

Session

Continued from Page 1A

campaigns, Cuomo and lawmakers said.

It would also include a long-sought-after deal to strip lawmakers of their taxpayer-funded pensions if they are convicted of a felony and require political consultants to disclose their clients.

The financial limits for lobbyists to disclose their activities would be lowered, and 501(c)(4) groups would have to disclose activities with 501(c)(3) non-profits -- a loophole that had blurred the line between lobbying and services.

The proposals come after the two former legislative leaders were convicted last year on corruption charges, and as the Cuomo administration is under state and federal investigation for alleged bid rigging on upstate construction projects.

Assemblyman David Buchwald, D-White Plains, said the pension bill was an important step.

“New York is finally on a path to restoring the public’s confidence in state government,” he said in a statement.

Good-government groups were seeking broader ethics reforms.

The ethics deal was part of what was expected to be a broader series of deals late Friday -- with bills that have nothing to do with one another being linked together in final negotiations.

Also, the talks were being done behind closed doors between Cuomo and legislative leaders -- leaving the public, and many lawmakers themselves, out of the process.

“This reminds me of the kind of dysfunction I read about when I wasn’t an Assembly member,” said Kieran Michael Lalor, R-Fishkill, Dutchess, recalling late state budgets that carried on into the summer.

Here’s where other key issues stood:

Daily fantasy sports

A bill that would legalize online daily fantasy sports contests in New York appeared to be moving toward final passage.

It was approved Friday afternoon in the Assembly. The measure faced longer odds in the Senate, though.

Assembly members debated whether the contests are a game of skill or chance -- and whether the state constitution, rather than a state law, should be changed to legalize fantasy sports.

Assembly Racing Committee chairman Gary Pretlow, D-Mount Vernon, Westchester County, the bill’s sponsor, said it can be done by state law, arguing that “We are legislators and one of the things that we do is define certain actions.”

But opponents said the contests are gambling — which would require a change of the state constitution to allow. That requires voter approval and two votes of consecutive-elected legislatures.

“Gambling is prohibited” without a constitutional change, said Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti, D-Greenburgh, Westchester County.

There’s a lot at stake for the industry’s giants, FanDuel and DraftKing: The games have been on hold pending a state law after Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sued to stop the contests, claiming they were illegal betting operations.

Lead testing of school water

The lead bill seemed to be making headway on Thursday: It passed the GOP-controlled Senate and had assurances from Heastie it would pass the Assembly.

And late Friday, a new bill was introduced that was a compromise between the sides — a sign that the measure was set for approval.

The proposal would require schools to test for lead in water after nearly 100 schools have come back with testing showing high levels of the dangerous chemical.

Advocates were making a late push for the bill, saying it’s imperative to require more testing of schools’ water.

“Schools that are on private well water, and there’s quite a few in the rural areas across the state, have always been required to test from the tap and publish those results,” said Claire Barnett, executive director of the Healthy Schools Network, based in Albany.

“It’s the schools on municipal systems – like the Albanys, Rochesters, Saratoga, New York City, Buffalo, and so forth – that have not been required” to test, she said.

The measure has faced some opposition from schools because it could require spending on lead remediation.

But Sen. Tom O’Mara, R-Big Flats, said the bill should pass, and schools would be reimbursed for most, if not all, of the costs.

“This is not an unfunded mandate to the school districts,” O’Mara said.

Breaks put on Uber, Lyft

The bill to authorize ride-sharing companies like Uber and Lyft to operate outside New York City is not expected to pass both houses.

“On life support. It doesn’t look to good,” Heastie said Thursday.

The most opposition lied in the Assembly, and the bill passed the Senate on Friday afternoon.

Dad

Continued from Page 1A

where he found fellow Ithaca dads Abe Lee, who’s followed his wife across three states while she works on a postdoctoral degree at Cornell, and Domenic Gagliano, a former Warner Music Group marketing manager and a teacher’s husband who also runs a home business and works part-time at a record store.

The trio are members of a large community of stay-at-home dads in Ithaca, representing a change to the male-dominated breadwinner model of family prevalent in American society.

Young originally got involved with the dads group — about 70 strong — after Olive was born, through the Jillian’s Drawers store downtown. The store supports a large community of parents, offering classes to navigate the perils of parenthood and playgroups.

