



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

VETO #27

October 9, 2025

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Assembly Bill Number 1365-A, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring nursing homes to designate dedicated storage spaces for the storage of the bodies of deceased persons”

NOT APPROVED

This bill would require nursing homes to designate storage spaces for the bodies of its deceased residents upon the Governor’s declaration of a disaster emergency.

This bill is a reaction to reports of bodies “piling up” at six nursing homes during the COVID-19 public health emergency, yet the Attorney General’s investigation found all six allegations to be unsubstantiated. As part of its Mass Casualty Plan, New York State has identified resources for this purpose, including mobile morgues for the temporary storage of deceased individuals when there are mass fatality events or other state emergencies. Placing such burdens on nursing homes is fiscally irresponsible, would detract from the ability of nursing homes to serve residents, and would impede nursing homes from responding to the specific circumstances of future emergencies.

Therefore, I am constrained to veto this bill.

The bill is disapproved.

Ruth Hochul