

Law, Department of

Mission

The Department of Law is responsible for protecting the legal rights of New York State and its citizens by representing the State in litigation and in other legal affairs.

In implementing its constitutional responsibilities, the Department performs a wide range of functions including prosecuting or defending actions and proceedings for or against the State and its departments; prosecuting certain criminal violations of the Labor, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance laws; investigating and prosecuting other criminal cases at the request of the Governor or the commissioners of State departments; investigating the activities of organized crime; bringing civil and/or criminal actions against polluters, violators of antitrust laws, and those who defraud consumers or investors; mediating consumer complaints; and investigating and prosecuting cases of Medicaid fraud.

Organization and Staffing

The legal functions and administrative functions of the Department of Law are divided into eight major divisions: Administration, Appeals and Opinions, Counsel for the State, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Investigations, Social Justice, and Regional Offices. Each division consists of smaller bureaus or specialized units dealing with specific issues.

The Department's main offices are located in Albany and New York City, with regional offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, Utica, Watertown, Plattsburgh, Poughkeepsie, White Plains, Harlem, Brooklyn, Mineola, and Hauppauge.

Budget Highlights

The FY 2025 Executive Budget recommends \$372.1 million in all funds appropriated for the Department of Law. This represents a \$20 million all funds increase from the previous year attributed to new capital for IT modernization projects, general salary and inflationary increases, and funding to support new criminal and social justice initiatives. The Department of Law has a workforce of 1,950 FTEs, an increase of 47 FTEs over the previous fiscal year.

Program Highlights

Administration Division

Provides budget, finance, personnel, operations, and technology services for the agency.

Division of Appeals and Opinions

Handles appellate litigation in both State and Federal courts. The Division also prepares opinions, both formal and informal, interpreting State laws for State agencies and municipalities.

Criminal Justice Division

Investigates and prosecutes criminal cases, including those involving Medicaid fraud, auto insurance fraud, white collar and organized crime cases involving multi-county, multi-state and even multi-national criminal activities occurring within New York State.

Investigations Division

Provides investigative support for legal divisions throughout the Department, and works cooperatively with State, local and Federal law enforcement agencies on cases that cross jurisdictional lines.

Division of State Counsel

Provides State agencies, the Governor, other State officials, and the Legislature with counsel and representation in legal proceedings. It recoups non-tax revenue on behalf of State taxpayers and provides legal assistance to State agencies in connection with the acquisition and disposition of public land.

Division of Economic Justice

Defends and protects the public interest in the courts. It enforces laws to prevent restraint of trade, protects consumers from fraudulent and/or deceptive business practices, regulates the sale of securities, and addresses people's concerns about criminal online activities.

Division of Social Justice

Defends and protects the public interest in the courts. It ensures compliance with the State’s health care and environmental laws, enforces State Labor and Workers’ Compensation Laws, protects charitable donors and beneficiaries, and enforces laws prohibiting discrimination.

Regional Offices Division

Provides satellite offices across the State to ensure that all New York agencies have cost-effective representation in all local, State and Federal courts, and that citizens have full access to the programs and services of the Department.

**ALL FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Category	Available FY 2024	Appropriations Recommended FY 2025	Change From FY 2024	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2025
State Operations	349,368,730	367,124,000	17,755,270	36,963,000
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	1,122,000
Capital Projects	2,750,000	5,000,000	2,250,000	8,535,000
Total	352,118,730	372,124,000	20,005,270	46,620,000

ALL FUND TYPES

PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM

FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	FY 2024 Estimated FTEs 03/31/24	FY 2025 Estimated FTEs 03/31/25	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	185	185	0
Appeals and Opinions			
General Fund	48	51	3
Cannabis Management			
General Fund	15	15	0
Counsel for the State			
General Fund	358	377	19
Special Revenue Funds - Other	114	114	0
Internal Service Funds	88	89	1
Criminal Investigations			
General Fund	145	145	0
Economic Justice			
General Fund	1	1	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	121	124	3
Social Justice			
General Fund	95	95	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	84	86	2
Capital Projects Funds - Other	3	3	0
Criminal Justice			
General Fund	140	140	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52	52	0
Medicaid Fraud Control			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	201	201	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	83	83	0
Regional Offices			
General Fund	170	189	19
Total	1,903	1,950	47

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change
General Fund	157,974,830	165,319,000	7,344,170
Internal Service Funds	17,808,590	20,037,000	2,228,410
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	50,186,000	51,750,000	1,564,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	123,399,310	130,018,000	6,618,690
Total	349,368,730	367,124,000	17,755,270
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(4,942,730)		
Appropriated FY 2024	344,426,000		

