

# New York 2024 End-of-Session Report

## What New York Lawmakers Accomplished This Year

New York legislators began their 2024 work in early January under the shadow of their 2023 work. In New York, many of the Governor’s most important decisions on bills occur just before the start of the new year. The end of 2023 continued this trend as Governor Hochul vetoed more than 50 bills in December 2023 alone. Among the high-profile vetoed measures were:

- [S 3100/A 1278](#), which would have prohibited non-compete agreements.
- [A 6698/S 6636](#), also known as the Grieving Families Act. The Act would enable families of wrongful death victims to receive damages for emotional damages. Governor Hochul vetoed this proposal for the second time — we’ll touch more on this later.
- [S 4859/A 5682](#), which would have prevented the state from contracting with companies that contribute to tropic forest degradation or deforestation.

Vetoes are a fact of life in the legislative process, and Governor Hochul did sign many bills in the latter half of 2023. However, the ideological divide between the Governor and legislators on some key issues is a narrative dominating coverage of the legislature’s work throughout Governor Hochul’s term.

This dynamic surely informed legislators’ goals for 2024. Ahead of January, legislators set forth slightly less ambitious goals than ahead of the 2023 session. Leadership focused on passing a budget, reaching an agreement on housing, and passing bold climate policy. As always, lawmakers had their work cut out for them. They had just six months to reach consensus on these and other issues critical to the state.

In this report, we examine some of the major legislative efforts this year. This includes those that we at Plural expect to be signed into law, as well as a few that didn’t make it past the finish line. We also examine the issues that will be critical in November’s elections, as well as at the start of the 2025 legislative session.



### BY THE NUMBERS

## New York Legislature’s 2024 Activity

In public policy, the numbers often tell the story. Read on to learn more about the makeup of New York’s legislature, key session data, the policies that became law, and more.

### Partisan Representation in the New York Legislature

	House of Representatives	Senate
Democrats	102	42
Republicans	48	21
Vacant	0	1



## The Makeup of the Legislature

New York Democrats began 2024 with a 42–21 supermajority in the Senate and a 102–48 supermajority in the Assembly. Few changes were made to this partisan makeup throughout the session, including:

- Assembly District 77 passed from Latoya Joyner (D) to Landon Dais (D) following Joyner’s resignation.
- Senate District 63 became vacant following Timothy Kennedy’s (D) resignation to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

These changes leave Democrats with a 41–21 majority in the Senate, including with one vacancy, just shy of a supermajority. The current configuration of the legislature is inconsequential, as lawmakers are not expected to reconvene until January 2025.

## Key Session Data

More than 19,000 bills were introduced across both years of New York’s 2023–2024 session. This year, the legislature introduced nearly 4,000 new bills and considered many of the bills that were not passed in 2023. As of July 9th, Governor Hochul has signed 971 bills into law, including nearly 200 in 2024. The Governor also vetoed 115 bills in the first year of the session. While she hasn’t vetoed any bills in 2024, she has hundreds of bills to make a decision on before the end of the year.

Our AI-powered bill topics shed some light on the kinds of legislation that were the most popular and successful this year.

## Key Policies Passed Into Law

### FY 2025 Budget

Each year, the legislature’s chief responsibility is the state budget. The budget is also a vehicle for many of the legislature’s most ambitious proposals. 2024 was no different. Legislatures took an extra three weeks to finalize a \$237B package of funding and policy changes. This represents a \$8B increase over last year’s budget. The final version landed between the legislature’s more ambitious proposal and the Governor’s more conservative proposal. This theme was present throughout the bill. Notable inclusions include:

- Long-sought deals aimed at increasing access to housing including tax breaks for development. This includes some affordable housing, limited expansions of tenants’ rights, and funds to develop housing on state property.
- Increased funding for law enforcement aimed at addressing retail theft and closing illegal cannabis dispensaries.
- Expanded definitions of hate crimes, paired with funding for programs to support communities susceptible to hate crimes.

It’s also important to note that the spending bill maintained the status quo dictating school funding, via a foundation aid formula. It also maintained the Mayor’s oversight of the New York City school system. Both topics are a constant source of debate when it comes to education policy.

### Climate Change Superfund

Perhaps the largest win this session for climate advocates was the passage of the Climate Change Superfund Act. The Act requires fossil fuel companies to pay for their climate damages. In doing so, it creates a long-term source of funding for climate resiliency projects. Activists will now lobby the governor to ensure it’s signed into law.

## Number of Bills Considered by Topic in 2024

Health and Social Services	1,367
Government and Elections	1,144
Criminal Justice, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, Incarceration	977
Transportation, Energy, and Utilities	904
Employment, Labor, Professional Development	805

## Number of Bills Passed by Topic in 2024

Health and Social Services	42
Government and Elections	40
Appropriations, Budget, Taxation	29
Transportation, Energy, Utilities	25
Criminal Justice, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, Incarceration	23







# Key Policies Passed Into Law

## Social Media Regulation

Regulating social media has prevailed as a nationwide trend in 2024. New York followed in the footsteps of several other states in regulating social media companies' activity. In particular, regulatory activity focuses on how these companies present content to minors. The legislature passed, and the Governor quickly signed, the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act into law. This new law prohibits social media companies from using “addictive” algorithms to display content to minors. It requires applications like Instagram and TikTok to display content in a chronological order.

