

TO: BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Executive recommending adoption of "A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County with respect to fees and fines."

Your Committee recognizes that this proposed Local Law is being submitted with the 2026 Proposed Operating Budget, to adjust certain fees and fines in the laws of Westchester County

Specifically, this Local Law adjusts certain fees charged by the Office of Weights and Measures—Consumer Protection and fines issued by the Solid Waste Commission. For the Office of Weights and Measures, the annual fees for electrical licenses are being increased to come into line with what is being charged for plumbing licenses. Your Committee notes that these are the first increases for electrical licenses since 2016. Additionally, the biannual fees for home improvement contractors, together with ancillary fees related thereto, are being increased. These fee increases are to bring the costs closer to what it actually costs the Office of Weights and Measures to oversee the licensing process.

For the Solid Waste Commission, this local law increases the potential fines for second and subsequent adjudications. The Solid Waste Commission has informed the Committee that there is a long history of recidivism among licensed companies using unregistered vehicles and unlicensed haulers who continue to operate in the County despite receiving violations when they get caught. For larger companies, most of those being out-of-state companies, the Commission reports it is currently

more cost effective for these companies to chance receiving repeated \$5,000 fines than to comply because getting licensed is less expensive than the fines which have not been raised in 26 years. Increasing the fines for subsequent adjudications will increase the deterrent effect of the fines, increase compliance, and allow the Commission's enforcement staff to more efficiently and effectively enforce the Solid Waste Licensing Law.

Your Committee is advised that the proposed Local Law does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning, dated January 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee recommends the passage of this Local Law.

Dated: November 24, 2025
White Plains, New York

James William John Jr
and Ann

DW
DW

JW
JW
Colin

Dear Mr.
Bengamin Sorkin
Guylana West
Colin

COMMITTEES ON

Budget & Appropriations

Legislation

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Fees and Fines Adjustments **NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED**

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND AIRPORT FUND SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ 1,495,625

Source of Funds (check one): **Current Appropriations** **Transfer of Existing Appropriations**
 Additional Appropriations **Other (explain)**

Identify Accounts: Various accounts in Office of Weights and Measures - Consumer Protection and

Solid Waste Commission.

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: **Annual Amount**

Describe: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: **Annual Amount** **\$1,495,625**

Describe: This proposed Local Law is being submitted with the 2026 Proposed Operating Budget, to adjust certain fees and fines in the laws of Westchester County - Office of Weights and Measures - Consumer Protection and Solid Waste Commission.

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year:

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Christina Rampata

Title: Deputy Budget Director

Department: **Budget**

Date: November 5, 2025

Reviewed By

Budget Director

Date:

Budget Director
11/5/25

LOCAL LAW NO. -2025

A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester with respect to fees and fines.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. Section 863.313 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 863.313. - License required.

1. No person shall maintain, conduct, advertise, operate, or engage in the home improvement business within the County of Westchester, or hold himself or herself out as being able to do so, unless such person is licensed pursuant to this Article.
2. Upon issuance of a home improvement license under the provisions of this Chapter, the Director or sealer shall issue a vehicle decal for each vehicle identified by the licensee as a vehicle which will be used in connection with the licensed activities. Such vehicle decals shall be conspicuously displayed in or on the vehicle(s) used in connection with the licensed activities during the term of the license. The Director or sealer may impose a fee of \$10.00 for each such decal.

Section 2. Section 863.315 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 863.315. Fees

The non-refundable biannual fee for a license to conduct a home improvement business shall be ~~\$500.00~~\$750.00, and for each renewal thereof the fee shall be ~~\$500.00~~\$750.00. The license to conduct a home improvement business shall be for a period of two years and each renewal thereof shall be for two years. The Director or sealer may impose a penalty of ~~\$25.00~~\$50.00 upon a renewal application received by the Director or sealer later than 15 days prior to the

expiration date of the license sought to be renewed. The fee for issuing a duplicate license for one lost, destroyed or mutilated shall be ~~\$25.00~~\$50.00.

Section 3. Paragraph A of Subdivision 1 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

A. The fee for a master electrician's license is ~~\$500.00~~\$600.00.

Section 4. Paragraph J of Subdivision 1 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

J. A master electrician's license may be: (1) renewed annually on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$500.00~~\$600.00; or (2) shelved on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment of a fee of \$50.00.

