



New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging

272 Broadway
Albany, NY 12204
Ph. 518-449-7080
Fax 518-449-7055
office@nysaaaa.org
www.nysaaaa.org

Budget Update 2004

~ September 21, 2004 ~

Yesterday, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver called Assembly members back to Albany, intending to override many of Governor Pataki's budget vetoes. The Assembly planned to override about 100 of the governor's 195 vetoes to restore at least \$116 million in spending to the state budget.

Although the state constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote to enact an override, Democrats have a majority in the Assembly, claiming 102 out of 150 members. Unfortunately, not all Assembly Democrats showed up for the vote and the Speaker found himself one vote short of the 100 needed for the override attempt.

Those members not casting a vote on Monday night include Steven Kaufman (D-Bronx), who had broken with the Democrats to make an unsuccessful bid for the State Senate in last week's Republican primary, Ronald Tocci (D-New Rochelle), a lame duck who will retire at the end of this year and Carmen Arroyo (D-Bronx), who endorsed Governor Pataki in 2002.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno has stated that the Senate has no plans to return to Albany until mid-November. All 212 state legislative seats are up for election on November 2.

The Senate still has the option of attempting an override vote of their own. Should they be successful in their own endeavor, the Speaker could then recall the Assembly for another round of voting. Even before yesterday's Assembly vote, Senator Bruno had not been forthcoming as to what legislative action his chamber might take.