



SFY 2025 STATE BUDGET

The Good:

- No increase to Income Taxes or Statewide Business Taxes
- Combating Retail Theft
 - Makes assaulting a retail worker a felony;
 - Allows prosecutors to combine the value of stolen goods from different stores to reach a higher larceny threshold;
 - Makes it illegal to offer the sale of stolen goods on-line or at a physical location;
 - Provides \$40.2 million for dedicated Retail Theft Teams;
 - Provides \$5 million for a tax credit to assist small businesses that invest in security measures.
- Sunsets Covid-19 Paid Sick Leave on July 31, 2025;
- Provides funding for economic development:
 - \$500 million in capital funding for NYCREATES' Albany NanoTech Complex;
 - \$275 million over 10 years to support Empire AI;
 - \$200 million for four One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships (ON-RAMP) workforce development centers in Upstate New York to train workers for jobs in advanced manufacturing;
 - \$100 million for Focused Attraction Shovel-Ready Tracts New York (FAST-NY) to prepare shovel-ready sites.
- Raises the minimum TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) award from \$500 to \$1,000 and increases student income eligibility limits;
- Provides \$138 million for capital projects at SUNY community colleges;
- Does not include several regulatory proposals which would have negative impacts on employers. The proposals that were rejected were related to wrongful death, data privacy and deceptive practices;
- Raises the grant cap for Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers (EAC) from \$175,000 to \$250,000. This grant helps to fund the Chamber's award-winning Entrepreneur Boot Camp which provides training and guidance to would-be entrepreneurs and existing businesses.

The Bad:

- “Good Cause” Eviction provision included as an opt-in for municipalities outside of New York City.

The Ugly:

- No funding was included to address the state’s outstanding federal Unemployment Insurance advance which currently stands at \$7 billion. The state’s inaction is leading to the highest possible state UI taxes, an Interest Assessment Surcharge, and increased federal UI taxes that employers will continue to face;
- Although the Senate and Assembly had submitted a proposal to include \$400 million in additional funding for core highway construction to offset increased costs due to high inflation rates, the governor rejected it. This is truly unfortunate because the state’s roads and bridges will continue to decline;
- Does not address the frequency of pay issues which have been created after a recent court decision. The court decision (*Vega v. CM & Associates Construction Management LLC*) determined that payment of wages to manual workers other than on a weekly basis is wage theft and subject to a lawsuit and damages. The result has been that employers are now subject to significant claims that can total in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Although the governor had submitted a proposal to clarify that paying a manual worker bi-weekly instead of weekly is not subject to liquidated damages, it was rejected by the legislature.