



2020 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON

CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
& COMMISSIONS



**SENATOR
LEROY COMRIE**
CHAIR

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND
COMMISSIONS

COMMITTEES:
CITIES
CONSUMER PROTECTION
FINANCE
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING
RULES

December, 2020

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

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

Thank you for your outstanding leadership, vision and guidance during the historic and unprecedented 2020 Legislative Session. I am still humbled by the trust you placed in me to Chair the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions and to fashion our collective work in a way that benefits every corner of the Empire State.

2020 has been a year without parallel but together, member-by-member, as Committees and as a Conference we met the COVID pandemic head-on with thoughtfulness, deliberation, action and skill. We had a very productive year—from a policy and legislation standpoint as well as considering and deliberating upon nominations—and conducting a number of hearings. Consequently, I am pleased to officially transmit the Annual Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions for the 2020 Legislative Session.

Throughout the 2020 Legislative Session, the Committee met six times, three in-person convocations and three by virtual means. We had five committee meetings to consider legislation; in those meetings we passed 34 bills—including a number of important reform proposals, economic development initiatives, legislation to empower Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE's), policies to support our people in the time of COVID-19, legislation to help many not-for-profits, including cemeteries and bills of local importance to members. Additionally, we held one committee meeting to consider 6 nominations, including 5 nominations to the MTA Board.

In the face of a spectrum of challenges, the Committee was active in many other ways, including through MTA Budgetary and Oversight Hearings and a multifaceted review of the unacceptable response by Public Utilities to Tropical Storm Isaias.

My thanks to my Committee members and legislative partners, Senators Shelley B. Mayer, James Skoufis, Andrew Gounardes, Jessica Ramos, Michael H. Ranzenhofer and Ranking Member Phil Boyle. I look forward to a productive and successful 2021 and in the interim, I remain...

Yours In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leroy Comrie', written in a cursive style.

Leroy Comrie
State Senator

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

Senator Leroy Comrie, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer

Senator Phil Boyle, Ranking Member

Senator Andrew Gounardes

Senator James Skoufis

Senator Jessica Ramos

COMMITTEE STAFF

Mobeen Bhatti, Policy Advisor | NYS Senate Majority Counsel/Program

Daniel Ranellone, Senior Counsel | NYS Senate Majority Counsel/Program

David Frazier, Director Of Budget Execution | Senate Finance Committee/Majority

Allison Bradley, Deputy Secretary | Senate Finance Committee/Majority

Derrick Davis | Chief of Staff To Senator Comrie

Paul Nichols | Counsel To Senator Comrie

Christopher W. LaBarge | Legislative Director To Senator Comrie

Andrew Taranto | Communications Director To Senator Comrie

Richard-Olivier Marius | Committee Clerk/Policy Analyst

Cindy Coral | Session Assistant/Community Liaison

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions has legislative oversight responsibilities over a vast range of issue areas including the Authorities Budget Office, State and Local Authorities such as the Urban Development Corporation, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Dormitory Authority. In addition, the Committee is the principal originator of bills concerning the following areas of law: Benevolent Orders, Business Corporations, Cooperative Corporations, General Associations, Limited Liability Company, Not-For-Profit Corporation, Partnership, Religious Corporations and the Waterfront Commission.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, 144 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 37 were reported from the Committee—22 were passed by the Senate, and 10 passed in both houses. Our bill-focused work was conducted through a series of 5 committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular legislative meetings, the committee held a total of 3 Public Hearings, which are also detailed in a subsequent section of this report.



Senator Comrie and members of TeamComrie on the frontlines, handing out PPE to Queens commuters.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted upon by the Committee this year and subsequently signed into law:

Empowering Cemeteries To Merge

S.7155 (Comrie) / A.9089 (Paulin) In the name of preserving final resting places, empowering cemeteries and saving local governments money, this comprehensive legislation statutorily authorizes larger, more financially stable cemeteries to merge with or acquire cemeteries after Cemetery Board approval. This much needed reform and revitalization initiative lifts several restrictions relating to location and size of mergers and acquisition of cemetery corporations, while making sure that the rights of those who have loved ones interred are enhanced and protected.

