




Governmental Relations Update

The NYSBA Department of Governmental Relations interacts with the Executive and Legislative branches of state government in Albany, as well as Congress and the Administration in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the priorities of the Association. Here's what we accomplished this Session.

Legislative Victories

-  The "Marihuana Regulation and Taxation" act, legislation that legalizes cannabis and sets forth a new regulatory scheme for the state.
-  The "Less is More" act, common sense parole reform that halts reincarceration of individuals for technical parole violations.
-  Modernized Power of Attorney Statute

Legislation Supported by the Association's Committees and Sections that Passed Both Chambers of the Legislature and Await the Governor's Signature:

- The "Jose Webster untraceable firearms" act and "Scott J. Beigel unfinished receiver" act, legislation that bans the possession of "ghost guns" and unfinished frames and receivers ;
- Constitutional amendment that would authorize same day voter registration;
- Streamlining the assignment of appellate counsel for indigent criminal defendants;
- Ensuring veterans with certain qualifying conditions have access to state benefits;
- Raising the age for children marriage to the age of eighteen;
- Raising the age of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction;
- Reforming workers compensation attorney fees to ensure fees are representative of the services rendered;
- Eliminating certain reporting requirements for not-for-profit organizations.

Future Advocacy

The Association very closely accomplished a 4th legislative priority. After receiving no movement since 2019, the Association was able to advance a bill to repeal judiciary law 470 through passage in the State Senate and in the final committee in the Assembly before it would reach a floor vote. This is uncommonly quick movement and is no doubt the result of our members and the Association's tireless advocacy on the issue to repeal this antiquated law.

Over the summer the Department of Governmental Relations will be urging the Governor to sign passed legislation into law and begin strategizing for next year's advocacy in support of our members and access to justice for all New Yorkers.

The Department would like to thank all of it's member-advocates for their work in support of the Association's Legislative Priorities and the sections and committee's legislative action items.



The Department will also be meeting with sections and committees to support their legislative action items. In the interim, if you would like to speak with a member of the Department please contact us:

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