



2020 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR



**SENATOR
JESSICA RAMOS**
CHAIR

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



JESSICA RAMOS
SENATOR, 13TH DISTRICT

CHAIR

Labor

COMMITTEES

Cities

Consumer Protection

Corporations, Authorities and
Commissions

Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and
Recreation

Transportation

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December 21, 2020

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 Labor for the 2020 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2020 session, this committee met 5 times in session and reported 29 bills. The Committee also held 2 hearings this past year.

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.

With Gratitude,

Jessica Ramos

Alessandra R. Biaggi

New York State Senator, 34th District

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Senator Jessica Ramos, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Majority

Andrew Gounardes
Pete Harckham
Robert Jackson
Monica Martinez
Shelley Mayer
Roxanne Persaud
James Sanders
Diane Savino

Minority

Fred Ashkar
Rich Funke
Patrick Gallivan
Andrew Lanza

COMMITTEE STAFF

Elizabeth Robins, Senate Counsel
Samantha Acevedo, Senator Jessica Ramos's Albany Deputy Chief of Staff

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Labor has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the safety and health, labor standards and dignity of all workers in New York State.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, 29 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 29 were reported from the Committee. 20 were passed by the Senate, and 11 passed in both houses. This 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 meetings, the Committee held 2 hearings meetings. Topics of these hearings included the “Executive Budget Proposal: Workforce Development” and the “Impact of COVID-19 on the Workforce”.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2020:

- **S8828** (Ramos) Workplace Fatalities Registry
- **S6266** (Biaggi) The Healthy Terminals Act
- **S8275A** (Martinez) Relates to suspending the forfeiture of unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 state of emergency
- **S7846** (Harckham) Relates to establishing requirements for the transfer, sale, lease and any decommissioning activities of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant
- **S8748** (Mayer) Relates to written notice requirements for mass layoffs
- **S8617B** (Gounardes) Requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, 11 of the 3 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Labor Committee passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 7, vetoed 1, and has yet to act on 3.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S8828	Ramos	Workplace Fatalities Registry	On the Governor's Desk
S6266	Biaggi	Healthy Terminals Act	On the Governor's Desk
S8275a	Martinez	Relates to suspending the forfeiture of unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 state of emergency	Chapter 97 of 2020
S5421	Ramos	Includes coverage of treatment rendered by a massage therapist	Veto 67 of 2020
S7846	Harckham	Relates to establishing requirements for the transfer, sale, lease and any decommissioning activities of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant	On the Governor's Desk
S8397a	Savino	Relates to prohibiting health care employers from penalizing employees because of complaints of employer violations	Chapter 117 of 2020
S2231	Sanders	Requires regulations promulgated for systematic and sustained efforts to find work for unemployment benefits to include a claimants need to provide child care	Chapter 252 of 2020
S6391	Salazar	Repeals section 206-b of the labor law, relating to employment of females after child-birth prohibited	Chapter 235 of 2020
S7210	Savino	Relates to the direct deposit of workers' compensation benefits	Chapter 252 of 2020
S8748	Mayer	Relates to written notice requirements for mass layoffs	Chapter 265 of 2020
S8617B	Gounardes	Requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease	Chapter 168 of 2020

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S839	Montgomery	Enacts the “New York State YouthBuild Act”	Passed Senate Only
S3969	Kennedy	Authorizes treatment of workers’ compensation injuries by an occupational therapy assistant and a physical therapist assistant	Passed Senate Only
S5421	Ramos	Includes coverage of treatment rendered by a massage therapist	Veto 67 of 2020
S6391	Salazar	Repeals section 206-b of the labor law, relating to employment of females after child-birth prohibited	Chapter 235 of 2020
S3821	Savino	Relates to the eligibility for New York state paid family leave benefits by persons engaged in a teaching capacity in a religious institution	Reported from Committee
S6726	Ramos	Relates to the overpayment of wages	Passed Senate Only
S8828	Ramos	Establishes a registry of workplace fatalities to record information pertaining to all incidents under which an employee suffers a fatal injury	On the Governor’s Desk
S2832A	Savino	Provides that an employer may not take retaliatory action against a person who protests against or discloses any bribery or attempted bribery of a public official	Passed Senate Only
S4396a	Ramos	Relates to retaliatory personnel actions by employers	Passed Senate Only
S6034	Savino	Prohibits employer retaliation against employees in the financial services industry	Reported from Committee
S6204	Hoylman	Extends the statute of limitations relating to a civil action by an employee who has been the subject of retaliatory personnel action	Reported from Committee
S7344	Mayer	Relates to written notice requirements for mass layoffs	Reported from Committee
S2231	Sanders	Requires regulations promulgated for systematic and sustained efforts to find work for unemployment benefits to include a claimants need to provide child care	Chapter 252 of 2020

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S3655A	Gianaris	Relates to flexible working arrangements	Reported from Committee
S5420	Ramos	Relates to modular construction work	Reported from Committee
S5754	Ramos	Relates to the calculation of weekly unemployment insurance and the repeal of certain provisions relating there to	Reported from Committee
S5777	Gounardes	Relates to wage theft	Reported from Committee
S6120	Montgomery	Relates to compelling family reasons and the continuance of unemployment benefits	Reported from Committee
S7846	Harckham	Relates to establishing requirements for the transfer, sale, lease and any decommissioning activities of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant	On Governor's Desk
S8275A	Martinez	Relates to suspending the forfeiture of unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 state of emergency	Chapter 97 of 2020
S8397A	Savino	Relates to prohibiting health care employers from penalizing employees because of complaints of employer violations	Chapter 117 of 2020
S5090A	Parker	Relates to providing four weeks of leave for victims of abuse	Passed Senate Only
S6266	Biaggi	Healthy Terminals Act	On the Governor's Desk
S7210	Savino	Relates to the direct deposit of workers' compensation benefits	Chapter 252 of 2020
S8272A	Kennedy	Relates to establishing a program to incentivize unemployed individuals to enter jobs in healthcare	Passed Senate Only
S8334	Mayer	Relates to payment of prevailing wage on public works projects for work involving the hauling and delivery of aggregate supply construction materials	Passed Senate only
S8617B	Gounardes	Requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease	Chapter 168 of 2020

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S8692	Mayer	Relates to increasing the maximum time period for determining back pay and other liabilities for certain employees who experience employment loss	Passed Senate Only
S8748	Mayer	Relates to written notice requirements for mass layoffs	Chapter 265 of 2020



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