State Disaster Emergency Loan Program Through IDAs

S.8181A (May) / A.10294A (Stirpe) This dynamic pandemic response legislation authorizes each Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to establish its own State Disaster Emergency Loan Program in response to COVID-19. Furthermore, IDAs are empowered to give interest free loans of up to \$25,000 and grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses or organizations during the period of the declared public health emergency.

Online Sale Of Cemetery Lots

S.8408 (Comrie) / A7652A (Paulin) In the interest of public health, safety, and consumer convenience, this legislation enables cemetery corporations to enter into contracts with third parties to develop an online platform to sell lots and other services. This legislation enacts strong consumer protections, while also making the arduous process of deciding upon a loved one's final resting place more convenient and transparent.

Remote Board Meetings

S.8412 (Benjamin) | A.10498-A (Paulin) This pandemic-related bill explicitly provides authority for not-for-profit corporations, religious institutions, and cooperatives to hold meetings of shareholders, members and trustees, through remote communications to the extent the board of that organization authorizes that participation.

Cemetery Disclosure Form

S.4284-A (Comrie) / A.3429-A (Dilan) This bill requires the NYS Cemetery Board to produce a uniform Cemetery Disclosure Form that must be posted in cemetery offices, on the internet and given to customers upon request. The goal of the bill is a consumer protection one, ensuring that people who are making final arrangements for loved ones are fully aware of their rights and options with respect to the purchase of burial lots, rights of internment, and various rates, fees and services.



Senator Comrie, local clergy and the Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz dedicate Victory Gardens as a Memorial to those lost due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. .

Chair Comrie | Corporations Committee In The Community

One of the great honors of Chairing a Committee is taking the substantive work of the Committee directly to the Community and making an appreciable difference. Chair Comrie believes that the work done by the Corporations, Authorities & Commissions Committee is about much more than bills and hearings, it is about being positive change agents block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood and community by community. To this end, we recognize the following accomplishments of the Committee for 2020.



Senators Comrie and John C. Liu join Assemblymembers David Weprin, Nily Rozic and Councilman Barry Grodenchik to distribute PPE to local residents.

Chair Comrie held events almost every week throughout the Pandemic with the MTA “Mask Force” ensuring the free, timely and efficient distribution of PPE to the riding public.

Chair Comrie worked with the MTA and TWU to ensure that rapid testing and enhanced benefits were available to our frontline heroes, our beloved transit workers.

Chair Comrie led a cleaning and beautification initiative at multiple LIRR stations, engaging and partnering with the community.

Chair Comrie led a successful effort to encourage the MTA to cross-honor tickets during the pandemic and through construction projects.

Chair Comrie was proud to help lead a meeting between the Federated Blocks Of Laurelton and LIRR President Phil Eng to discuss accessibility issues.

Chair Comrie demanded community partnership and engagement on E Line state of good repair track work which was eventually completed ahead of schedule and with as few disruptions as possible.



Senators Comrie and Timothy M. Kennedy with TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano and MTA Chairman Pat Foye discuss providing testing to essential workers.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, 10 of the 144 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 7, vetoed 2 and yet to act upon 1. Please see details below.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.2176	Senator Bailey	An act to amend the New York state urban development corporation act and the economic development law, in relation to the creation of micro-business worker cooperatives upon transfer of ownership	Vetoed
S.4284-A	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to creating a cemetery disclosure form	Signed Into Law
S.6431	Senator Krueger	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing the dormitory authority to provide financing to the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association (dba 92nd Street Y)	Signed Into Law
S.6768-A	Senator Akshar	An act to amend the village law, in relation to exempting the Village of Port Dickinson Fire Department from the requirement that the percentage of non-resident fire department members not exceed forty-five percent of the membership	Signed Into Law
S.7155	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to requiring consent prior to the merger of cemetery corporations	On the Governor's Desk
S.8084-A	Senator Funke	Includes the Victor Farmington Library with libraries eligible for the financing of projects through the dormitory authority	Signed Into Law
S.8119-C	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the transportation law, in relation to paratransit services within the state and city of New York during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic	Vetoed
S8181-A	Senator May	An act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to establishing a state disaster emergency loan program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof	Signed Into Law

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.8408	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to utilizing technology in cemetery lot sales	Signed Into Law
S.8412	Senator Benjamin	An act to amend the business corporation law, the not-for-profit corporation law, and the religious corporations law, in relation to providing for the remote conduct of certain practices and procedures relating to board meetings; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof	Signed Into Law



Senator Comrie partnered with Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal and volunteers to hand out PPE at the local subway.

BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE ONLY

In 2020, 12 of the 144 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions passed the Senate only. Please see details below.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.584	Senator Kennedy	An act to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to enacting the food retail establishment subsidization for healthy communities (FRESH Communities) act	Passed Senate; 53-7
S.844-A	Senator Benjamin	An act to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to the small business regional revolving loan trust fund and the small business regional revolving loan program	Passed Senate; 59-0
S.2296-A	Senator Sanders	An act to amend the urban development corporation act, in relation to allowing businesses to use funds received from the minority and women-owned business development and lending program for the purpose of refinancing existing debt	Passed Senate; 62-0
S.2709-A	Senator Kennedy	An act to amend the business corporation law, in relation to providing for expanded ownership in design professional corporations by employee stock ownership plans and non-licensed employees	Passed Senate; 60-0
S.3348	Senator Hoylman	An act to amend the business corporation law, the executive law, the general associations law, the limited liability company law, the not-for-profit corporation law, the partnership law, the tax law, the administrative code of the city of New York, the real property law, the general business law, the navigation law, and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to expanding service of process to the department of state in the city of New York	Passed Senate; 46-14

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.3669	Senator Gianaris	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to exempting the metropolitan transportation authority from the requirement for public authorities to reimburse the state for services provided to such authorities	Passed Senate; 41-19
S.5338-A	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the public authorities law and the economic development law, in relation to requiring public corporations and agencies to provide notice to each minority- or women-owned business enterprise that unsuccessfully bid on a contract of the reason or reasons why the business enterprise was unsuccessful in obtaining the contract	Passed Senate; 57-0
S.6491-B	Senator Gaughran	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing the North Shore water authority	Passed Senate; 58-2
S.7355-A	Senator Kaplan	An act to amend the business corporation law and the limited liability company law, in relation to directing the secretary of state to provide information to certain new businesses	Passed Senate; 59-0
S.7543-A	Senator Robach	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing the dormitory authority to provide financing to Mary Cariola Children's Center, Inc.	Passed Senate; 60-0
S.8757	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the New York state medical care facilities finance agency act, in relation to the ability to issue certain bonds and notes	Passed Senate; 60-0
S.8781	Chair Comrie	An act in relation to requiring certain provisions be included in any procurement or agreement prior to disposing of any asset owned, leased or otherwise controlled on or in the immediate vicinity of the Lefferts Boulevard Bridge	Passed Senate; 60-0



Senators Comrie and Brian A. Benjamin join local elected officials, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman and Council Members I. Daneek Miller and Adrienne Adams for a small business corridor tour to discuss economic recovery in the age of COVID-19.

BILLS THAT PASSED THE COMMITTEE ONLY

In 2019, 13 of the 144 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions passed through the Committee only. Please see details below.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.1861-A	Senator Ritchie	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the powers and duties of the dormitory authority	Third Reading
S.2759	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the public authorities law and the public lands law, in relation to the sale or transfer of certain real property by the state or public authorities	Third Reading
S.4361	Senator Kaplan	Establishes the New York state innovation voucher program	Committed To Finance
S.4479-A	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to the creation of the strategic investment in workforce development program	Committed To Finance
S.4520	Senator Harckham	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the water pollution control revolving fund	Committed To Finance
S.5049-A	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to exempting mass transit authorities from bond issuance charges	Committed To Finance
S.5463	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to cemetery trust funds	Third Reading
S.5591-A	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to utilizing technology in cemetery lot sales	Third Reading
S.5720	Chair Comrie	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law and the religious corporations law, in relation to the correction of tax errors made by the nonprofit revitalization act	Third Reading

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title	Final Action
S.6162	Senator Harckham	An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the special powers of the New York state environmental facilities corporation	Third Reading
S.7019	Senator Kaplan	An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to the corporate membership of housing development fund companies and corporations	Third Reading
S.7124	Chair Comrie	An act directing the metropolitan transportation authority to study the feasibility of co-mingling public transit and freight service on the proposed Triboro line along the rail right-of-way running from Co-op City in the Bronx, through Queens, and terminating in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn	Third Reading
S.7855	Senator Liu	An act to amend the public authorities law, the executive law and the public officers law, in relation to clarifying the application of the accountability standards, open meetings law and freedom of information requirements to local development corporations	Third Reading



Senator Comrie with elected colleagues, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Assembly-members Clyde Vanel, Alicia Hyndman, and Khaleel Anderson along with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, small business owners, Members of the Queens Chamber of Commerce and Port Authority Chairman Rick Cotton at the opening of the J&P Runway Cafe at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions met 1 time to consider nominations to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Dormitory Authority of New York State; below is a chronological accounting of the meetings, nominees, positions and eventual outcome of our deliberation.

