The Legislature finally wrapped up for the year on Wednesday of this week. Due to incredibly hard work from members like you across the state we were able to support the passage of some very exciting pieces of legislation. That being said, it was a tough legislative session and we still have a LOT of work to do next year to move our priorities forward. Thank you to all of you for the action you took! Below is a quick round up of which bills in our post budget lobby packets were passed and which were not.

What passed?

**Mandatory Training Curriculum for Poll Workers (S587 Comrie/A268 Walker)**
Relates to mandatory training curriculum for poll workers; requires the state board of elections to develop and provide to each county materials for a model poll worker training program which the counties may use to train individuals to serve as poll workers in state and county elections.

**Plain Language Ballot Initiative (S1381 Comrie/A1722 Zinerman)**
Plain Language Ballot Initiative (S1381 Comrie/A1722 Zinerman)
Requires proposed amendment to the constitution or other question provided by law to be submitted to a statewide vote be submitted to the people for their approval in plain language.

10-day Voter Registration Implementation (S5984A Kavanaugh/A6132A Carroll)
This bill would allow for the effective implementation of the 10-day voter registration bill that was passed last session. It would allow voters to complete a conditional voter registration application and cast an affidavit ballot.

Reproductive Telehealth (S1066A Mayer/A1709 Reyes)
Provides certain legal protections for reproductive health service providers who provide legally protected health activities including protection from extradition, arrest and legal proceedings in other states relating to such services; restricts the use of evidence relating to the involvement of a party in providing legally protected health activity to persons located out-of-state.

Birds and Bees Protection Act (S01856 Hoylman-Sigal/A03226 Glick)
Enacts the birds and bees protection act; prohibits the sale of certain pesticides (neonics) or use of seeds coated with such pesticides; requires the department of environmental conservation to review the latest scientific information concerning certain pesticide active ingredients.

Clean Slate (S211A Myrie/ A1029A Cruz)
Provides for automatic sealing of certain convictions after a certain passage of time from either imposition of sentence, release from parole or probation, and if the defendant does not have a current charge pending; excludes certain offenses; permits access by certain persons.

School Based Health Centers (S2339 Rivera/A6029 Paulin)
Provides that services provided by school-based health centers shall not be provided to medical assistance recipients through managed care programs.

What didn't pass?

Absentee Ballot Illness Expansion (A3291 Dinowitz)
This bill would make permanently change the definition of illness for purposes of absentee voting to include in cases where the voter is unable to appear personally because of a risk of contracting or spreading illness.

Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S237 May/A6353 Glick)
This bill would expand the Bottle Bill passed in the 80s to include wine, spirits, hard cider, and most non-carbonated beverages. It would also increase the deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents and use revenues to support recycling equity.

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act (S4246 Harckam/A5322 Glick)
Would require companies to reduce their packaging by 50% in 12 years, make the remaining packaging truly reusable or recyclable, get certain toxic chemicals out of packaging, and pay to clean up their packaging waste by reimbursing municipalities and taxpayers for the collection and processing of those materials.

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act Database (S657 Myrie/A885A Walker)
Allows for the regulation of public data maintained by county and city boards of elections; establishes the New York voting and elections database and institute to maintain a statewide database of voting and election data.
Same Day Voter Reg. Constitutional Amendment (S178 Gianaris/A181 Carroll)
Removes the ten-day advance voter registration requirement. This bill would restart the constitutional amendment process on this issue.

Climate Superfund Act (S2129 Krueger/A3351 Dinowitz)
Establishes the climate change adaptation cost recovery program to require companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of climate-warming greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to bear a share of the costs of needed infrastructure investments to adapt to climate change.

Reproductive Freedom & Equity Program (S348B Cleare/A361A Gonzalez-Rojas)
Establishes the reproductive freedom and equity program to ensure access to abortion care in the state by providing funding to abortion providers, government entities and non-profit organizations whose primary function is to facilitate access to abortion care.

Fair and Timely Parole (S307 Salazar/A162 Weprin)
Relates to findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated persons on parole. It would provide a fully staffed Parole Board guidance on criteria in deciding parole release for eligible incarcerated people. The standard for release consideration would be centered on a person’s rehabilitation and growth while incarcerated and not on the original crime.

Elder Parole (S2423 Hoylman-Sigal/A2035 Davila)
Relates to parole eligibility for certain incarcerated persons age fifty-five or older. It would provide incarcerated people 55 years and older that have served 15 years or more of their sentence an opportunity for parole release consideration.

Fair Pay for Homecare (S3189 May)
Relates to increasing the base wage for home care aides.

Medical Aid in Dying (S2445 Hoylman-Sigal/A995 Paulin)
Relates to the medical aid in dying act; relates to a terminally ill patient’s request for and use of medication for medical aid in dying

What comes next?
We now wait and watch for the legislature to deliver bills to the desk of the Governor. Keep an eye out for action alerts as we may need to put pressure on the Governor or key legislators to get these bills signed and executed.

Let's talk Primary Day
This past Saturday marked the first day of early voting and it was also the first day that New Yorkers could register to vote and vote on the same day! While the numbers aren't official we did see some New Yorkers take advantage of this increased access.

Remember to share reminders with voters in your county about early voting, the upcoming primary day, and a reminder to head to Vote411.org for info! If you don't want to create your own graphics you can easily share the LWVNYS graphics below on our Instagram or Facebook posts.
Reminder: Election Day is June 27.

Until a few weeks from now,

Erica

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