



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Consumer Protection

SENATOR KEVIN THOMAS

Chair

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

CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RULES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



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SENATOR, 6TH DISTRICT

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December 31, 2024

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 Consumer Protection for the 2024 Legislative Session. As Chairman, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. The Committee remains committed to addressing issues surrounding student loan debt, internet privacy, unfair and abusive acts and practices, and predatory debt collection tactics.

During the 2024 session, 242 bills were referred to the Committee for review. The Committee met four times and reported 31 bills. Of those bills, 5 were signed into law. A list of all the bills that were reported from the committee is provided in this report.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support in 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 black ink, appearing to be "Kevin Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Kevin Thomas
6th Senate District

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Senator Kevin Thomas, Chairperson

Committee Members

Majority

Senator Samra Brouk
Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Senator Brian Kavanagh
Senator Zellnor Myrie

Minority

Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
Ranking Member
Senator Bill Weber

Committee Staff

Brianna Durante - Committee Clerk/Legislative Aide
Jaimie Sheehan - Counsel/Legislative Director
Sean Orr - Finance Analyst for Committee
Nayram Gasu - Counsel to the Committee

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Consumer Protection has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues arising under the General Business Law, including issues concerning unfair, deceptive and fraudulent **businesses** practices. A particular focus of the Committee is on electronic and online conduct affecting consumers, such as online marketing, disclosures, and data **protection** and on protecting student loan borrowers. The Committee emphasizes educating consumers and business about their rights and responsibilities.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee reviewed two hundred and forty-two bills and reported thirty-one bills out of committee. Seventeen of those bills passed the Senate and eleven passed both houses. Of those eleven bills that passed both houses, five have been chaptered. The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2024:

- **S154F (Krueger)** – This bill prohibits the manufacturing, distribution, assembly, reconditioning, sale or offering for sale a lithium-ion battery or second-use lithium-ion battery intended for use in a bicycle with electric assist, limited use of a motorcycle or other micro-mobility device unless the lithium-ion battery is certified by an accredited testing laboratory.
- **S365B (Thomas)** – This bill empowers New York consumers to control the way that online platforms use consumer data.
- **S2464B (Persaud)** – This bill will provide additional transparency and protections to consumers by requiring car washes to disclose pricing information associated with promotions.
- **S7036A (Ramos)** – This bill places restrictions on the retail sale of spices where maximum levels of certain leads are exceeded.
- **S8373A (Rivera)** – This bill exempts credit card debt from the definition of medical debt.
- **S8739 (Mattera)** – This bill requires towers to clean up any debris in the surrounding area resulting from the vehicles they are towing.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2024, eleven of the two hundred and forty-two bills referred to the Standing Committee on Consumer Protection passed both houses of the Legislature.

2024 Senate Consumer Protection Two House Bills			
BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S07503B	CLEARE	Requires retailers of micromobility devices, bicycles with electric assist and limited use motorcycles powered with lithium-ion batteries, and lithium-ion batteries intended for use in such devices or bicycles to provide customers with an operating manual.	Chaptered 201
S07744D	CHU	Requires retailers to affix a notice on any bicycles with electric assist and micromobility devices which states to always yield to pedestrians and follow traffic laws that you cannot use such device on sidewalks or on highways, except where allowed by local law; authorizes the department of state to promulgate necessary rules and regulations; imposes fines for violations thereof; makes related provisions.	Chaptered 202
S08373A	RIVERA	Exempts credit card debt from the definition of medical debt unless the credit card is issued under an open-ended or closed-ended plan offered specifically for the payment of health care services, products, or devices provided to a person.	Chaptered 514
S08479A	MYRIE	Requires payment card networks to use certain merchant category-codes for firearm and ammunition dealers.	Chaptered 430
S00154F	KRUEGER	Prohibits the sale of lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, bicycles with electric assist or limited use motorcycles unless such batteries are manufactured in accordance with certain standards and specifications; provides a civil penalty; authorizes district attorneys, county attorneys, and corporation counsel to have concurrent authority to seek the relief.	Substituted By A4938D - Chaptered 195
S00932D	PERSAUD	Requires health clubs accept cancellation of a membership within ten business days of receiving notice of the cancellation.	Substituted By A4667B - Chaptered 537
S01759B	SKOUFIS	Relates to how online dating services handle fraudulent members; requires certain disclosures.	Substituted By A1057C - Passed Both Houses
S02464B	PERSAUD	Requires car washes to disclose when promotions expire as well as any costs which will be incurred upon the expiration of such promotion and how often such costs will be incurred upon someone taking part in such promotion.	Substituted By A6957A - Delivered to Governor
S04778	SANDERS	Provides that with respect to leases on motor vehicles, no lease shall provide that the lessee would be charged a turn-in fee at the expiration of the term which constitutes solely an additional fee for administrative, handling or clerical charges.	Substituted By A7167 - Chaptered 538

