

Annual Report 2023



# New York State Senate Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance

**Senator Neil D. Breslin**

Chair



**Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins**  
President Pro Tempore  
NYS Senate Majority Leader



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**NEIL D. BRESLIN**  
SENATOR, 46TH DISTRICT

**VICE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

**CHAIR**

ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

**CHAIR**

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

**CO-CHAIR**

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

**MEMBER**

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL  
RESOURCES

**COMMITTEES**

FINANCE

HIGHER EDUCATION

JUDICIARY

RULES

December 12, 2023

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance for the 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2023 Session, this Committee met one time in Session and reported six bills.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the Committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil D. Breslin".

Neil D. Breslin  
Member of Senate

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**ALL MAIL SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ALBANY OFFICE.**





# **2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE**

**Senator Neil D. Breslin, Chairperson**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Jeremy A. Cooney  
Toby Ann Stavisky  
Kristen Gonzalez  
Andrew J. Lanza  
Anthony H. Palumbo  
Steven D. Rhoads

### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Evan Schneider - Committee Director  
Becki Rappazzo - Committee Clerk  
Daniel Ranellone - Deputy Counsel  
Gabriel Paniza - Assistant Deputy Director  
Shannon Owens - Senior Policy Advisor



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning public officers law and the legislative law.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 28 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 6 were reported from the Committee, three were passed by the Senate, and 3 passed in both houses. This work was conducted at one committee meeting. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2023:

- **S150**- Prohibits state reimbursement of campaign and political committees, legal defense fund for payments made on behalf of the criminal defense of a state employee.
- **S2164a**- Authorizes the commission on ethics and lobbying in government to provide a training course concerning anti-sexual harassment training and requiring lobbyists to complete the course annually.
- **S3310**- Prohibits certain persons from receiving compensation for legal fees, consulting, or other work performed for an industrial development agency or an economic assistance corporation.
- **S4152**- Relates to lobbying for the confirmation of persons to state office.
- **S5086**- Establishes that guardians ad litem in Westchester County are considered employees under the public officers law.
- **5621a**- Relates to reporting of digital assets on the annual statement of financial disclosure.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, three of the twenty-eight bills referred to the Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed two and vetoed one.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S4152	Gianaris	Relates to lobbying for the confirmation of persons to state office	Veto 102 of 2023
S5086	Mayer	Establishes that guardians ad litem in Westchester County are considered employees under the public officers law.	Chapter 430 of 2023
S5621b	May	Relates to reporting of digital assets on the annual statement of financial disclosure.	Chapter 391 of 2023

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S150	Gianaris	Prohibits state reimbursement of campaign and political committees, or legal defense funds, for payments made on behalf of the criminal defense of a state employee.	Passed Senate only
S2164A	Liu	Authorizes the commission on ethics and lobbying in government to provide a training course concerning anti-sexual harassment training for lobbyists; requires lobbyists to complete the course annually.	Passed Senate only
S3310	Skoufis	Prohibits certain persons from receiving compensation for legal fees, consulting, or other work performed for an industrial development agency, an economic assistance corporation or state or local authority.	Passed Senate only
S4152	Gianaris	Requires registration and the disclosure of information relating to lobbying for the nomination or confirmation of persons to state office.	Veto 102 of 2023
S5086	Mayer	Establishes that guardians ad litem in Westchester county are considered employees for the purposes of representation and indemnification in civil actions resulting from actions taken during the scope of their employment.	Chapter 430 of 2023
S562B	May	Relates to reporting of digital assets on the annual statement of financial disclosure filed with the legislative ethics commission or the joint commission on public ethics.	Chapter 591 of 2023





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