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Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:51 AM
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Cc: 'foil@nysenate.gov'

Subject: **Questions & FOIL/Records Request about the Senate's Non-Transparent Legislative "Process" with Respect to the FY2026-27 State Budget**

TO: [Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins & the 62 Other Members of the NYS Senate](#)

According to the Senate webpages for Governor Hochul's ten budget bills comprising her Executive Budget, on March 9th the Senate "amended" eight of the bills – the same eight as the Governor had amended on February 20th by her 30-day amendments. The bills, which became:

- [State Operations Budget Bill – S.9000B](#)
- [Aid to Localities Budget Bill – S.9003B](#)
- [Capital Projects Budget Bill – S.9004B](#)
- [Public Protection Budget Bill – S.9005B](#)
- [Education, Labor, Housing, & Family Assistance – S.9006B](#)
- [Health & Mental Hygiene – S.9007B](#)
- [Transportation, Economic Development, & Environmental Conservation – S.9008B](#)
- [Revenue Budget Bill – S.9009B](#),

were, from the time of their introduction in January, committed to the Finance Committee, whose meetings are live-streamed and recorded. [The Finance Committee did not meet on March 9th](#) – and

nothing pertaining to the budget took place in the [13-minute March 9th Senate floor proceedings](#). Notably, the Senate webpages for the bills show no votes – and none are furnished by Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins’ March 10th “One-House Budget Resolution”, [R-1722](#).

How then did the Senate “amend” the aforesaid eight budget bills on March 9th – and by what votes of the senators?

As for [Governor Hochul’s Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill S.9001/A.10001](#), which, like her [Debt Service Budget Bill S.9002/A.10002](#), the Senate did not amend, please advise why you have not amended it, notwithstanding **larcenies of scores, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars** were particularized by my [January 28th questions to Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie](#) and my [January 26th FOIL/records request to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas](#) and its [February 6th supplement](#) – embodied by my [February 11th written testimony](#) for the Legislature’s budget hearing on “local government officials/general government” and [February 12th written testimony](#) for the Legislature’s budget hearing on “public protection”.

Who, if anyone, made findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to these two sets of written questions and two written testimonies, what were they, and at which Senate committee meetings – or closed-door party conferences – were they discussed?

Likewise, who, if anyone, made findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to my [February 24th written testimony](#) for the Legislature’s February 24th budget hearing on higher education, what were they, and at what Senate committee meetings – or closed-door party conferences – were they discussed?

By copy of this e-mail to the Secretary of the Senate, who functions as your FOIL/records access officer, I request records responsive to the foregoing pursuant to [Senate Rule XIV “Freedom of Information”](#). Additionally, please furnish a copy of Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins’ signed March 10th Introduction of Resolution form, comparable to that of [Assembly Speaker Heastie](#), as the [Senate webpage for R.1722](#), although appearing to post a pdf, does not.

Finally, I take this opportunity to point out that rivalling the mystery as to how eight of Governor Hochul’s ten budget bills were “amended” on March 9th – five of which were her so-called “Article VII Bills” – is the mystery of how these five “Article VII Bills”, which the Governor presented as **draft bills**, requiring Senate and Assembly sponsors, morphed into **actual bills**, without Senate and Assembly sponsors, allegedly submitted by her “pursuant to article seven of the Constitution” – the subject of my [January 23rd FOIL request](#). The Senate’s [January 30th response](#), the Assembly’s [February 2nd response](#), the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission’s [January 27th response](#), and the Division of the Budget’s [January 26th response](#) were that they had no responsive records. The Governor’s deceitful [January 29th response](#), purporting I had not requested records, is the subject of my pending [February 28th appeal](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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