S07760A	CHU	Requires micromobility devices, mopeds, and bicycles with electric assist to have a red tag attached to the charging cord which states to unplug when not in use.	Substituted By A8102A - Chaptered 197
S08743	CLEARE	Directs the department of state, in consultation with the division of homeland security and emergency services and the New York state energy research and development authority, to develop and maintain safety resources, information, and protocols in regard to fire hazard prevention relating to, but not limited to, lithium-ion batteries, second-use lithium-ion batteries, bicycles with electric assist as defined in section one hundred two-c of the vehicle and traffic law, mopeds, and micromobility devices.	Substituted By A9338 - Chaptered 200

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

2024 Senate Consumer Protection Committee Bills			
BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00154F	KRUEGER	Prohibits the sale of lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, bicycles with electric assist or limited use motorcycles unless such batteries are manufactured in accordance with certain standards and specifications; provides a civil penalty; authorizes district attorneys, county attorneys, and corporation counsel to have concurrent authority to seek the relief.	Substituted By A4938D - Chaptered 195
S00362A	THOMAS	Enacts protections for private education loan borrowers and cosigners; requires certain notifications from creditors and debt collectors; prohibits acceleration; enacts provisions for cosigner release.	On Calendar 389 Opposite House
S00363	THOMAS	Provides for a cap on the credit service charge computed and collected on a retail instalment contract.	Passed the Senate
S00365B	THOMAS	Enacts the New York privacy act to require companies to disclose their methods of de-identifying personal information, to place special safeguards around data sharing and to allow consumers to obtain the names of all entities with whom their information is shared.	Passed the Senate
S00540	THOMAS	Enacts provisions relating to the lease of credit card terminals; requires disclosures; prohibits certain practices.	Passed the Senate
S00682A	COMRIE	Requires that a business allow a consumer to cancel a contract between the two parties using the same method that was used to enter into the contract; excludes businesses operating pursuant to certain franchises.	Passed the Senate
S00932D	PERSAUD	Requires health clubs accept cancellation of a membership within ten business days of receiving notice of the cancellation.	Substituted By A4667B - Chaptered 537
S01106	COMRIE	Requires lithium batteries of less than 1 inch in diameter and products containing such batteries to be labeled with warnings that swallowing such batteries has been known to cause death.	Senate Rules
S01731D	SANDERS	Prohibits the use of consumer credit history in hiring, employment and licensing determinations.	Passed the Senate
S01759B	SKOUFIS	Relates to how online dating services handle fraudulent members; requires certain disclosures.	Substituted By A1057C - Passed Both Houses
S02278A	CLEARE	Prohibits creditors from enforcing a consumer debt incurred as a result of fraud, duress, intimidation, threat, force, identity theft, exploitation of the debtor's personal information or similar economic abuse perpetrated against a debtor; establishes a right of action by the debtor for relief against creditors for violations; makes related provisions.	On Calendar 144 Opposite House

