



2022 State Legislative Wrap Up – Women in Law Section

The 2022 state legislative session has ended, and several actions were taken by the legislature that may be of interest to your section. Any memoranda drafted by the section in support or opposition to legislation was shared by the Government Relations team to the key relevant legislators and the team will continue its advocacy on these matters in the off-session.

Section Legislative Engagement

- **Workplace Sexual Harassment Confidential Hotline** (A2035-A/S812-B) Establishes a free and confidential hotline to provide counsel and assistance to complainants of workplace sexual harassment. The section issued [memorandum](#) in support of this legislation, which was signed into law on 3/16/2022 and took effect on 7/14/2022.
- **Women’s Health in Correctional Facilities** (S401-A/A211-A) Requires specialized education for medical personnel treating women in correctional facilities and improves standards for female and pregnant inmates. The section issued [memorandum](#) in support of this legislation, which was amended in 2022 and remains in the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees.
- **Equal Rights Amendment** - The section and Association supported resolution S.1268, a resolution proposing an amendment to the New York State Constitution to ensure no person shall be denied equal rights under the laws of this state based on that person's race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy. The legislative session adjourned without action on the resolution. However, (S51002/A41002) a modified resolution was introduced in an extraordinary session of the state legislature. The concurrent resolutions passed the senate and assembly on 7/01/2022. The resolutions must pass both houses again in the next legislative session, and then will be referred to a ballot for the voters of the State.

Legislation that passed both houses:

- **Reproductive Health Service Provider Protection** (S9079-B/A9687-B) Prohibits professional misconduct charges and other disciplinary measures against health care practitioners who provide reproductive health services to patients who live in states where those services are illegal. This legislation was signed into law on 6/13/2022 and took effect immediately.
- **Human Trafficking Recognition Training**
- (S7360/A9821) Requires all New York State Liquor Authority-certified Alcohol Training Awareness Programs to include a human trafficking training component. The legislation was signed into law by the governor on 7/20/2022 and will take effect 8/19/2022.

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- (S244-B/A887-C) Establishes a requirement for every inn, hotel, motel, motor court to include training in the recognition of human trafficking victims for each employee who is likely to meet with guests. This training will be provided to each employee within the first 60 days of employment. The legislation was signed into law by the governor on 7/20/2022 and will take effect on 7/20/2023.
- **Human Trafficking Resource Posting Requirements**
 - (A7818-B/S3374-B) Requires establishments serving alcohol to post a sign or poster containing information on human trafficking and providing the toll-free phone number of the National Human Trafficking Hotline
 - (S8710/A9406) (S8678/A9814) (S8711-A/A9883-A) (S8573/A9410) (S8262/A9169) Require the Thruway Authority, Port Authority, and other transportation hubs such as airports and truck stops to post informational signs and cards concerning services for human trafficking victims in public restrooms.

The above legislation was signed into law by the governor on 7/20/2022 and will take effect on 8/19/2022.

- **Prohibiting Discrimination Against Victims of Domestic Violence** (S8417-B/A9601-B) Prohibits discrimination based on status as a victim of domestic violence. This legislation was signed into law on 5/13/2022 and took effect the same day.
- **Increased Coverage of Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing Under Medicaid** (A8604/S8157) Grants that availability and coverage of non-invasive prenatal testing cannot be limited based on the age of the pregnant patient. This legislation awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect on April 1, 2023.
- **Maternal Mental Health Working Group** (S7752/A9085) Establishes a maternal mental health workgroup to study and issue recommendations related to maternal mental health and perinatal and postpartum anxiety. This legislation awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect immediately.
- **Adult Survivors Act** (A648-A/S66-A) Creates a one-year lookback window for survivors of sexual assault that occurred when they were over the age of 18 to sue their abusers regardless of when the abuse occurred. This legislation was signed into law on 5/24/2022 and took effect immediately.

Other legislation relevant to the committee's interests:

- **Gender Balance in Public Authorities** (A477-A/S460-A) Adds a new section to the public authorities law which enacts a program promoting women to state and local authority boards. This legislation passed the assembly and remains in the Senate Rules Committee.
- **Total Access to Menstrual Products (TAMP) Act** (A137/No Same As) Requires that all female-designated washrooms provide at no cost feminine hygiene products including sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners. This legislation did not move beyond the assembly governmental operations committee this year.
- **Gender Wage Disparity Transparency for State Contracts** (A1776/No Same As) Requires state contractors to disclose the average weekly wage paid to men and women by job title or position, and requires state agencies to give extra credit in the scoring of offers to contractors with a gender wage disparity of 10 percent or less. This legislation did not move beyond the assembly governmental operations committee this year.
- **Women in Executive Positions for State Contracts** (A1795/No Same As) Require companies doing business with the State in excess of \$100,000 to disclose the percentage and number of female employees serving on corporate boards and in executive positions. This legislation did not move beyond the assembly governmental operations committee this year.

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Thank you for the feedback you continue to provide to our Government Relations team and elected officials. As experts in the field, the legislature grants great deference to the opinions of the committee and your feedback has the power to influence the policy of the state. Please feel free to reach out to the NYSBA Government Relations team with any questions about policy proposals, pending legislation or the legislative process generally.

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