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3 March 2025 --- Read below to stay informed on the Garden State Government

### This Week's Featured Bills

S3934: Codifies Medicaid coverage for eligible pregnant women for 365-day period beginning on last day of pregnancy.

- The bill makes the policy of 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage permanent for women. This would reduce maternal mortality and health disparities by ensuring extended medical coverage.
- The bill was first introduced last December, was recently passed in the Senate (38-0), and is now in the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee. Contact Shanique Speight's (Chair of the AAHSC) office to voice your position.

A5263: Requires boards of education to offer no-fee option to parents for making school lunch and other payments; requires payment processing platforms used by school districts to provide users with information on user fees.

- This bill requires all K-12 educational institutions (Public & non-public) to provide parents the option to essentially opt-out of certain programs (Lunches, school trips, etc.) while also increasing transparency in payments.
- This bill was introduced this December, passed in the Senate (38-0), and is now in the Assembly Education Committee. Contact Verlina Reynolds-Jackson's (Chair of AEC) in order to voice your opinion.

A4653 & A4652 : Requires AG to establish training program for crowd management and provide resources to municipal police department or force for large gatherings and flash mobs & Establishes offense of inciting public brawl; upgrades penalty for disorderly conduct in certain circumstances.

- Both of these bills are in reference to large brawls such as the one that just occurred with the St. John Vianney High School Wrestler. These are meant to increase the police's ability to deal with and discourage brawls/crowds.
- Both Bills were introduced this June, were passed in the assembly (85-0-0) and are now awaiting to be heard in the Senate. Contact your local senator or Senate President Scutari's office to voice your opinion.

## Updates on Previous Featured Bills

| No updates this week, stay tuned for more!



*Assemblywoman Shanique Speight, Chair of the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee*

## Policy Spotlight: Governors Budget Address

On February 25, 2025, Governor Phil Murphy presented New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2026 budget, totaling \$58.1 billion. The proposal includes a \$7.2 billion surplus and a \$1.2 billion structural deficit. Key highlights are:

- Education Funding: Allocates \$22.2 billion for pre-K to 12 education, with \$12.1 billion for K-12 schools and \$1.3 billion for preschool education.
- Property Tax Relief: Proposes \$3 billion for direct property tax relief, benefiting homeowners and tenants, and introduces a new sales tax exemption for baby supplies.
- Pension Contributions: Commits a \$7.2 billion full payment toward public-employee pensions, marking the fifth consecutive full payment.
- Public Transit Investment: Designates \$1.5 billion for NJ Transit, including \$815 million from the corporate transit fee, to enhance public transportation infrastructure.
- Tax Adjustments: Proposes increases in taxes on realty transfers, sports betting, alcohol, adult-use marijuana, and cigarettes to generate additional revenue.

- Healthcare Initiatives: Allocates over \$100 million to the Cover All Kids program to provide free health insurance to thousands of children and expands the Family Connects NJ program for in-home visits to new parents.

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The budget now moves to the Legislature for review and potential amendments before a final vote expected in June.

For more details, you can watch Governor Murphy's budget address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSOwBvqcvk0>

Or Read the PDF below:

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/26bib/BIB.pdf>

## **Looking for your Legislator? Need some information?**

Look on the New Jersey Legislature Website ([njleg.state.nj.us](http://njleg.state.nj.us)) to track a bill or find your legislator.

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