



New York State Senate Standing Committee on **Social Services**

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud

Chair



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

CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CITIES 1
DISABILITIES
LABOR
TRANSPORTATION

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
 ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 409 LOB
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
518-455-2788
FAX: 518-426-6806
 DISTRICT OFFICE:
1222 EAST 96TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11236
718-649-7653
FAX: 718-649-7661
 EMAIL:
PERSAUD@NYSENATE.GOV

December 31, 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 this Annual Report of the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services for the 2022 Legislative Session. I am proud to lead the Committee's efforts to address important matters including reducing poverty, assisting survivors of domestic violence, providing services and supports for disconnected youth, assisting individuals with disabilities, preparing New Yorkers transition into the workforce and a broad spectrum of benefits and supports for our vulnerable neighbors.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Social Services Committee met 5 times and reported 23 bills. The Committee also reviewed the nomination for Commissioner of the NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance (OTDA).

I thank the Senators that served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that we accomplished this year. I appreciate the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxanne J. Persaud".

Roxanne J. Persaud

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Chairperson

Committee Members

Senator Simcha Felder	Senator Alexis Weik
Senator Brian Kavanaugh	Senator Susan Serino
Senator Zellnor Myrie	
Senator José Serrano	

Committee Staff

Jacqueline Donaldson, Principal Budget Analyst
Nayram Gasu, Associate Counsel
Jessica Keenan, Assistant Deputy Counsel
Nic Rangel, Deputy Counsel
Dennis Weakley, Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the alleviation of poverty, assistance to survivors of domestic violence, services for disconnected youth, assistance for individuals with disabilities, workforce readiness and a vast network of human services programs reaching vulnerable New Yorkers.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, 81 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 23 were reported from the Committee. 12 bills were passed by the Senate, 8 of which passed in both houses. The Committee also considered the nomination of the new Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. This work was conducted through a series of 5 committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee appears at the end of this report.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2022:

- S6195-B (Persaud), signed to Chapter 477 of the Laws of 2022, updates various sections of the Social Services Law with appropriate people-first references to people with developmental disabilities.
- S6589-A (Persaud) would provide public assistance recipients that have completed a public assistance employment program and are transitioning off assistance with a 6 month 100% earned income disregard allowing for retention of certain existing benefits for 6 months.
- S7449 (Comrie) would expand, from 10 to 60 days, the timeframe in which an applicant or recipient of public assistance may request a fair hearing pertaining to a work activity notice or assignment.
- S8632 (Kavanagh) would require all local social services districts to issue shelter allowances equal to 100% of the applicable HUD Fair Market Rent.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, eight of the 81 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Social Services passed both houses of the Legislature. Seven bills have been signed and one received a veto.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S3178-A	Sanders	Requires a posting of the rights of individuals who are applying to receive assistance	Chapter 377, Laws of 2022
S4540-A	Rivera	Relates to recovery of overpayment of certain assistance; repealer	Vetoed, Memo 179
S5759-B	Brisport	Exempts certain income and resources provided to persons enrolled in certain pilot programs in determining eligibility for public assistance benefits	Chapter 749, Laws of 2022
S6195-B	Persaud	Replaces certain references to "mentally retarded" persons with the term "individuals with a developmental disability"	Chapter 477, Laws of 2022
S6655-A	Brisport	Provides that public welfare officials shall not be required to limit authorized child care services strictly based on the work, training, or educational schedule of the parents and makes technical changes	Chapter 694, Laws of 2022
S8972-A	Salazar	Requires that two electronic benefit transfer credit or debit cards be issued to certain households receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits	Chapter 376, Laws of 2022
S8980	Persaud	Provides for flexibility in the funding of certain weatherization programs	Chapter 295, Laws of 2022
S9106	Persaud	Relates to home visiting services for applicants for, or recipients of, public assistance benefits who are exempt from certain work activities	Chapter 819, Laws of 2022

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S843	Gounardes	Authorizes certain shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy.	Reported to Finance
S1073-A	Hoylman	Relates to assisting persons with medically diagnosed HIV infection; repealer	Reported to Finance
S1812-A	Persaud	Relates to the creation of a self-sufficiency standard study regarding how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given geographic location to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance.	Reported to Finance
S3178-A	Sanders	Relates to public notice of basic rights by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for applicants and recipients of public assistance.	Chapter 377, Laws of 2022
S4540-A	Rivera	Implements additional restrictions on actions to recover overpayment of certain assistance.	Vetoed, Memo 179
S4692	Bailey	Relates to providing supports and services for youth suffering from adverse childhood experiences	Reported to Finance
S5286	Parker	Allows college coursework to be credited as a work activity which may be used toward fulfilling the employment requirements for public assistance benefits	Passed Senate, delivered to Assembly
S5574-A	Persaud	Relates to resource exemptions for applicants for public assistance programs	Cal. No. 865
S5759-B	Brisport	Exempts certain income and resources provided to persons enrolled in certain pilot programs with direct cash transfers in determining eligibility for public assistance benefits.	Chapter 749, Laws of 2022
S5940	Parker	Requires the office for the prevention of domestic violence to conduct a study on domestic violence in the transgender community	Passed Senate, delivered to Assembly

S6079-B	Gounardes	Relates to a gender-	Passed Senate, delivered to Assembly
S6195-B	Persaud	Replaces certain instances of the term "mentally retarded" with the term "individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities".	Chapter 477, Laws of 2022
S6589-A	Persaud	Exempts income earned by a head of household or any person in the household from certain job training programs from the determination of need for public assistance programs.	Passed Senate, delivered to Assembly
S6655-A	Brisport	Provides that public welfare officials shall not be required to limit authorized child care services strictly based on the work, training, or educational schedule of the parents and makes technical changes	Chapter 694, Laws of 2022
S6722-A	Salazar	Relates to mental illness training in temporary housing	Reported to Finance
S6844	Kavanagh	Prohibits requiring that an individual have a court proceeding initiated against him or her in order to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance	Reported to Finance
S7035	May	Defines closed period of eligibility for purposes of certain supplemental security income and includes such time period in the eligibility requirements of such supplemental security income	Cal. no. 1171
S. 7449	Comrie	Extends the period given to certain applicants for public assistance benefits to request a fair hearing	Cal. no. 1172
S8362-A	Parker	Provides for the automated identification of affordability program participants	Reported to Finance
S8562	Persaud	Relates to the unearned income of a child	Calendar no. 839
S8632	Kavanagh	Requires shelter allowances be set at up to one hundred percent of the fair market rent for the local social services district	Reported to Finance
S8786	Cleare	Directs the New York state interagency task force on human trafficking to investigate connections between social media and human trafficking	Passed Senate, delivered to Assembly

S8980	Persaud	Provides for flexibility in the funding of certain weatherization programs	Chapter 295, Laws of 2022
-------	---------	--	---------------------------



Annual Report 2022

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on Social Services