



## Cost Estimates for Governor Hochul’s Overnight Subway Policing Initiative

On January 14, 2025, as part of the 2025 State of the State Address, Governor Hochul announced a [subway policing initiative](#) to increase police patrols on subway platforms and trains in New York City. If passed in the State budget, every overnight subway train will have two New York Police Department (NYPD) officers onboard, along with additional officers stationed across the City’s subway platforms.

The program will run for six months from the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. On January 20, 2025, a phase-in period started with approximately 100 officers on subway trains. At full capacity, the Hochul administration expects about 300 officers on subway trains, and 750 officers on platforms each night. For context, the Governor’s estimate includes approximately 150 overnight trains, and the subway system has 472 stations, many with multiple platforms.

The Governor proposed that New York State and New York City will split the estimated \$154 million overall cost of deployment. If approved, the State would pay half (\$77 million) and the City would pay the other half. New York City is expected to cover the cost of the program until the State passes their final budget and can reimburse the City

Using citywide payroll data and information reported by the Hochul administration, IBO estimated a range of costs of the subway policing initiative. In the figure, IBO estimates a range of costs between \$61 million

<b>IBO Estimates of Overnight Subway Policing Initiative</b>		
	<b>Low Estimate: All Rookie Officers</b>	<b>High Estimate: All Lieutenants</b>
<b>Phase In Period</b>		
Days	30	30
Number of Officers	350	350
Hours per Night (9pm-5am)	8	8
<b>Work Hours</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>84,000</b>
<b>Main Program</b>		
Days	150	150
Number of Officers	1,050	1,050
Hours per Night (9pm-5am)	8	8
<b>Work Hours</b>	<b>1,260,000</b>	<b>1,260,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		
Total Work Hours	1,344,000	1,344,000
Hourly Rate For Overnight Overtime	\$45.69	\$118.62
<b>IBO Cost Estimates</b>	<b>\$61,000,000</b>	<b>\$159,000,000</b>
<b>Hochul Administration Projection</b>		<b>\$154,000,000</b>
SOURCES: Hochul administration press releases, and City Human Resources Management System (CHRMS) data		
NOTE: Totals may not add or multiply due to rounding.		
New York City Independent Budget Office		

---

and \$159 million, assuming all shifts are paid at overnight overtime rates. The Hochul administration’s \$154 million projection is at the high end of the range.

### **Cost Depends on Officer Seniority, Phase-in Period, and New Shifts**

IBO is presenting a cost range because the price tag for this initiative depends on the seniority of the officers working overtime. Per IBO’s analysis of pay data, rookie police officers earn about \$28 per hour for regular time, while lieutenants earn about \$71 per hour.<sup>1</sup> This gap is even larger under this initiative because officers receive 50% more per hour for overtime, and an additional 10% more per hour for overnight shifts.

The Hochul administration’s projection for this initiative is at the high end of IBO’s range. This may be appropriate, because overtime shifts are typically worked by higher ranking and more senior officers who consequently have higher hourly wages. However, the shifts under this initiative may be less desirable as they are overnight shifts, and therefore the shifts could be worked by more junior officers, and potentially as part of their regular hours. The ultimate breakdown of officer seniority in these shifts will determine the total cost of the initiative.

The Hochul administration announced a phase-in period of the initiative with limited details. IBO projects the phase-in would last about one month. IBO estimates that approximately one-third of platforms would be covered by officers, proportional to the number of officers on subway trains in the phase-in compared with the full program.

IBO’s estimate also assumes that all shifts under the initiative are new, rather than moving officers from existing overtime assignments into the subway system. If some of the subway trains or platforms are covered by reassigned officers, that would reduce costs. Lastly, IBO’s estimate focuses on direct salary costs and does not reflect potential increases to future pension payments for these officers.

IBO did not evaluate the potential effectiveness of this policy on crime rates. According to NYPD data, calendar year 2024 subway crime rates decreased by 5.4% from 2023.

*Report Prepared by  
Emily Pramik and Valerie Gudino  
With Brian Cain and Jacob Berman*

---

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup>The estimated overtime costs reflect average overnight overtime costs over fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Rookie police officers were defined as those starting during fiscal year 2023 or 2024, and lieutenants included all lieutenant officers who were paid during the same period.