

“Ahead of the Curve”

Assembly Republican Conference COVID-19 Pandemic Response

March 2, 2020: While debating the \$40 million emergency appropriation in response to the Coronavirus outbreak, Assembly Republicans offered a floor amendment which would have required the Governor to report an accounting of all money distributed from the emergency appropriation to the Legislature every thirty days (vote: 47-85).

March 12, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent out the first Coronavirus Update, providing information for constituents, and have continued sending out the Update since.

March 24, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent out a [Coronavirus Resource Guide](#), which is a one-stop-shop for Coronavirus information and contacts.

March 27, 2020: Assembly Republicans introduced a webpage with Coronavirus information and contacts, <https://www.arrcny.com/covid-19-resource-page>.

April 1, 2020: Assembly Republicans offered the Small Business Emergency Recovery Act ([A.10266](#)) as a floor amendment to the State Budget Revenue Bill (A.9509-B; vote: 53-88). The Act would:

- Immediately direct the State’s settlement reserve fund of \$890 million to small businesses.
- Create a 0% interest loan program dedicated to helping small businesses meet their payroll commitments.
- Repurpose available tax credits to help the needs of the State’s existing small businesses.
- Use all economic development discretionary funding for existing small businesses within New York State.
- Move tax deadlines for remittance, business tax, and personal income tax ahead 180 days.
- Suspend all regulatory fees on small businesses for 180 days.



- Suspend the plastic bag ban for grocery stores for 180 days.
 - › **May 13, 2020:** The Assembly and Senate are holding a public hearing to discuss the current and future economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, including farms, across New York State, and whether the federal response is sufficient in relation to the disproportionate impact on the State and effective in targeting the businesses most in need.

April 3, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay and Assemblyman Manktelow issued a [statement](#) speaking out against Governor Cuomo's Executive Order to redistribute ventilators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

April 10, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and the New York Congressional Delegation calling for assistance for New York's Agricultural Industry

- [Called for the continuation of the H2-A Visa Program](#)
 - › **April 15, 2020:** The Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced [H2-A rule changes](#) to ensure U.S. agricultural employers avoid disruptions in agricultural-related employment.
- [Called for federal reimbursement for New York farmers for monies lost to New York farmers](#)
 - › **April 17, 2020:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the \$19 billion [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#), which includes \$16 billion in "direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers" caused by COVID-19.
- [Called for agricultural industry access to \\$10,000 Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#)
 - › **April 24, 2020:** President Trump signed [H.R. 266](#), the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which included provisions clarifying agricultural enterprises with not more than 500 employees are eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Grants.

April 14, 2020: Assembly Republicans released a [Fact Sheet](#) on the impact the 2020-21 State Budget could have on school districts.

April 15, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent a [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo with recommendations to help New York's farms survive.

- [Highlighted the reductions in demand that forced many dairy farmers to dump milk and called for help for milk producers who are unable to sell because of COVID-19](#)



- › **April 27, 2020:** Governor Cuomo announced the Nourish New York Initiative, which will purchase product from upstate farms for food banks, and partner with NYS dairy producers to process excess milk into products for food banks and those in need.

April 15, 2020: Assemblyman DeStefano introduced legislation ([A.10293](#)) designating public safety dispatchers, emergency responders, emergency operators, emergency complaint operators, and emergency service dispatchers, as “certified first responders.”

April 16, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay sent a [letter](#) to Empire State Development calling for golf courses, marinas, and boat launches to open with proper guidance and best practices.

→ **April 17, 2020:** [Empire State Development issued guidance](#) clarifying private operators can allow individuals to golf as long as social distancing is “strictly abided.”

→ **April 18, 2020:** [Empire State Development issued guidance](#) allowing marinas, boatyards, and recreational marine manufacturers to operate for personal use or operation of boats or other watercraft, with certain restrictions.

April 17, 2020: Assembly Republicans propose [“Jump-Start New York”](#) to aid residents, businesses, economic recovery.

April 20, 2020: Assembly Republican Conference releases [“New York State Regional Restart”](#) to begin planning for a regional re-opening of New York’s Economy.

→ **April 21, 2020:** After weeks of a statewide approach, [Governor Cuomo announces the State will take a regional approach to reopening.](#)

April 27, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent a [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders, calling for common-sense protocols to be put in place and a full public accounting of all state revenue, spending, borrowing and other budget actions be provided to the Legislature.

April 28, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay released a [statement](#) on the 116-member Reopening Advisory Board.

April 30, 2020: Assembly Republicans provided [Points of Consideration](#) for Reopening New York.

April 30, 2020: Assembly Republicans sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and the New York Congressional Delegation calling on them to provide financial aid to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 1, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay released a [statement](#) on Governor Cuomo’s mail-in voting Executive Order.



May 4, 2020: Assemblyman Norris introduced legislation ([A.10397](#)) to create the New York State Volunteer Fire Protection Emergency Reimbursement Account to reimburse volunteer fire companies, districts, departments, and EMS for expenses related to procurement of PPE and for lost revenues due to municipal budget cuts or restrictions on public fundraising events during the state of emergency declared by the Governor.

May 4, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay and Assemblyman Fitzpatrick introduced legislation ([A.10396](#)) to provide a tax credit to landlords for any loss of rental income due to any actions taken to suspend rent as a result of COVID-19.

May 7, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay sent a [letter](#) to the Governor calling for performance measurements from the New York State Department of Labor.

May 8, 2020: Assembly Republican Members sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and New York's Congressional Delegation calling on them to target aid toward broadband expansion in underserved areas of New York State.

May 8, 2020: Assembly Republican Members sent a [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo, State Legislative Leaders, and Public Service Commission Chairman Rhodes calling on them to take the steps necessary to ensure that broadband services are made available to all New Yorkers in every region of the State, both urban and rural.

May 8, 2020: Assembly Republican members sent a [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo urging him to reopen religious institutions in the early phases of reopening with proper social distancing protocols.

May 9, 2020: Assembly Republican Leader Barclay [called](#) for restoration of the Legislature's authority.

May 11, 2020: Assembly Republican Members of the Committees on Health, Aging, and Oversight, Analysis and Investigation sent a [letter](#) to the chairs calling for a legislative hearing on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on State nursing homes.

May 14, 2020: Assembly Republican Members will send a letter to Governor Cuomo calling on him to consider adding more representatives to the Reimagine Education Advisory Council, as several population-dense areas as well as the special needs community lack representation.

May 14, 2020: Assembly Republican Members will send a letter to Governor Cuomo calling on him to give due consideration to resuming dentistry in the State of New York.

