

Report No.14	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Council on Governmental Affairs		
Date Submitted:	April 14, 2025	Reference Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none		
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none

Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs

Since the last House of Delegates meeting, the Council on Governmental Affairs met by Zoom on November 18, 2024, and is scheduled to meet by Zoom on May 5, 2025. Minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting are on file in the NYSDA office and have been distributed to the Board of Trustees and to component presidents, presidents-elect, executive directors and council chairs.

New York State Budget Victories: At the time of this report (April 14), the SFY 2025-2026 Budget had not been finalized.

On Tuesday, January 21, Gov. Hochul unveiled her 2025-26 Executive Budget proposal for the fiscal year that began April 1, 2025. All fund spending, including federal funds, is projected at \$252 billion, a 3.6% percent increase over the current-year budget.

The current year's (FY '25) Budget is expected to end with a \$3.5-billion surplus. The proposed budget for FY '26 assumes the state's base level receipts and spending will generate a surplus of \$1.8 billion, bringing the total surplus over a two-year period to \$5.3 billion. This two-year surplus will be used to fund new spending initiatives and proposed tax cuts.

Several initiatives and monetary allocations were included within the governor's proposal that would affect the dental profession. They are: expanding the scope of dental hygienists to include block anesthesia, placement of pre-fit orthodontic bands, use of light-cure composite materials, ability to take cephalometric radiographs and adjustment of removable appliances; expanding the current collaborative practice agreement structure; patient protections; and the creation of minimum standards for dental plans available on the marketplace.

The Senate and the Assembly each responded to Gov. Hochul's Executive Budget proposal with their respective "one-house" bills in mid-March. The Senate's One-House Proposal increased State Operations spending by \$6.4 billion over the governor's proposal. The Senate's increase was reflected in additional funding for foundation aid, human services, and childcare. The Assembly's One-House Proposal increases State Operating Funds spending by \$4.14 billion above the Executive's proposal. Similarly,

the Assembly's increase in spending is attributed to additional funding for foundation aid, human services, childcare, and health.

Both the upper and lower houses once again rejected the majority of the governor's proposals to address the continuing healthcare workforce crisis, including interstate compact proposals and the expansion of scope of certain professions, including dentists and dental hygienists. However, each house did include variations of dental loan repayment programs, with the Senate expanding the eligible practitioners under DANY to dentists, and the Assembly including a separate pool of funds specifically for dentists.

NYSDA Legislative Scorecard: A highlight of actions taken on bills that NYSDA has advocated for or against since the House of Delegates 2024 appears below. The 2024 Legislative Session concluded on Saturday, June 8.

Wrongful Death (S.8485-B/A.9232-B): Similar to bills vetoed in 2022 and 2023, this bill would expand New York's wrongful death statute to allow for uncapped, non-economic damages. This bill was vetoed by the governor (Veto: 122).

Health Data Privacy (S.158-E/A.4983-D): This bill creates a framework to govern companies that collect and sell healthcare data and information and provide protection to consumers whose data is tracked. This bill passed the Senate but did not pass the Assembly.

Telehealth Services in Schools (S.7986-B and A.7602): Both bills would allow telehealth services to be offered in schools. This bill was passed in the Senate but not in the Assembly.

Local Input in Community Healthcare ("LICH") Act (S.8843-A/A.1633-A): The LICH Act would articulate specific requirements to be followed where there is a proposed closure of a hospital or a hospital unit; this legislation would not apply to any proposed closures on notice to the Department of Health on the effective date of the legislation. This bill was vetoed by the governor (Veto: 108).

ADA Accommodations (S.8666-A/A.8560-A): This bill requires health care professionals to ask patients if they have a disability that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. This bill was signed into Chapter 624 of the Laws of 2024.

Fluoride Varnish (S.9308-A/A.7402-B): Permits dental assistants and licensed practical nurses to perform the application of topical fluoride varnish. This bill was signed by the governor into Chapter 457 of the laws of 2024.

Dental Therapists (S.4428/A.5373): This bill would provide for licensing of a dental therapist and an advanced dental therapist. This bill did not pass either house.

