



2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

The 2021 New York State Legislative Session officially came to a close in the early morning hours of June 11, 2021. However, with several outstanding legislative initiatives requiring action by the state Senate and Assembly, both houses have indicated they are likely to return to Albany in the coming weeks/months to take up additional bill passage.

In the post-budget phase of this session, SUNY advocated for 11 non-budgetary pieces of legislation. These include bills that are important systemwide, but also bills specific to campuses. Our work included collaborative advocacy efforts with CICU, CUNY, UPD, union partners, local community leaders, and many others.

Of these 11 bills, 7 passed both houses, 2 passed the Senate and await Assembly action, and 2 require action in both houses. Additionally, SUNY opposed 2 bills deemed detrimental to the system – neither of which passed both houses. One final bill, concerning athlete compensation, required significant staff time to ensure language that would not cause harm to our campuses. Ultimately, revisions adopted were not enough to earn SUNY’s support and the bill only passed the Senate.

Though Session is complete, the likelihood of the Legislature’s return later this summer means that our advocacy will continue in securing support and passage of the remaining bills.

Bills Passed by One or Both Houses of the Legislature (Non-Budgetary)

Table with 6 columns: Bill No., Sponsors, Title, SUNY Support/ Oppose/ NA, Senate Passage, Assembly Passage. It lists three bills: A6249A, A7491A, and A1921, all with 'Support' from SUNY and checkmarks for both Senate and Assembly passage.

A7692	AM Miller/ Senator Martucci	Authorizes the exchange of real property at SUNY Delhi with its campus foundation to allow for the construction of a hotel in support of the campus' Hospitality Management and Culinary program.	Support	✓	✓
A7465	AM Cruz/ Senator Sepúlveda	Requires the state civil service department to make efforts to utilize the state university of New York educational opportunity centers when selecting testing sites for exams.	Support	✓	✓
A6457	AM Abbate/ Senator Gounardes	Establishes a 20-year retirement plan for members of the university police officers, regional state park police, environmental conservation officers, and forest rangers.	Support	✓	✓
S3543	Senator Stavisky/ AM Fahy	Requires certain professionals to provide and the state education department to collect information about the practice of their professions. This type of data will support a systematic approach to health workforce monitoring in the state and will inform programs and policies that address critical health workforce shortages and diversity across the state.	Support	✓	✓
S6825	Senator Mayer	Preserves and continues the New York State pathways in technology early college high school (NYS P-TECH) program and the New York State Smart Scholars early college high school (NYS Smart Scholars ECHS) program in this state.	Support	✓	

S3448	Senator Hinchey/ AM O'Donnell	Requires the training of residence assistants in the administration of opioid antagonists in college housing at SUNY and CUNY campuses.	Support	✓	
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Bills Awaiting Action in Both Houses

Bill No.	Sponsors	Title	SUNY Support/ Oppose/ NA	Notes
S7092	Senator May	Creates COVID-19 Heroes grant program that would provide a lump sum of \$2,500 to all essential employees at SUNY hospitals.	Support	The Assembly did not yet assign a bill number.
S6592	Senator Stavisky	Relates to the academic program review of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university in the state.	Support	The Assembly did not yet assign a bill number.