

2008-09 Executive Budget
21-Day AMENDMENTS
February 12, 2008

**Amendments to Senate 6806; Assembly 9806
(Public Protection and General Government Article VII Bill)**

Part H, relating to clarifying the applicability of the state wireless communications service surcharge, imposing such surcharge on prepaid wireless communications service and providing a safe harbor for providers of prepaid wireless communications services, is amended to:

- Make technical corrections.

Part P, relating to the recording of certain documents with a county clerk, is amended to:

- Clarify that a cover page required by a county clerk shall be considered an additional page for purposes of charging recording fees.

Part Q, relating to local government mandate relief proposals, is amended to:

- Include collateral source reforms in personal injury and wrongful death actions against local governments and the State, thereby providing greater parity to the process under which such claims are resolved.
- Include a cap on the interest rate paid on judgments against local and State governments.

Part T, relating to promoting consolidation in and improving the efficiency of real property tax administration, is amended to:

- Clarify that State law shall take precedence over city charters with respect to the requirement that assessors be appointed positions.

Part U, relating to the composition of county and part-county boards of health; the provision of sanitary services in the areas of towns outside of villages; and the petition requirements for initiating a referendum regarding municipal consolidation or dissolution, is amended to:

- Clarify that certain county health districts may employ the same person as the county health commissioner and public health director.
- Clarify that sanitary district employees shall be transferred from such district to the town in which such district is located in accordance with Civil Service Law.
- Clarify that the municipal consolidation or dissolution petition process established by the new Article 17-A of General Municipal Law shall also apply to fire districts and fire protection districts.

Part V, relating to providing for the administration of certain funds and accounts related to the 2008-2009 budget; authorizing certain payments and transfers, is amended to:

- Increase the \$100 million transfer from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) (078), environmental protection transfer account (01) to the General Fund by \$25 million.
- Increase the transfer from the Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund (339), Compulsory Insurance Fund (H7) to the General Fund by \$5.25 million to \$33.55 million.
- Increase the transfer from the General Fund to the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund by \$15.5 million to \$155.5 million.
- Reauthorize the transfer of up to \$229 million from the General Fund to the debt reduction reserve fund, not to exceed the unused balance of the \$250 million authorized in the 2007-08 enacted budget.
- Add a new bond authorization of \$355 million for costs associated with acquiring title to New York Racing Association (NYRA) real property (not to exceed \$105 million) and Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) (not to exceed \$250,000,000) at the Aqueduct racetrack.
- Make a technical change re-naming the Domestic Violence Grant Account (ZV) to the Domestic Violence Grant Account(28).
- Make a technical change re-naming the Special Conservation Activities Account (DU) to the Special Conservation Activities Account (CU).
- Amend the deposit authorization amount for the purchase of equipment or systems development.
- Make technical amendments to clarify the treatment of bond caps with respect to bond premiums or discounts, service contracts, and refunding issues.
- Increase the bond authorization for equipment acquisitions by \$30 million to a total of \$434 million.

Part W, relating to the implementation of an amnesty program for the New York health insurance program, is added to:

- Authorize the President of the Civil Service Commission to establish an amnesty period of up to 60 days during the 2008-09 State Fiscal Year.
- Terminate coverage for ineligible dependents on a current basis as they are voluntarily identified by an employee, and waive recovery of prior costs incurred on behalf of such ineligible dependents.
- Prohibit the refund of premium paid on behalf of such ineligible dependents.
- Exempt employees voluntarily complying through the amnesty program from disciplinary and legal actions.