“I met a bunch of guys, and we’re all going through the same stuff,” Young said. “You could stock two or three bands with all the musicians in that group. It’s actually really common, since we all work at night.”

In contemporary American society, parental roles are changing to reflect each family’s unique situation, with some men taking a more nurturing role than they have in the past as more women are primary earners. The changes, said David Sloan Wilson, an evolutionary biologist and a distinguished professor of biological sciences and anthropology at Binghamton University, mirror evolution of species in the natural world.

Specifically in the past decade, a number of shifts in American society — in the economy, social perceptions and the definition of masculinity — have changed the conversation about parenting, Wilson explained.

“When my father came home from a hard day’s work, he sat down, got his scotch and water, and watched the news,” Lee recalled. “He was a good dad, we did stuff, but there was a clear delineation of roles when I was growing up. Even in couples we’re friends with where the gender roles are more normative, there’s a lot more of a shared responsibility and division of labor when it comes to parenting and maintaining a household.”

Fatherhood and a changing society

Horseheads resident Ed Bond, a father of two, doesn’t leave for the office in the morning, nor does he leave at night, like he used to when he was a copy editor at the Star-Gazette in Elmira.

For a time, Bond and his wife, Amy, worked at the newspaper together, she during the day and he at night. But then the recession hit, Amy left her job for a position with Cornell University, and when the copy desk consolidated, ending his job in 2009, Bond faced several major readjustments in his life.

According to the American Psychological Association, between 1948 and 2001, the percentage of working women employed or looking for work increased from less than 33 percent to more than 60 percent, making the father’s role as sole breadwinner less and less necessary. With this change came declining fertility, as well as increasing rates of divorce, remarriage and childbirth outside of marriage, all of which have made the role of men as parents something less defined.

In the early days, the Bonds’ work schedule meant they would rarely see each other. Now, Ed works mornings and afternoons out of their house in Horseheads with a flexible schedule as a game designer, allowing him to respond to rising family emergencies and be there for the kids — 16-year-old Jack and 11-year-old Liam — as a member of the new breed of fathers.

“It works with husband and wife as partners,” Ed Bond said.

Wilson notes roles in the household are often based on the expectations of a culture. In the United States, parental roles used to be based on each parent picking up what they had to do. Men, typically earning more in work centered toward manual labor, were often, by default, the breadwinner for the family, leaving their wives at home to tend to the household and child rearing. Nowadays, this has changed significantly.

As society’s expectations have changed, economics have shifted, and a gender-specific model of parenthood is becoming increasingly obsolete, according to Maureen Waller, associate professor of policy analysis and management at Cornell.

“Prior to the industrial revolution, the teacher and moral leader model of fatherhood was dominant and after, that was replaced by a more bread-winning model that held until pretty recently,” Waller said. “In recent decades, there’s been some pretty major challenges to the breadwinner model.”

But even with those changes, the idea of a mother as a primary caregiver is still what much of society expects.

“I still feel the pseudo-pressure of fatherhood, like being a breadwinner and all that, fitting that role,” said Ithaca father Gagliano. “I don’t have a problem with how things are, but that’s still ingrained in growing up with my father ... they both worked, but it was still instilled the man’s the one who brings home the bacon. I still sometimes feel like I want to be contributing more ... I understand it for what it is, but it’s definitely there.”

Mothers and fathers

According to Peter Gray, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, paternal care is often facultative, and ultimately,



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO
From left, John Young, Domenic Gagliano and Abe Hill in Dewitt Park with their children during a day as full-time dads.

while valuable, a father’s care is not necessarily required, especially in a society — and a species — where some things just happen to be scripted, Gray wrote for Psychology Today in August 2014.

“There are lots of societies where the male is segregated, often because these are societies with warfare and they don’t see their sons,” Wilson said. “That doesn’t mean they turn out to be like their mothers ... it’s all scripted. They’re going to get indoctrinated in that male society, and they’re going to soak up those male behaviors and learn from males at the appropriate time.”

In evolutionary biology, Wilson noted, all species — humans included — learn best from those most similar to them; that females most of the time learn best from females, and males learn best from males. What dictates manhood depends largely on the precedent set by the expectations of a culture in which a young man is raised, whether or not the person there the most happens to be Mom or Dad.

