



Maiorana: Bad loss to Bears raises questions for Bills

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Rochester police fatally shot Akintunde Campbell on Ernestine Street in Rochester's 19th Ward, while investigating reports of a "suspicious person." Family members said Campbell's mother lived on the block and the man had known mental health challenges. PHOTOS BY KAYLA CANNE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Shooting by police sows anger, grief in 19th Ward

Family says Campbell killed during mental health crisis; officers say he pulled handgun

Kayla Canne
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK

Akintunde Campbell was sitting on the hood of his car in his mother's driveway, experiencing a mental health crisis, his family says, when police beckoned him to the sidewalk for questioning and shot at him nearly a dozen times after he tried to walk away.

Police called Campbell a suspicious person. His mother has lived in the 19th Ward for over 20 years.

Weeks later, the July 31 shooting has sown division and heartache in this Rochester neighborhood.

Family members blame a 911 call reporting Campbell as suspicious as he wandered around Ernestine Street. They say police have come to the home before on mental health calls and should have recognized the address or called his mother out of the house to help. They say officers should not have grabbed the man during a psychotic episode.

See FATAL SHOOTING, Page 6A



Nefertiti Campbell, right, calls out to her brother, Akintunde Campbell, before a balloon release in his honor Aug. 17. Akintunde was shot and killed by Rochester police. Family say he was experiencing a mental health crisis the night he was killed.

NY to fill \$3B gap in health budget

Residents lose coverage due to Trump megabill

Chris McKenna
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York must soon come up with nearly \$3 billion a year to provide health coverage for half a million residents who are losing their federally funded care.

That's one of the first spillover effects of a new federal law that is expected to force tough decisions. In other words, New Yorkers should brace for potentially drastic measures coming out of Albany, as some officials warn the state is heading for the kind of financial pain not felt since the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009.

The looming \$3 billion health care expense comes as a result of the huge package of tax and spending cuts enacted last month by Republicans in Congress and President Donald Trump. The 870-page law included a set of policy changes that are projected to cut federal funding for Medicaid and other health programs by \$1 trillion over a decade.

Care costs effectively shift to NY taxpayers

Among the GOP changes was a new rule that denies federally subsidized care for immigrants who don't have permanent legal status but are considered "lawfully present" in the U.S., including those who have been granted asylum. They previously were eligible for that coverage.

In New York, that means about 225,000 people enrolled in the state's federally funded Essential Plan will be left uninsured as of 2027, state officials estimate. Another 500,000 who currently qualify for Medicaid will be shifted to that program, at an estimated state cost of about \$2.8 billion a year. That isn't optional: A 2001 ruling by New York's top court requires the state to provide health coverage to that group.

Put simply, the GOP's "big, beautiful bill" will effectively shift their care costs to New York taxpayers.

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NY bill aims to curb food waste with uniform labeling

Erin Jones
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new state bill is on the table to help reduce food waste in New York by standardizing the language used on food packaging.

New York State Senate Bill S7618, sponsored by Sen. Michelle Hinchey and Assembly member Karines Reyes, proposes uniform labeling terms to help consumers better understand when food is safe to eat.

The bill would require food manufac-

turers to use only two terms on packaging:

- "Best if Used By" — Indicates when food is at peak quality.
- "Use By" — Indicates the last date food is considered safe to eat.

It would also ban terms like "Sell By", which often confuse consumers. Under the bill, manufacturers would be required to use scientifically credible methods to determine the dates.

The goal is to reduce confusion, limit unnecessary food disposal, and cut down on methane emissions from landfills.

According to the bill's sponsor memo, food waste is the largest category of material in municipal landfills and a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, there are no federal laws standardizing food label language — except for baby formula. The USDA provides guidelines, but they are not legally enforced. National efforts are underway to address this gap.

The nonprofit ReFED, which focuses on reducing food waste, found that standardizing date labels is one of the most cost-effective solutions. ReFED

What's next for the bill?

Senate Bill S7618 was introduced on April 23 and is currently under review by the State Senate Consumer Protection Committee. If passed, the law would take effect on July 1, 2027.

estimates this step alone could divert 772,000 tons of food waste annually and generate nearly \$4 billion in economic value.

To follow the bill's progress or contact your local senator, visit the New York State Senate website.

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