The State Legislature is returning to Albany next week for what will look a lot like a typical final week of session. While we do expect them to address a significant number of bills impacting individual municipalities (tax exemptions for specific parcels, land transfers, etc.), it is also possible that they will act on additional renter protections, police reform and mask-wearing enforcement. Whether and how they address the State’s fiscal situation remains to be seen. Congress is expected to return to Washington on July 20 so State leaders are continuing to hold out hope that there will be an agreement on a federal relief package that helps state and local governments.

A number of bills pertaining to police reform have been introduced or amended in recent weeks. Below are some of those bills that would impact local governments.

**Military Equipment Prohibition** - S.8507-A (Biaggi) / A.10660-A (Kim) – Would prohibit police departments from purchasing or receiving certain military grade equipment through the federal military equipment surplus program.

**Police Officer Protections** - S.8576 (Jackson) / A.10630 (Kim) – Would provide immunity from liability and professional retaliation for law enforcement officers who intervene in situations of police misconduct.

**Duty to Report Misconduct** - S.8580 (Sepulveda) / A.10597 (Ramos) – Would require police officers to report when another police officer used excessive force or otherwise acted with misconduct and would establish a protocol for police agencies with respect to the handling and recording of mandatory reports of misconduct.

**Mandatory Diversity and Inclusion Training** - S.8579 (Persuad) / A.10601 (Buttenschon) – Would require all first responder training courses (including those for police officers, firefighters, EMS, corrections officers) to have 20% of the overall content consist of diversity and inclusion training.

**Tampering with Physical Evidence to Include Body Cameras** - S.8584 (Jackson) / A.10596 (Mosley) – Would expand the provisions of tampering with physical evidence to include when a police officer or peace officers turns off their body camera or deletes a body camera recording.

**Hiring and Transfer of Police Officers** - S.8510 (Bailey) / A.10580 (Hyndman) – Would require a thorough review of all internal files of police misconduct prior to the transfer of a police or peace officer from one agency to another. Would also prohibit the hiring or transfer of any officer who was fired or reassigned as a result of police misconduct, off-duty misconduct, the investigation of misconduct or a misdemeanor or felony.
Expunging of Voidable Arrests - S.8611 (Sepulveda) / A.10676 (Aubry) – Would automatically expunge voidable arrests from an individual’s criminal history. Voidable arrests would include when 1) there was no filing of formal charges, 2) the arrest was without probable cause or 3) when proceedings against the individual are dismissed.

Liability Insurance for Police Officers - S.8676 (Biaggi) / A.10780 (Hyndman) – Would require police officers to obtain liability insurance which would cover claims against such officer for any period of time that such officers is performing duties within the scope of his/her employment as a police officer. The municipality would be responsible for covering the base rate of the insurance policy. A similar bill (S.8601) would require such insurance to be no less than $200,000 per officer.

Right-to-Know - S.8577 (Sepulveda) / A.3231 (Bichotte) – Would require State and local law enforcement officers to identify themselves to the public during law enforcement activities.

NYCOM will send out a comprehensive summary of the Legislature’s actions on all bills of interest to cities and villages after next week’s session.