornell University's New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences located in Ithaca and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station located in Geneva, New York.
A.7305	Cunningham	Chapter 525	This law expands Sunday hours for retail off premise consumption licensees to from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Currently, Sunday hours authorized for wine and liquor stores are from noon 9:00 p.m.
A.7333	Bronson	Vetoed	This bill would require the Department of Economic Development to provide annual reporting on high-speed broadband internet service. This bill would law also add access to high-speed broadband internet service as a grant consideration for projects under the Urban and Community Development Grant Program and RESTORE-NY Grant Program.
A.7430	Peoples-Stokes	Chapter 135	This law provides a one-year extension to the conditional adult-use cultivator licenses and conditional adult-use processor license from June 1, 2023, to June 1, 2024.