



New York State Senate Standing Committee on **Cities 2**

Senator Jeremy A. Cooney

Chair



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

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR
JEREMY A. COONEY
56TH DISTRICT**

Chair
Cities 2
Committees
Codes
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and
Recreation
Higher Education
Insurance
Procurement and Contracts
Transportation

December 14th, 2022

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 Cities II for the 2022 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. The committee is committed to addressing the needs of, and issues facing, our cities throughout the state.

During the 2022 session, this committee met once and reported six bills. In addition, the Committee participated in the Finance Committee budget hearings and reviewed all fourteen bills assigned to the committee.

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 establishing this committee and in its operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeremy A. Cooney'.

Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator, 56th District

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES II

Senator Jeremy A. Cooney, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Majority

Senator Neil D. Breslin
Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
Senator Rachel May
Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Minority

Senator Joseph A. Griffo
Senator Edward A. Rath

COMMITTEE STAFF

David Gordon – Legislative Director & Counsel, Committee Clerk
Joe Vertoske – Public Policy Advisor

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Cities II has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning cities outside of New York City. The committee was established this session, recognizing that small and mid-sized cities outside the five boroughs face unique challenges, including: aging infrastructure, housing blight, municipal labor hiring, public safety policies, economic development, and access to transportation and broadband resources. The committee is poised to foster opportunities for these municipalities to become agents of economic and population growth for the State as we compete with other states and global cities for workforce talent and investment.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, fourteen bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, six were reported from the Committee, and four passed in both houses. This work was conducted through 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 2022:

S.8387 and **S.8253** relate to bonds and notes of the City of Yonkers and the City of Buffalo, respectively. **S.8387** allows Yonkers the vital action of improving the city's financial stability and independence by negotiating the private sales of its bonds and notes. The continuation of this authority will allow more cost-effective financing for the city. Likewise, **S.8253** gives the City of Buffalo a valuable tool to provide expeditious funding for projects which require immediate attention.

S.7018A and **S.9111** relate to the alienation of parkland in Schenectady and Yonkers, respectively. **S.7018A** facilitates the relocation of twenty-one historic structures in Schenectady that face significant risk of future flooding. **S.9111** returns previously alienated parkland in Yonkers back to community use.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, 4 of the 14 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Cities II passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed all 4.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S7389	Brouk	Replaces all instances of the words councilman or councilmen with the words council member or council members	Signed, Chapter 513 of 2022
S8253	Kennedy	Facilitates the marketing of any issue of serial bonds or notes of the city of Buffalo issued on or before a certain date	Signed, Chapter 330 of 2022
S8387	Stewart-Cousins	Relates to bonds and notes of the city of Yonkers	Signed, Chapter 332 of 2022
S9111	Stewart-Cousins	Authorizes the city of Yonkers, county of Westchester to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands, in furtherance of an economic development interest of the state and/or city of Yonkers	Signed, Chapter 581 of 2022

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S6519	Stewart-Cousins	Authorizes the Yonkers parking authority to issue bonds or notes in the principal amount not to exceed thirty million dollars	Reported from Committee
S7018A	Hinchey	Relates to authorizing the city of Schenectady, county of Schenectady, to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands	Reported from Committee
S7389	Brouk	Replaces all instances of the words councilman or councilmen with the words council member or council members	Signed, Chapter 513 of 2022
S8253	Kennedy	Facilitates the marketing of any issue of serial bonds or notes of the city of Buffalo issued on or before a certain date	Signed, Chapter 330 of 2022
S8387	Stewart-Cousins	Relates to bonds and notes of the city of Yonkers	Signed, Chapter 332 of 2022
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Annual Report 2022

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