



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Friday, August 26, 5 pages

For more information:
Blair Horner 518 727-4506

TALE OF THE TAPE: NYPIRG's 2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RELEASE OF "LEGISLATIVE PROFILES"

"LEGISLATIVE PROFILES" SHOW LAWMAKERS' OUTSIDE INCOME, SIGNIFICANT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS AND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

As part of NYPIRG's ongoing review of legislative activity, this analysis examines the 2016 New York legislative session to date. This analysis does not draw conclusions on the substance of bills or the overall legislative output, since "productivity" is more complicated and subjective than simple numbers. It is up to New Yorkers to assess the Legislature's effectiveness and impact. In order to be informed, however, New Yorkers deserve information on the functioning of their Legislature. We hope that the following information will stimulate dialogue between lawmakers and their constituents.

Unless otherwise noted, the following information is based on data compiled by the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission. Most of this data was obtained between July 29 and August 8, and subsequent revisions made to publicly-released voting results might not be reflected. Numbers are subject to revision in the event of a special or extraordinary session.

2016 saw a decline in the number of bills passed by both houses and was among the sessions that saw the least number of legislative agreements as evidenced by identical bills passing on the floor of both houses. This decrease is consistent with the overall historical trend: Fewer bills are being passed.

As seen in **Chart 1**, the number of bills passed in 2016 represents another year of decline of this metric. Since 1995, the five years that saw the fewest bills pass both houses are 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. An examination of the number of two-house bills passed over a longer period of time, legislative actions by governor since 1920 (**Chart 2**), makes the historical trend quite clear: Legislative agreements have declined over time.

In addition, we are providing New Yorkers with background information on their elected representatives, see: http://www.nypirg.org/goodgov/2016_Legislative_Profiles/. These "profiles" offer information on lawmakers' committee assignments, outside employment, election results, significant campaign contributors, as well as partisan and demographic information on the relevant legislative district.

Chart 1: Bills Passing Both Houses 1995-2016

Year	Passed Assembly Jan-July	Passed Senate Jan-July	Passed both Jan-July	Passed Assembly Full Year	Passed Senate Full Year	Passed both Full Year	Number of bills introduced in both houses during 2 year session
2016 ¹	1041	1752	618	TBD	TBD	TBD	16608
2015	1065	1637	718	1065	1637	718	
2014	1143	1460	658	1143	1460	658	15971
2013	1071	1408	650	1071	1408	650	
2012	1056	1256	571	1056	1256	571	15945
2011	999	1289	677	1001	1291	679	
2010	1196	1124	700	1210	1143	716	18079
2009	1242	640	554	1256	694	588	
2008	1641	1794	811	1645	1822	830	18294
2007	1531	1770	847	1538	1828	861	
2006	1961	1842	958	1965	1848	963	17770
2005	1628	1603	882	1630	1619	890	
2004	1702	1522	777	1793	1607	879	17214
2003	1403	1366	761	1408	1374	768	
2002	1654	1294	745	1654	1314	755	16892
2001	1283	1050	549	1394	1149	662	
2000	1537	1424	711	1537	1424	711	16995
1999	1470	1317	607	1586	1412	732	
1998	1547	1369	674	1563	1391	694	16106
1997	1132	1234	475	1469	1408	758	
1996	1580	1543	813	1585	1558	830	15670
1995	1362	1401	776	1362	1407	782	

Chart 2: Comparing Passage of Two House Bills During Gubernatorial Administrations 1920 through 2016²

Governor	Average Two House Bills per Year
Miller	908
Smith 1923-1928	936.17
FDR	1047.25
Lehman	1214.1
Dewey	1189
Harriman	1289.25
Rockefeller	1356.2
Wilson	1348
Carey	1041.38
Cuomo, M.	941.75
Pataki	785.33
Spitzer	861
Paterson	711.33
Cuomo, A.	649

¹ All 2016 bill passage data as of July 29, 2016.

² Historic totals from 1920 through 1994 were obtained from the New York State Red Book.

NYPIRG Legislative Review, Page 3

Messages of Necessity continue to be less frequent than in years past.

In the six years of Governor Cuomo's tenure, an average of 12.8 bills have passed both houses per year with a message of necessity, compared to his immediate predecessors the Spitzer/Paterson Administration (41) and the Pataki Administration (89.2).

Chart 3: Annual messages of necessity, 1995 through 2016

Year	Bills Passing With Either House With Message of Necessity
2016	13
2015	10
2014	17
2013	3
2012	5
2011	29
2010	57
2009	43
2008	41
2007	23
2006	39
2005	34
2004	84
2003	58
2002	102
2001	80
2000	83
1999	118
1998	100
1997	109
1996	144
1995	119

Little change in the number of bills approved by the Governor, but vetoes are increasing, having roughly doubled during his tenure.

As seen in **Chart 4** below, there has been little change in the number of bills approved by the Governor. However, there has been an increase in the number of bills vetoed by Governor Cuomo. Note the combined total of bills that have been approved or vetoed does not exactly match the total number of bills passing both houses. Due to the Governor’s line-item power, many appropriation bills fall into both categories. Also, many of the bills passed are in the flurry of June, 2016 activity and the vast majority of those bills have not yet been acted upon by the Governor.

Chart 4: Percentage of two-house bills approved or vetoed, 1995 through 2016

Year	Chaptered	Vetoed
2016 ³	286	4
2015	589	133
2014	552	109
2013	558	87
2012	505	61
2011	610	68
2010	567	150
2009	507	79
2008	652	177
2007	691	164
2006	750	219
2005	770	119
2004	750	132
2003	755	69
2002	698	55
2001	591	70
2000	609	101
1999	657	70
1998	656	46
1997	686	69
1996	721	94
1995	694	83

³ As of August 25, 2016.

NYPIRG Legislative Review, Page 5

Legislative activity by month.

Legislative activity increases each month that lawmakers are in session, culminating with the overwhelming number of bills being approved in final scheduled session month of June. Note that March is the biggest month for campaign fundraisers, coinciding with the run up to the acknowledged deadline for budget passage by April 1st.

Chart 5: Monthly legislative and campaign fundraising activity, session 2016⁴

Month	Senate passage of bills	Assembly passage of bills	Campaign fundraisers ⁵	Number of scheduled session days
January	29	30	18	7 ⁶
February	60	37	36	7 ⁷
March	177	151	71	16
April	65	37	8	6
May	343	166	21	12
June	1130	635	16	9

Constitutional Amendments were approved.

After two years of not passing a constitutional amendment, two were approved this session.

Chart 6: Annual approvals of constitutional amendments, 2002 through 2016

Year	Constitutional Amendments Passing Both Houses
2016	2
2015	0
2014	0
2013	8
2012	6
2011	2
2010	1
2009	2
2008	1
2007	5
2006	3
2005	3
2004	1
2003	2
2002	2

###

⁴ These month-to-month totals when aggregated for the session exceed the amount in Chart 1 because some bills are recalled and can be approved a second time.

⁵ List of 2016 fundraisers collected by NYPIRG. Fundraiser information was collected from cooperative lobbyists, thus may not include all fundraisers. Does not include fundraisers held within lawmakers’ districts, does include all known fundraisers held in Albany and by the governor, legislative leaders and political parties anywhere in the state.

⁶ January saw three additional legislative days for budget hearings, but were not listed as “session days.”

⁷ February saw five additional legislative days for budget hearings, but were not listed as “session days.”