

Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, July 28, 2025

1:00 PM

Committee Room

Joint with B&A, PW&T and L&MC

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/>. This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Legislator Emiljana Ulaj will be participating remotely from 520 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main Street, Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566.

With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: Jewel Williams Johnson, Erika Pierce, Nancy Barr, and Shanae Williams; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod, James Silverberg, Dayana Gomez, and Shatika Parker; Marcello Figueroa; Karen Vele; Law Dept.: John Nonna and Jason Whitehead; Budget Dept.: Christina Rampata; DPW: Michael Swee

Present: Legislator Smith, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Boykin, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Ulaj and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, July 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2025-163](#) ACT-Requesting Party Status in NYSEG's Electric and Gas Rate Cases Pending Before the NYSPSC

Joint with L & MC

BOL Chairman Gashi said that the County wants to join the NYSEG rate hike case for the

same reason it previously joined the Con Ed rate hike case - to make sure that the voice of residents in his district, as well as Legislators Smith's and Pierce's districts, can be heard.

On motion of Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried unanimously.

2. [2025-298](#) **PH-Civil Penalty for Theft of Services-Bee-Line Bus System**

Joint with B & A and PW & T

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Associate County Attorney Jason Whitehead; Budget Dept.: Deputy Budget Director Christina Rampata; DPW&T: Michael Swee, Director of Surface Transportation

Mr. Whitehead explained that although New York State Penal Law provides that fare evasion is a misdemeanor, the County prefers to create a civil penalty, in part because many offenders are students. He said that the law will authorize County and local law enforcement to issue appearance tickets to violators, who could pay a fine or appear in a local court to contest the ticket. The penalty will be \$50 for the first violation and \$100 for every subsequent violation. He also noted that the County is losing about a million dollars per month from fare evasion.

Legislator Cunzio asked what percentage of tickets for parks and such are actually paid, and whether this will create an unfunded mandate for local courts. She also questioned what happens if the fine is not paid. Mr. Whitehead said that the local jurisdictions will collect all of the fees, and the County gets nothing. He said that the County will need a campaign to let local courts know that this is coming their way.

Legislator Pierce asked if Public Safety can identify where fare evasion is happening most frequently. She also said it will be a critical part of enforcement to collect demographic data on who we are giving tickets to, i.e., whether they are students or senior citizens.

Legislator Imamura asked if we can add a statute of limitations for municipalities to collect the fine. He also asked if we can ensure that failure to pay the fine will not impact someone's credit.

Legislator Ulaj asked how much of the Bee-Line budget is funded through fares. Ms. Rampata said she can get that information.

Legislator Williams Johnson asked if we can add a sunset provision to determine efficacy and decide whether to continue. Mr. Whitehead said that is a policy decision that should be made by the legislators.

Chairman Gashi suggested adding a waiting period where police can only give warnings for a set period after the legislation goes into effect.

Legislator Williams asked whether enforcement on buses will require extra police staffing or overtime.

Several legislators said that they want to meet with Public Safety to ask questions about how enforcement will work.

This RESOLUTION - Public Hearing was continued

3. [2025-299](#) **LOCAL LAW-Civil Penalty for Theft of Services-Bee-Line Bus System**

Joint with B & A and PW & T

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Associate County Attorney Jason Whitehead; Budget Dept.: Deputy Budget Director Christina Rampata; DPW&T: Michael Swee, Director of Surface Transportation

See discussion of Item # 2 above.

This LOCAL LAW - Amendment to Local Law was continued

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the Committee adjourned at 2:39 p.m.