However, the mother-child bond is a strong one. Wilson named voice imprinting as an example: The voice of the mother means something different to the child than the voice of anyone else, including the father.

“These are some things that might be hardwired into us we just have to acknowledge; we’re not (inherently) flexible that way,” Wilson said. “The mother-infant bond might be something that’s irreplaceable, much as we’d like to think otherwise.”

Fatherly bond

Society will adapt, and it does, Waller said. Over the past decade, men reported spending more time with their kids — six hours a week, instead of two — compared to the mid-1960s, Waller said. However, another trend — divorce — means more fathers are living apart from their kids. In 1950, 11 percent of dads were living apart from their kids. Now, it’s about 27 percent.

Aaron Hill, a web developer with the information technology department at Cornell, is a member of that 27 percent. Hill lives on Ithaca’s East Hill — his wife, Melissa, whom he’s separated from, lives on West Hill. They split time with their two children on a “7-7-5-5” day basis. The time he does have the kids, about seven days out of every 14, is all about building relationships, he said.

When it’s his time with the children, he picks them up and gives them the day’s schedule — what time dinner is, when bedtime is, etc. From there, it’s up to the kids whether they want to relax at home, go out and do something, play a game. Sometimes, Aaron will spend the time helping his son, 9-year-old Sullivan, with coding, a newfound hobby of his.

Hill said he tries to maximize his opportunities to have lasting interactions with Sullivan and Freyja, 7, to grow their relationship with their father and to grow on their own volition.

“I see myself as kind of a steward for facilitating things they’re interested in,” Hill said. “Occasionally, if there’s an opportunity to step in or provide guidance, I’ll do that, but I mainly let them direct the things they’re interested in.”

Research has shown there are no real significant differences between men and women on seven traits of the parenthood spectrum: warmth, nurturance, responsiveness, encouragement of dependence, restrictiveness, low encouragement of independence, and disciplinary strictness, according to a 1991 University of Calgary study by psychologists Hugh Lytton and David Romney.

“That mentality where the dad was the breadwinner and not very much involved as an active parent (and) the mom was ... I think that’s definitely different now,” Hill said. “I know a lot of dads who are really involved with their kids, and it’s great; it’s a different perspective. They get one set of guidance from their mom, and they get a different set from me ... it gives them a richer experience, I think.”

Wilson said fatherhood in American society has evolved as any other species would. As long as there is somebody to fill the role of primary caregiver for a child — of either gender — whoever the job lands with depends not on who’s the man or who’s the woman, but whoever’s available to do the job.

“It’s just a different world,” Ithaca dad Young said. “There are so many ways relationships and parenthood are different than yesterday’s attitudes. It’s more sequential; people do serious career stuff, do something else for a while and then go back. When I was 30 years old, I was lecturing in Europe several times a year and publishing in 30 different languages. It’s not a slow, steady, do the same sort of thing a lot of people had in the old days.”

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ANDREW CASLER / STAFF PHOTO
Tompkins Financial Corp. President Stephen Romaine addresses a crowd of about 100 for a news conference Friday.

HQ

Continued from Page 1A

“They are not only building a beautiful new building ... they are bringing employees and customers into the city to use the beautiful new (Ithaca) Commons,” Mohlenhoff said. “By making an extremely public commitment to the downtown urban core, they are demonstration a partnership and collaboration with the city which is extremely important, and we’re very thankful to the trust company for staying in downtown.”

Construction will begin immediately and end in March 2018, Tompkins Trust Co. President Greg Hartz said.

The headquarters would house more than 300 employees, with a retail branch and ATM on the first floor, according to a news release. The building would have

22 parking spaces.

The financial services holding company plans to consolidate its sprawling network of administrative offices in the new building, Hartz added.

Tompkins Financial plans to leave its offices in the Rothschild and Center Ithaca buildings, corporation president Stephen Romaine said. The main office for Tompkins Trust Co., at 110 N Tioga St. in Bank Alley on The Commons, and several other administrative buildings also would be vacated.

“We have people all over the place, and the buildings have been modified over the years, and there are lots of pockets — it’s a very inefficient way for us to work,” Hartz said. “This building will put all of us in one location, where there’s a lot more interaction between the full staff.”

All existing Tompkins Trust branches will stay open where they are now, Hartz added.

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