79 Oral Health Public Awareness Campaign (S.8348-A /A.8365-A): Establishes a
80 campaign to promote public awareness of the causes of oral disease and its prevention.
81 This bill was signed by the governor into Chapter 535 of the laws of 2024.
82

83 Collaborative Practice Agreement Expansion (S.8759-B/A.488-C): This bill would
84 expand the eligible facilities in which a collaborative practice agreement would be
85 applicable. If passed, registered dental hygienists would be required to apply for a
86 unique certification. This bill passed in the Assembly but not the Senate.
87

88 Appointment of State Medicaid Director (S.985/A.9778): This bill provides that the
89 governor shall appoint the Medicaid Director. This bill passed the Senate but not the
90 Assembly.
91

92 Medically Necessary Dental Care (S.7667-A/A.8983): This bill would codify the recent
93 federal class action lawsuit, Ciaramella et. al. v. Bassett. This bill passed the Senate but
94 not the Assembly.
95

96 Blue Ribbon Commission (S.8782-A/A.9553-A): This bill would create a blue ribbon
97 commission on the future of services for persons with IDD. This bill passed the
98 Assembly but did not pass the Senate.
99

100 Non-Covered Dental Services (S.7577-A/A.7862-A): Addresses non-covered dental
101 services by prohibiting insurers from including in a contract or agreement with a dentist
102 requirements to set fees or require approval fees for services not covered under a
103 person's dental plan; prohibits medical expense indemnity corporations, dental expense
104 indemnity corporations and health service corporations from including in a contract or
105 agreement with a dentist requirement to set fees or require approval fees for services
106 not covered under a person's dental plan. This bill was vetoed by the governor (Veto:
107 38). This is a NYSDA bill and has been refiled in the 2025-26 legislative session.
108

109 Medical Loss Ratio for Dental Insurance (S.7013/A.7852): Establishes a medical loss
110 ratio for dental insurance of not less than 82% for calendar year 2024 and thereafter.
111 This bill did not pass either house. This is a NYSDA bill and has been refiled in the
112 2025-26 legislative session.
113

114 Dental Vaccinations for Human Papillomavirus (S.7355/ A.7857): Permits dentists to
115 administer vaccinations against human papillomavirus. This bill did not pass either
116 house. This is a NYSDA bill and has been refiled in the 2025-26 legislative session.
117

118 Dental Vaccinations for Influenza and COVID (S.7356/ A.7855): Permits dentists to
119 administer influenza and COVID vaccinations and vaccinations related to a declared
120 public health. This bill passed the Senate. This is a NYSDA bill and has been refiled in
121 the 2025-26 legislative session.
122

Advocacy Days: In 2025, NYSDA adopted a new format for Advocacy Day. Instead of the traditional single day of legislative visits, the NYSDA Board and the Council on Governmental Affairs have scheduled two virtual events to bookend the legislative session, along with three topic-based, small group, in-person meetings.

The first virtual event, which marked the beginning of the legislative session, saw strong attendance from both NYSDA members and legislative leaders. This event provided an overview of NYSDA's goals for the 2025-26 legislative session.

The first in-person event, held on March 20, focused on workforce incentives and received positive feedback from both attendees and legislators. NYSDA leadership also participated in a press conference on oral health in New York State.

The second in-person event, scheduled for April 30, will address dental insurance reform. The third event, set for May 14, will concentrate on access to care. The last virtual event will be a legislative wrap-up, where we will hear from legislators.

Additionally, the councils on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) and Dental Health Planning and Hospital Dentistry (DHP&HD) requested a legislative roundtable to discuss licensure pathways for foreign-trained dentists and access to care. This aligns with the discussions and recommendations from the ADA meeting in October. Consequently, the Board has agreed to add a fourth in-person event on May 21 to cover these topics.

NYSDAPAC: NYSDA has established a new registered Political Action Committee (PAC). Council members will be involved in political fundraising events when scheduled. Additionally, there will be at least two fundraising campaigns throughout the year, apart from what is included in the NYSDA dues statement.

Currently, the NYSDA Board makes up the NYSDAPAC Board, but there are plans to include members from outside the NYSDA Board.

The Council was polled to determine whether they preferred a streamlined PAC Board or representation from each component dental society. The Council voted in favor of having each component dental society represented on the PAC Board, with a small Executive Committee composed of these members to ensure the Board remains agile.

Governmental Affairs Charges: The Council reviewed its current responsibilities and proposed updates as outlined in the NYSDA Bylaws. These updates aim to reflect the Council's actual activities more accurately. Additionally, the proposed changes include an annual review of the external lobbying firm's performance, a task previously managed by the Board's Lobby Review Committee, which no longer exists. The Board agreed that this responsibility would be better suited for the Council on Governmental Affairs. There was a discussion about potentially establishing metrics to evaluate the lobbying firm's performance effectively. The Council expressed a desire to have the

team at Brown & Weinraub engage with it more frequently, to promote ongoing dialogue. An appropriate resolution has been submitted.

Nomination of Council Chair: The Council unanimously recommended Dr. Radha Sachdeva-Munk (Suffolk County Dental Society) to incoming NYSDA President Dr. Maurice L. Edwards for appointment as Council chair from June 2025-2026. If selected, this will be Dr. Sachdeva-Munk's second term as Chair.

Resolution

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