



CHRIS BURDICK
Assemblymember 93rd District
Westchester County

Secretary, Majority
Conference

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People with Disabilities

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**Assemblymember Chris Burdick's
Report to the Supervisor and the Town Board of the Town of Pound Ridge
July 2, 2024**

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to provide an update. I will start with the 2024 Legislative Session and key action including legislation that was passed by both the Assembly and the State Senate.

The NYS legislature wrapped up the 2024 session in the early hours of Saturday June 8 with a total of 805 bills passed by both houses, a decline from previous years. The clock ran out for bills which many of my colleagues and I had hoped would pass the finish line, such as the NY Heat Act, to help transition to renewable energy, an updated bottle bill, and various bills to protect consumers and the public. The decline was the result of a late 2024-2025 state budget and Governor Hochul's decision in the closing days of session to suspend congestion pricing while proposing a payroll tax to provide \$1 billion in MTA capital funding which congestion pricing was project to produce.

Looking back, I see that the most significant legislative action for the year was in the area of state funding for public education which was resolved through negotiations with the Governor. As you may be aware, the Governor's proposed budget in January would have resulted in deep cuts for long-standing state support for public education. All but one of the school districts in my Assembly District would have been hit with a cut. The importance cannot be overstated of the agreement between the Legislature and the Governor to retain the "hold harmless" provision, which ensures that no school district would receive less funding than the previous year. Also important was the restoration of part of the inflation factor in the computation of funding. The result was dramatic for every school district which I represent. Senator Shelley Mayer led the effort in the Senate, and I led the effort in the Assembly which was successful but would not have been without the intense efforts of the superintendents, parents, teachers and the community at large. The Governor also agreed after some three years with the Legislature's proposal to update the antiquated formula for funding establishing a dispassionate and thoughtful process for doing so.

The 2024-2025 budget provides \$9,800.468 in total aid for the Bedford Central School District or a \$464,515 increase, presenting a 4.98% increase over last year.

Turning to post-budget legislative action, among the bills that passed both chambers and await action by Governor Hochul are the following:

SAFE for Kids Act and the Child Data Protection Act, supported both by Governor Hochul and Attorney General James, are intended to protect kids online from algorithmic feeds - one that

recommends, selects or prioritizes media based on information associated with the user or their device.

A key environmental bill, The Climate Change Adaptation Cost Recovery Program (A3351B/S2129B) which would require large, major polluters to contribute to a climate action fund. Some may recall that General Electric was required to help clean up PCBs in the Hudson River because of its historical role in polluting the river. The Program funds would be applied to new or upgraded infrastructure needs such as coastal wetlands restoration, storm water drainage system upgrades, and energy efficient cooling systems in public and private buildings, including schools and public housing, all of which are necessary to protect the public safety and welfare in the face of the growing impacts of climate change. Disadvantaged communities would receive at least 35%, with a goal of at least 40%, of the overall benefits of Program spending, consistent with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

I was pleased to see the passage in both chambers of Electric Vehicle Charging in Public Lots, Expansion of the Food Donation and Scraps Program and the NYC Green Roof Tax Abatement.

In the area of Election Law, the Legislature acted to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot in approving a bill to enable local boards of elections to set up absentee ballot drop boxes. On the judicial front, a constitutional amendment moved forward to remove the population-based cap on the number of Supreme Court justices that can serve a particular judicial district. More judges are needed. We frequently hear complaints about the long delays in the courts. Justice delayed too often is justice denied.

Among bills which I sponsored, the following were passed by both chambers:

Septic System Disclosure (A9330A/ S8506) requires home sellers to provide the buyer with a disclosure statement on the property's sewage disposal system and information regarding its operation and maintenance.

Protection of Local Wetlands (A9712/ S9379) authorizes localities with a freshwater wetlands law to adopt a further local law to allow the prohibition of the application of pesticides to wetlands, except commercial agricultural lands, hydrologically connected to any public water supply.

Heat Mitigation Plan (A9169a/ S7781) requires the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to establish an annual heat mitigation plan; directs the extreme heat action plan work group of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to analyze the impact of extreme heat on incarcerated individuals and people working in prisons.

Health Care Professional In-Take Form (A8560/S8666) requires health care professionals to ask patients if they have a disability that requires accommodation under The Americans with Disabilities Act on patient in-take forms and what reasonable accommodations are required.

Expanding Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities ([A6397A](#)/S 8379A) would create an interagency task force to promote employment of people with disabilities both in state agencies and the private sector.

I now turn to actions which more directly benefit the people of Pound Ridge.

Notwithstanding cuts in some areas of the state budget, we were able to retain CHIPS funding and the same level, which has Pound Ridge receiving \$186,490.84.

SAM Grant – Since taking office, I secured \$125,000 in grant funding to the Town for improvements at the Town park. I also am working to secure state grant funding for infrastructure projects.