



Weekly Information Sheet 12

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Public Benefit Corporations

- Public benefit corporations are entities that chartered by an act of the state legislature and are closely associated with governmental operations and public functions (such as public authorities).
- Public benefit corporations are designed to carry out a public purpose and therefore receive some benefit for this function.
- Public benefit corporations are usually not bound by the same set of rules and statutes as private corporations. They are formed for limited purposes, which are principally to build, finance and operate something for the public benefit.
- Public benefit corporations are often given special tax treatment and other benefits that private corporations do not receive.

Public Authorities

- Public Authorities are Public benefit corporations chartered by an act of the state legislature.
- The first Public Authority was the Port of London Authority.
- The First Public Authority in New York (and in the United States) was the Port Authority of New York, which was chartered by Congress, and then codified in State Law. It is a bi-state authority, now known as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.
- Today there are hundreds of Public Authorities in New York. Some of the more famous include the Thruway Authority, the Dormitory Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Power Authority, and the Empire State Development Corporation (legally known as the Urban Development Corporation).
- The purpose of Public Authorities is to finance, build and operate things (principally infrastructure) for the benefit of the state and its citizens (i.e. the public).