



Albany Update

Volume 5 April 15, 2005

Highlights of Chapter Amendments to the Adopted Budget Signed by Governor Pataki

- Funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

TANF Base	\$783.4 million
Flexible fund for family Services	\$600 million
Support for Low Income Working Families	\$686.2 million
Child Care Investment	\$379 million
Programmatic Initiatives	168.6 million
Total	\$2.57 billion
- Higher Education Services Corporation**
 Restores TAP awards so possible Constitutional questions are answered
- Department of Environmental Conservation**
 Quality Communities Programs \$3 million
 (Enhancement projects for municipalities and not-for-profits would be approved and funded through the Quality Communities Interagency Task Force. Would include: comprehensive land use plans, downtown partnership revitalization plans, and mountain community projects)
- Empire Zones**
 Extends sunset until June 30, 2011
 Authorizes 12 new zones
 Grandfathers all presently certified businesses
 Reconfigures Zone boundaries prospectively to facilitate clustering
 Provides manufacturing, research/development & biotech companies that provide over 50 jobs to receive Investment Zone benefits
- Department of Health [DOH]**
 HCRA funds after July 1, 2005 will be contingent on availability of funds from the Empire Conversion
 Amends DOH authority to enter into contracts with hospitals for selective services
 Increases nursing home assessment from 5% to 6% and establishes a refundable tax credit for individual payors of the nursing home assessment
 Amends co-pays for Family Health Plus Programs
 Conversion of health insurance plans from not-for-profit to for-profit status will be addressed outside the budget process
 Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century will evaluate the configuration and capacity of general hospitals and nursing homes in NYS and make recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2006. The Commission will have 18 statewide members, 6 regional members and six regional advisory committees.

BOLTON-ST. JOHNS
 is hosting a private reception
 for
SHELDON SILVER
Assembly Speaker
 on
 Friday, May 20th
 In
 New York City

FUNDRAISERS

Monday, April 18th

Assem Francine DelMonte
 Albany \$250

Tuesday, April 19th

Assem Crouch [R]
 Vice Chair—Minority Steering Comm
 Albany \$250

Assem Darryl Towns [D]
 Chair—Veteran Affairs
 Albany \$350

Thursday, April 21st

Assem Marc Butler [D]
 Ranking mem—Economic Development
 Mayfield \$35

Assem Jose Rivera [D]
 Bronx \$300

Thursday, April 28th

David Paterson [D]
 Senate Democratic Leader
 NYC \$500