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Policy Positions

Government Reform

The Assembly Republican Conference's plan to reimagine State government:

Ethics and Governmental Operations

Department of Oversight and Investigation – Abolishes the investigative agencies in New York State, including the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE), and creates one politically-neutral agency to investigate criminal activity, fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing by all State employees and those people doing business with the State (**A.6602, Giglio JM**).

State Contract Sunlight Act – Requires the Comptroller to establish a public, searchable statewide database of all contract bids and final contracts. Specific requirements of each bid or contract include job creation and investment, project timeline, funding sources, return on investment to the State, and claw-back provisions for when projects do not meet deadlines or fulfill requirements (**A.3784, Norris**).

Elections to Fill Vacancies of Comptroller and Attorney General – Requires elections to fill the vacancies of Comptroller and Attorney General to take place at the next scheduled general election following a vacancy. Allows the Legislature to appoint vacancies in the office of Comptroller and Attorney General only until the first general election following a vacancy in either office (**A.6297, Hawley**).

New York State Thruway Authority Accountability Act – Merges the day-to-day operations of the Thruway Authority with the Department of Transportation and names the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation as the Chair of the Thruway Authority Board (**A.5564, Barclay**).

Operations of the Legislature

Message of Necessity – Limits the use of messages of necessity to situations involving a state of emergency (**A.3915, Byrne**).

Office of Policy Research and Analysis – Creates a nonpartisan “Office of Policy Research and Analysis” designated to provide nonpartisan and confidential information on the impact of current and proposed legislative policy to any member of the Assembly or the Senate (**A.4383, Ra**).

Legislative Approval of Wage Board Orders – Requires legislative approval of minimum wage increases authorized through wage orders (**A.5063, Palmesano**).

State Agreement Enabling Legislation – Requires the State to pass enabling legislation before entering into any compact, program, or other legal agreement with any other state (**A.6129, Friend**).

Budget Reforms

Settlement Money Designated for Debt Service – Requires five percent of any settlement over \$1 million to go directly into the State's General Debt Service Fund (**A.5015, Ra**).

State Spending Cap – Caps State spending to the average rate of inflation of the three previous calendar years, and increases the maximum capacity of the rainy day fund (**A.5550, Barclay**).

Itemization in the State Budget – Requires each section of the budget bills to clearly reference an appropriation to ensure budget negotiations are focused on fiscal issues (**A.4834, Ra**).