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change
Administration			
General Fund	24,132,600	23,580,000	(552,600)
Appeals and Opinions			
General Fund	10,715,260	11,299,000	583,740
Cannabis Management			
General Fund	2,760,000	2,760,000	0
Counsel for the State			
General Fund	43,480,960	47,459,000	3,978,040
Internal Service Funds	17,808,590	20,037,000	2,228,410
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,243,490	30,642,000	398,510
Criminal Investigations			
General Fund	15,514,450	16,898,000	1,383,550
Criminal Justice			
General Fund	18,803,940	18,251,000	(552,940)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,372,000	2,557,000	1,185,000
DEED THEFT INTERVENTION PROGRAM			
General Fund	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
Economic Justice			
General Fund	161,000	185,000	24,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	41,016,620	43,003,000	1,986,380
Medicaid Fraud Control			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	50,186,000	51,750,000	1,564,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	16,728,000	17,250,000	522,000
Regional Offices			
General Fund	25,882,470	28,568,000	2,685,530
Social Justice			
General Fund	14,524,150	14,319,000	(205,150)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	34,039,200	36,566,000	2,526,800
Total	349,368,730	367,124,000	17,755,270

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2025 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	18,436,000	(1,846,600)	18,262,000	(1,816,600)
Appeals and Opinions	10,297,000	674,740	10,268,000	673,740
Cannabis Management	2,200,000	0	2,200,000	0
Counsel for the State	43,985,000	4,416,040	43,069,000	3,583,040
Criminal Investigations	15,932,000	793,550	14,932,000	413,550
Criminal Justice	15,709,000	27,060	15,469,000	(154,940)
DEED THEFT INTERVENTION PROGRAM	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0
Economic Justice	185,000	24,000	0	0
Regional Offices	23,994,000	2,685,530	23,891,000	3,344,530
Social Justice	10,429,000	(95,150)	10,267,000	(219,150)
Total	142,167,000	6,679,170	139,358,000	5,824,170

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	146,000	(20,000)	28,000	(10,000)
Appeals and Opinions	27,000	0	2,000	1,000
Counsel for the State	881,000	800,000	35,000	33,000
Criminal Investigations	0	0	1,000,000	380,000
Criminal Justice	0	0	240,000	182,000
Economic Justice	185,000	24,000	0	0
Regional Offices	100,000	(660,000)	3,000	1,000
Social Justice	130,000	124,000	32,000	0
Total	1,469,000	268,000	1,340,000	587,000

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2025 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	5,144,000	1,294,000	1,000,000	225,000
Appeals and Opinions	1,002,000	(91,000)	450,000	11,000
Cannabis Management	560,000	0	0	0
Counsel for the State	3,474,000	(438,000)	3,000	2,000
Criminal Investigations	966,000	590,000	27,000	15,000
Criminal Justice	2,542,000	(580,000)	108,000	2,000
DEED THEFT INTERVENTION PROGRAM	1,000,000	0	0	0
Regional Offices	4,574,000	0	142,000	0
Social Justice	3,890,000	(110,000)	91,000	0
Total	23,152,000	665,000	1,821,000	255,000

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	107,000	0	2,794,000	826,000
Appeals and Opinions	20,000	0	532,000	(102,000)
Cannabis Management	0	0	560,000	0
Counsel for the State	60,000	60,000	3,411,000	(500,000)
Criminal Investigations	154,000	60,000	285,000	15,000
Criminal Justice	137,000	0	1,819,000	(582,000)
DEED THEFT INTERVENTION PROGRAM	0	0	1,000,000	0
Regional Offices	100,000	0	4,332,000	0
Social Justice	100,000	0	3,577,000	(110,000)
Total	678,000	120,000	18,310,000	(453,000)

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	1,243,000	243,000
Criminal Investigations	500,000	500,000
Criminal Justice	478,000	0
Social Justice	122,000	0
Total	2,343,000	743,000

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2025 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Counsel for the State	50,679,000	2,626,920	11,952,000	1,947,970
Criminal Justice	2,557,000	1,185,000	0	0
Economic Justice	43,003,000	1,986,380	19,543,000	1,495,680
Medicaid Fraud Control	69,000,000	2,086,000	32,030,000	562,000
Social Justice	36,566,000	2,526,800	16,540,000	(177,410)
Total	201,805,000	10,411,100	80,065,000	3,828,240

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Counsel for the State	38,727,000	678,950
Criminal Justice	2,557,000	1,185,000
Economic Justice	23,460,000	490,700
Medicaid Fraud Control	36,970,000	1,524,000
Social Justice	20,026,000	2,704,210
Total	121,740,000	6,582,860

CAPITAL PROJECTS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change	Reappropriations FY 2025
IT Initiative Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	2,750,000	5,000,000	2,250,000	8,535,000
Total	2,750,000	5,000,000	2,250,000	8,535,000

Note: Most recent estimates as of 01/16/2024