



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Senator Addabbo Reminds Residents About New City Laws Arriving in 2025

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. January 10, 2025

As we welcome 2025, many new laws will start that will affect New Yorkers' lives. These laws focus on minimum wage, paid leave, civil rights, and protecting the environment.

### **Minimum Wage Increase**

Starting January 1, 2025, the minimum wage in New York City will go up by 50 cents, reaching \$16.50 per hour. In the rest of the state, it will rise to \$15.50 per hour. There will be another 50-cent increase planned for 2026, and future increases will be based on inflation.

### **More Paid Prenatal Leave**

From January 1, pregnant workers in New York will get extra paid leave for their prenatal appointments and care. This support is part of the state's paid sick leave program.

Legislation S.1965-A/A.3865-A requires commercial health insurers in New York State to cover prenatal vitamins when prescribed by a health care practitioner. "This legislation is an important measure that ensures prenatal vitamins are covered by commercial health insurers, providing crucial support for expectant mothers," Addabbo said of this legislation, which he introduced. "I'm appreciative for Governor Hochul's support in signing this bill, which will keep New York as a leader in maternal health care, making significant strides to

improve access and affordability for all families. Together, we can create a healthier future for our children and support the well-being of mothers across our state.”

### **COVID-19 Paid Leave Update**

The COVID-19 quarantine leave law will end on July 31. However, New York will continue to help workers affected by the pandemic. Employers must still provide paid sick leave for COVID-19 quarantine or isolation orders.

### **Equal Rights Amendment**

New Yorkers voted to include the Equal Rights Amendment in the state constitution. This amendment expands protections against discrimination based on factors like race, age, disability, and sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

### **Retail Worker Safety Law**

Starting March 4, 2025, the Retail Worker Safety Act will require retail employers to create plans to prevent workplace violence, making jobs safer for workers.

### **Congestion Pricing Start**

On January 5, 2025, New York City will begin congestion pricing to reduce traffic and encourage public transport use. Most vehicles entering certain areas of Manhattan will need to pay a \$9 toll, but those on the FDR and West Side Highway will not be charged.

### **Jaywalking Decriminalization**

A new law passed in September 2024 will make jaywalking legal, allowing pedestrians to cross streets anywhere, even if not at crosswalks. This law will take effect in February 2025.

## **FARE Act Implementation**

The FARE Act will help renters by preventing landlords from charging broker fees to potential tenants. This law will start 180 days after it was passed, easing the financial burden on renters.

## **Local Law 97**

Starting January 1, Local Law 97 will set stricter rules on greenhouse gas emissions for large buildings, aiming for significant reductions by 2025 to fight climate change.

“These newly enacted laws demonstrate a variety of changes, many of which, but not all, aim to create a more equitable and sustainable city,” Addabbo said. “As your senator, I remain committed to advocating for policies that uplift our communities and protect the rights of all New Yorkers.”