

NASW-NYS Political Post
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Sleepy – Your NASW-NYS Policy staff reported to work a bit sleepy today given the events of the last several days regarding licensure legislation. As previously reported, the corporate practice / O agency exemption bill grew legs last Friday morning. Since then, much time has been spent in negotiations with the legislature, the Governors chamber and other stakeholders on a potential final product. By night's end last evening, each of the houses had passed a “same as” version of the bill which provides for a three year extension of the exemption, a comprehensive study and resolution to the corporate practice issue by way of a waiver program. Essentially, we have achieved a huge portion of what we have worked toward for the last two years, however, a number of our Social Work Licensure Alliance members require language tweaks specific to the reporting / study procedures in addition to an extra implementation year as opposed to the noted three year extension. We are currently working with the second floor (aka the Governor's office) to achieve the remaining pieces needed by our colleagues through a chapter amendment. Please note, it is highly probable that we will mobilize our membership to weigh in with the Governor's office on this initiative shortly...stay tuned. In the meantime, should you be interested, Policy Staff was quoted in today's edition of the New York Non Profit Press which may be viewed at the following link... <http://www.nynp.biz/index.php/breaking-news/2519-legislature-passes-licensing-law-extension-as-advocacy-continues>

Happy – Public employees are no doubt happier this morning as the latest budget extender included their pay raise. As has been reported to several media sources, “The majority of workers will receive 4 percent raises, but some longtime employees with PEF will receive up to a 7 percent raise on their next paycheck.”

Grumpy – Many taxpayers are grumpy this morning as they awake to the first day of life without green space due to the closure of 55 parks and historic sites in an effort to save the state \$6 million.

Not so Bashful – Not only did the Governor call the first Leaders meeting this morning since March 3rd to focus on the budget but he called out members of the legislature for not conferencing on the issue at all this week... “I think it would be best if your conferences go into conference committees. Can you accommodate that?” The governor said. “I would think, if I can get everyone's attention here, that you can start by Monday.” The assertion was not shared by all. For full report, see <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/26832/paterson-asks-for-conference-committees-silver-says-its-theater/>