## Elections Law

Since 2020, lawmakers have made voting access a priority. This year, they passed legislation to expand access to absentee ballot drop boxes. This topic frequently came up for consideration since 2020. S 610 would authorize boards of elections to establish absentee ballot drop boxes, aligning New York state law with many of its neighbors.

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NEW YORK - 2023 REGULAR SESSION

S 7694

Add Bill Shortname

#Social Networking Website Regulation

Document: S7694A

Show Markup

state-ny-2023\_2024-s7694::2416922

1.1

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Stop

1.2

Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids act".

1.3

§ 2. Legislative intent. Social media platforms automatically process

1.4

enormous amounts of data about the behavior of users, using tens or

1.5

hundreds of thousands of data points for each user, filtered through

1.6

sophisticated machine learning algorithms, to create media feeds

1.7

person-

1.8

alized to each user. These feeds are based on data that generally

1.9

includes not only the deliberate choices of the users, such as content

1.10

they "like" or other users they "follow," but also conduct the user may

1.11

not even be aware of, such as how long they spent looking at a partic-

1.12

ular piece of media. These feeds make predictions about interests,

1.13

mood,

1.14

and other factors related to what is most likely to keep users engaged

for as long as possible, creating a feed tailor-made to keep each user

on the platform for longer periods. Today these addictive feeds have

DETAILS

RELATED BILLS 2

Bill Details

Bill Title

Establishes the Stop Addictive

prohibiting the provision of add

Plural AI

Topics

Business, Commerce, and Ec

Health and Social Services

Summary

Hide

AI can make mistakes. Cons

The bill is proposing to regul

and "addictive feeds" provid

it would:

1. Prohibit providing addictiv

verifies the age of the user c

2. Prevent platforms from se

12 AM to 6 AM unless they o

would also require platforms

# Major Policy Questions Remain

Like in 2023, lawmakers were unable to reach an agreement in several policy areas. It's likely that these topics will come back up when a new legislature convenes in 2025.

## Climate Action to Meet New York’s Emissions Goals

Also in 2019, lawmakers passed one of the most ambitious state climate goals in the country. The package was massive and complex. It included a number of programs and goals, all of which must be implemented and achieved by certain target dates. Among the most notable of these goals was a plan to transition to 70% renewable energy by 2030. The state also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85% (compared to 1990s levels) by 2050. Since 2019, it's become clear that New York will miss at least some of the early-stage goals outlined in the plan.

The reasons for this are complex. Lengthy processes dictate what's needed to break ground on new renewable energy projects. Inflation and opposition to development also hinder progress. Regardless, legislators have made historic investments to protect the environment in recent years. However, several major policy changes prioritized by climate advocates were not passed in 2024. This included S 2016/A 4592, the NY Home Energy Affordable Transition (HEAT) Act. The Act would remove an existing state requirement mandating that utility companies provide gas to customers who request it. It also included measures to lower energy costs for low-income New Yorkers. The HEAT Act received backing from powerful lawmakers and climate advocates.

However, it stalled in the Assembly and failed to become law. Lawmakers will likely again target this law in 2025 as they seek to transition the state away from fossil fuels.

## Congestion Pricing

Perhaps the most discussed policy decision of 2024 wasn't on recently introduced legislation. Rather, action on policy passed in 2019 drew significant discussion. The 2019 budget included a measure directing the institution of a toll program for accessing certain parts of Manhattan during "peak hours." The toll was intended to raise funds for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), reduce emissions, and cut traffic. Since then, "congestion pricing" has been debated, planned, and nearly rolled out. However, in early June, Governor Hochul announced an indefinite pause on its implementation.

This development was surprising, and its ramifications are still being understood. Immediate concerns surround what funding will replace that from congestion pricing. Questions regarding whether the Governor has the authority to institute the pause have also arisen. Now on the campaign trail, lawmakers must reluctantly begin speaking about congestion pricing. It's likely that the issue will return to the debate floor in 2025.





# What’s Next?

Over the next six months, the Governor will continue to sign and veto bills passed in the first half of the year. Some activists have called on the legislature to return for a special session later this summer. If they reconvene, legislators will work on the issues left unresolved, including funding for the MTA and climate action. Governor Hochul and other leaders haven’t yet indicated plans to return for a special session. It appears unlikely that the legislature will reconvene.

In the absence of a special session, lawmakers' attention will turn from Albany to their respective districts. Every seat in the Senate and Assembly is up for election in November. However, control of either chamber is unlikely to flip — Democrats have held comfortable majorities in both since 2018. Whether Democrats can maintain the size of their majorities (again, nearly a supermajority in the Senate and a supermajority in the Assembly) is uncertain.

New Yorkers will also vote on an equal rights amendment come November. If passed by voters, the Equal Protection of Law Amendment would add language to the state constitution to protect people from discrimination based on "ethnicity, national origin, age, and disability" as well as "sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy." Other states have passed their own equal rights amendments. However, New York’s language would go a step further by protecting abortion rights.

Legislators will return to Albany in January, certainly framing the election results as a mandate to act on the priorities outlined during their campaigns. It's likely that these priorities will seek to answer many of 2024's unanswered questions, namely the state's climate goals, the future of education control in NYC, and MTA's funding.

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