Section 5. Paragraph L of Subdivision 1 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

L. In the event that a master electrician's license issued pursuant to this article has expired, the licensee may renew his or her license for a fee of ~~\$500.00~~\$600.00 only if: (a) he or she has been actively and continuously engaged in work as a master electrician under the supervision of a licensed master electrician since the issuance of his or her last valid master electrician's license; or (b) he or she has been actively and continuously engaged in work as an inspector of electrical work since the issuance of his or her last valid master electrician's license; or (c) he or she has not been actively or continuously engaged in work as a master electrician during the past two years, but can provide proof acceptable to the board, that he or she has recently participated in a continuing education course updating his or her knowledge of the work of a master electrician.

Section 6. Paragraph A of Subdivision 2 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

A. The fee for a special electrician's license is ~~\$350.00~~\$450.00.

Section 7. Paragraph J of Subdivision 2 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

J. A special electrician's license may be: (1) renewed annually on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$350.00~~\$450.00; or (2) shelved on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment of a fee of \$50.00.

Section 8. Paragraph A of Subdivision 4 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

A. The fee for an electrical inspector's license is ~~\$500.00~~\$600.00.

Section 9. Paragraph G of Subdivision 4 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

G. An electrical inspector's license may be: (1) renewed annually on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment ~~of a fee of (or)~~ \$500.00~~\$600.00; or (2) shelved on or before the expiration of the license upon the payment of a fee of \$50.00.~~

Section 10. Paragraph J of Subdivision 4 of Section 277.707 of the Laws of Westchester County is hereby repealed.

Section 11. Subdivision 1 of Section 826-a.601 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

1. a. Any person found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of conducting Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, Class E, ~~Class E~~ or Class L activities without a duly-issued license, or operating as a solid waste broker without a duly-issued registration, or any licensee or registrant found guilty by a court of violating any of the terms and conditions of its license

or registration, or violation of any provision of this chapter or any emergency suspension order of the commission, shall be guilty of an offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000.00 per offense and/or by imprisonment not exceeding six months. In lieu of, or in addition to, such potential criminal penalties, each person found to be in violation of any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than a formal written warning and not more than:

- a. \$5,000.00 per violation for a first adjudication;
- b. \$10,000.00 per violation for a second adjudication; and
- c. \$25,000.00 per violation for a third or subsequent adjudication.

These fines which may be imposed at the discretion of the commission, after hearing as provided in section 826-a.602 of this article. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense or violation and shall be subject to a separate fine and/or civil penalty. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, all offenses and violations adjudicated at a single hearing before the commission shall constitute a single adjudication for purposes of the escalating fines.

Section 12. Subdivision 3 of Section 826-a.601 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

3. The civil penalties recited in subsection 1-a. above, shall be imposed only by a court of competent jurisdiction or by the commission after a hearing held in accordance with the requirements of this Article VI. The commission may impose such civil penalties in addition to any other action that it is entitled to take against the privileges of a licensee or registrant pursuant to this chapter.

Section 13. Subparagraph ii of Subdivision 4(b) of Section 826-a.601 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

ii. For persons conducting Class C-1, ~~and~~ Class E, and Class F activities: \$200.00 per violation.

Section 14. Paragraph d of Subdivision 1 of Section 826-a.306 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

d. The application and investigation fees for Class C-1, Class D, and Class E licensees and for solid waste brokers shall be determined by the commission within 110 days of the effective date, hereof, and for Class F and Class L licensees within 45 days of the effective date, hereof.

Section 15. Paragraph a of Subdivision 2 of Section 826-a.306 of the Laws of Westchester County is amended to read as follows:

a. The annual fee for Class A, Class B and Class C-2 licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall be as follows: \$1,000.00, plus an additional \$1,000.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated by a Class A licensee in connection with the licensed activities, plus an additional \$1,000.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated by a Class C-2 licensee in connection with the licensed activities, plus an additional \$500.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated by a Class B licensee in connection with the licensed activities. The annual fee for Class C-1 and Class E licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall be as follows: \$100.00, plus an additional \$100.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated by a Class C-1 licensee in connection with the licensed activities, plus an additional \$100.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated by a Class E licensee in connection with the licensed activities. In consideration of the seasonal time frame, which is limited to the months of October, November, December and January, the annual fee for Class L licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall be \$400.00. plus an additional \$400.00 for each collection vehicle to be operated in connection with the licensed activities. The annual fee for Class F licenses issued pursuant this chapter shall be set by the commission. The

aforementioned fees may be modified by the commission pursuant to section 826-a.202(2). of this chapter.

Section 16. This Local Law shall take effect January 1, 2026.