



New York State
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January 6, 2010
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The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 59,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

This bill adds a new title to the Public Authorities Law to provide for greater oversight over the activities of certain public authorities and public benefit corporations whose functions are closely related to the functions of agencies of state government. For several years, these authorities and other quasi-public entities have been expanding their scope of operations. While public attention has been drawn to the debt incurred by these organizations, there has been less public scrutiny of their expansion of staff and operations. In some cases, authorities have taken on functions that overlap with those of existing state agencies. As a result, activities that were previously subject to legislative oversight and public disclosure are being moved into settings that are not subject to the same degree of oversight. Because of this, they are sometimes called “shadow agencies”.

This is a long-term problem that requires greater public discussion. This bill represents a first step toward controlling the expansion of these “shadow agencies” and making them more accountable to the public. The bill requires the authorities it regulates to file annual budget reports with the Legislature and further to make this information available to the public under the Freedom of Information Law. It also prohibits any function presently being performed primarily by a state agency from being transferred to a “shadow agency” without explicit legislative approval. In addition, it requires that all new employees of these entities be hired through the civil service system to insure qualified staff and avoid favoritism. These are reasonable and timely reforms that will protect the public interest and allow for greater legislative oversight.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

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