



2014 SCORECARD LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Senate Only

S.1671-C / A.5365-B – Asbestos Remediation Tax Credit

This bill provides tax credits to support the redevelopment of asbestos-contaminated properties. Without this tax credit, many contaminated properties would not be financially feasible to redevelop, remaining dormant, environmentally hazardous and a drain on local tax rolls.

S.5481-A – Rural Broadband

The Rural Broadband Deployment Act of 2014 creates a five-year tax credit program for “unserved” homeowners and businesses relating to the construction of new broadband networks. Broadband Internet Access is the superhighway of the 21st century and too many upstate homes and businesses, particularly agriculture based, are being left behind because of inadequate access to reliable high-speed internet.

S.3042 Healthcare Quality and Cost Containment

In 2007, the Governor and Legislature established the Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission, to investigate the cost and medical efficacy of state-imposed health insurance mandates. But in the 7 years since the commission was enacted into law, it has never been constituted. This legislation would set firm specific deadlines for commission to undertake its important work.

Assembly

A.5424 – Energy exploration ban

This bill would end the permitting process for drilling wells for natural gas extraction. Unshackle Upstate believes that natural gas is tremendously valuable natural resource. The development of which can be done safely and have a significant economic impact on New York State, particularly for the Southern Tier. Banning the process of Natural Gas extraction is a steep overreaction driven by environmental radicals that would put New York at a disadvantage compared to many neighboring states.

A.1792 – Collective Bargaining Rights for Farmworkers

This bill would place factory-style labor mandates on working farms in New York, the vast majority of which are Upstate. Because the type of work done on both large-scale and family-farms does not conform to the standard 9-5 workday paradigm, placing these costly labor mandates on the agriculture community would cripple Upstate’s largest industry, increase the cost of staple food products on consumers and put family farms out-of-business.

A.1793-B Paid Family Leave

This legislation would mandate that all employers provide a 12-week paid family leave for its workforce, regardless of the size of the business. A “one size fits all” mandate of this nature does not adequately factor in the wide range of employment situations that are in place throughout New York State. This legislation does not provide any flexibility for specific employers to craft their own family leave policies based on the needs of the company or its workers, as many employers in New York State currently do.

A.7482-A Service Worker Prevailing Wage

This bill would expand the state's prevailing wage mandate to apply to certain contractors of investor-owned utility companies. State-imposed wage mandates such as this one result in higher energy costs for all consumers throughout the state, including businesses, the elderly, schools, day care facilities, local governments and hospitals. In effect, this legislation represents a new and hidden "energy tax" that will be passed on to all New Yorkers.

Senate and Assembly

A.10135 / S.7878 – Brownfields Redevelopment Tax Credit Extender

This bill extends the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) through March 2017. The BCP provides developers with vital incentives to remediate and redevelop former industrial parcels that would otherwise be too expensive to clean up. As a result, it will help return dormant properties to the tax rolls, improving urban neighborhoods.

A.4810-A / S.3564-A Job Order Contracts

This bill would add significant new and additional restrictions on the practice of job order contracting (JOC) in relation to public work projects. Specifically, this legislation would require that all job order contracts be limited to arbitrary annual project cost thresholds of \$1.5 million per contract and \$500,000 per project unless a project labor agreement (PLAs) is in place. Inserting PLAs on job order contracting projects eliminate the benefits of utilizing a JOC and would preclude many merit-shop contractors from bidding.

S.5846-A and A.8069 – Liquefied Natural Gas Transportation

These bills require the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the state Department of Transportation to promptly issue regulations for the siting of liquefied natural and petroleum gas facilities and the transportation of liquefied natural gas and petroleum gas in New York State.

S.5149 / A.7679-A – Net Metering Study

This bill requires that the Public Service Commission (PSC) conduct a study on the newly instituted and highly complex process known as "net metering" in part to "analyze the economic and environmental benefits from and the economic cost burden, if any, of the net energy metering program" in New York State.

S.5903 / A.8113 – START-UP NY

START-UP NY provides businesses with significant incentives – the ability to operate tax-free for 10 years -- if they partner with colleges and universities in New York to create new jobs. The program is intended to encourage businesses to relocate, start up or expand in the state. The bill also enhanced benefits under the Excelsior Jobs program by opening it to smaller, existing businesses that are creating jobs.

A.8106-C / S.5885-B – Wage Theft Prevention Act – Annual Notification Repeal

This measure (which is awaiting approval by the Governor) will eliminate the requirement that employers annually provide a written notice regarding pay and other information to every employee. This universal mandate requires all employers to dedicate staff and to incur additional payroll system and document storage costs. A better option would be to impose an annual notification mandate on employers who have been found to be non-compliant. Under current law, it imposes costs upon most employers while offering benefits to few employees.

2013-14 Budget and 2014-15 Budget