Date	Name	Position	Final Action
06.10.2020	Jamey Barbas	Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Confirmed
06.10.2020	Frank Borelli Jr.	Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Confirmed
06.10.2020	Victor Calise	Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Confirmed
06.10.2020	Michael Fleischer	Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Confirmed
06.10.2020	Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez	Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Confirmed
06.10.2020	Reuben McDaniel	Chair & CEO, Dormitory Authority of the State of New York	Confirmed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

In addition to its regular legislative meetings, the Committee held a total of 3 public hearings to review the impact of: (1) the 2020-2021 Executive Budget proposal, (2) Superstorm Isaias, and (3) COVID-19 Pandemic.

I was grateful for all of the leaders, experts, local officials and advocates who testified at our hearings as their insightful perspective and actionable proposals helped us immensely in our budgetary, legislative and oversight endeavors. An accounting of the Committee's Public Hearings follows and the hearing themselves are archived on the Senate's website.

Date	Hearing Topic	Hearing Synopsis
01.28.2020	Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2020-2021 Executive Budget Proposal: Topic Transportation	This Public Hearing, held jointly by the Senate and Assembly, discussed the impact of the proposed Executive Budget on statewide transportation systems. Testimony was provided by government entities and public interest groups, including Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Trucking Association of New York, and New York Public Interest Research Group.
08.20.2020	Joint Public Hearing: To address the emergency storm response and customer communication by utilities located in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, and the greater Hudson Valley post Tropical Storm Isaias	This Public Hearing, held jointly with various Senate and Assembly committees, discussed the quality of emergency response of certain utility companies in the aftermath of Superstorm Isaias. The Legislature received and heard testimonies from utility companies, utility customers, and community representatives and activists, including New York State Electric and Gas, Verizon, various mayors and town supervisors.
08.25.2020	Joint Public Hearing: Impact of COVID-19 on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Public Transportation	This Public Hearing, held jointly with the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation, discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on transportation budgets, workers and riders, businesses and infrastructure in the downstate metropolitan transit region. Testimony was offered by Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Amalgamated Transit Union, Reinvent Albany, among other governmental and community stakeholders.



Senator Comrie volunteers for COVID-19 test via nose swab and encourages transit workers to get tested regularly. Sen. Kennedy discusses testing with TWU Local 100 Members.

I) COVID-19 PANDEMIC (FINANCIAL AND LEGAL) ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Federal

Small Business Assistance

Website: <https://www.sba.gov/>

New York District Office

26 Federal Plaza Suite 3100

New York, NY

Phone: 212-264-4354

Fax: 212-264-4963

- SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- SBA Subsidy Loan Program
- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program

New York State

Empire State Development

Website: <https://esd.ny.gov/>

NYC Main Office

633 Third Avenue - Floor 37

New York, NY 10017

212-803-3100

NYC Regional Office

633 Third Avenue - Floor 36

New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212-803-3130

Fax: 212-803-3131

- New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)

New York City

Small Business Services

Website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/>

One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor

New York, NY 10006

Phone: 212-513-6300

- Covid-19 Small Business Remote Legal Clinic
- Restaurant Revitalization Program

II) RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES

New York State Authorities Budget Office

Website: <https://www.abo.ny.gov/>

PO BOX 2076

Albany, NY 12220-0076

Phone: 518-474-1932

Fax: 518-408-1326

Email: info@abo.state.ny.us

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Website: <https://new.mta.info/>

3 Stone Street

New York, NY 10004

Phone:

- Out of region callers: 877-690-5116
- International callers: 212-878-7000
- Police Emergencies: 911
- MTA Corporate Offices: 212-878-7000
- Public Meeting Hotline: 212-878-7199
- New York Transit Museum: 718-694-1600
- Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 888-NYC SAFE (888-692-7233)
- MTA Police non-emergencies: 212-878-1001



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