S02464B	PERSAUD	Requires car washes to disclose when promotions expire as well as any costs which will be incurred upon the expiration of such promotion and how often such costs will be incurred upon someone taking part in such promotion.	Substituted By A6957A - Delivered to Governor
S02729	SANDERS	Relates to prohibiting retail establishments including food-service establishments from refusing to accept payment in cash; provides a civil penalty will be assessed for such actions.	Passed the Senate
S03172	CLEARE	Prohibits the sale of infant loungers; restricts the use of such infant loungers in certain settings; defines an infant lounger to mean a padded pillow or cushioned product, sometimes with a lower indented region, used to support or hug an infant as it lies face up, primarily intended and marketed for the support of an infant while awake.	Senate Rules
S03518	FERNANDEZ	Enacts the manufacturer disclosure and transparency act requiring prescription drug manufacturers to notify the attorney general of arrangements between pharmaceutical manufacturers resulting in the delay of the introduction of generic medications.	Passed the Senate
S03607	WEBB	Relates to licensing laser hair removal technicians; establishes laser hair removal rules, regulations and standards.	Passed the Senate
S04036	MANNION	Places a cap on the amount that a rental vehicle company may charge a renter for refueling a rental vehicle; imposes a maximum fine for a violation of such cap on charges.	Passed the Senate
S04778	SANDERS	Provides that with respect to leases on motor vehicles, no lease shall provide that the lessee would be charged a turn-in fee at the expiration of the term which constitutes solely an additional fee for administrative, handling or clerical charges.	Substituted By A7167 - Chaptered 538
S05643A	CLEARE	Prohibits the sale of infant walkers; restricts the use of such infant walkers in certain settings.	Passed the Senate
S07036A	RAMOS	Prohibits the retail sale of spices that exceed lead level limits; defines spices and types of spices; establishes acceptable lead limits for various types of spices.	Passed the Senate
S07503B	CLEARE	Requires retailers of micromobility devices, bicycles with electric assist and limited use motorcycles powered with lithium-ion batteries, and lithium-ion batteries intended for use in such devices or bicycles to provide customers with an operating manual.	Chaptered 201
S07744D	CHU	Requires retailers to affix a notice on any bicycles with electric assist and micromobility devices which states to always yield to pedestrians and follow traffic laws that you cannot use such device on sidewalks or on highways, except where allowed by local law; authorizes the department of state to promulgate necessary rules and regulations; imposes fines for violations thereof; makes related provisions.	Chaptered 202

S07746B	CHU	Requires any dealer where lithium-ion batteries, bicycles with electric assist, micromobility devices and limited use motorcycles are sold at retail or repaired, and/or lithium-ion electric batteries are housed in a storage facility to maintain functional fire protection and suppression measures effective against lithium-ion battery and electrical fires, including but not limited to Class B extinguishers, battery cases, and automatic monitoring and detection; authorizes the department of state to promulgate necessary rules and regulations; imposes a fine of \$250 for a knowing violation to comply with such provisions.	Passed the Senate
S07760A	CHU	Requires micromobility devices, mopeds, and bicycles with electric assist to have a red tag attached to the charging cord which states to unplug when not in use.	Substituted By A8102A - Chaptered 197
S07783B	GIANARIS	Establishes the "New York junk fee prevention act"; requires clear and conspicuous pricing practices regarding trash junk fees.	Passed the Senate
S08373A	RIVERA	Exempts credit card debt from the definition of medical debt unless the credit card is issued under an open-ended or closed-ended plan offered specifically for the payment of health care services, products, or devices provided to a person.	Chaptered 514
S08393B	SKOUFIS	Prohibits motor vehicle manufacturers and dealers from charging a subscription fee for certain functions of a motor vehicle after the vehicle is sold; provides that any manufacturer, dealer, or agent of a manufacturer or dealer that fails to comply with such requirements shall be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per point of sale for each violation.	Senate Rules
S08479A	MYRIE	Requires payment card networks to use certain merchant category-codes for firearm and ammunition dealers.	Chaptered 430
S08739	MATTERA	Requires towers to clean up any debris in the surrounding area resulting from the vehicles they are towing and tow trucks to be equipped with the appropriate equipment for such clean up efforts.	Passed the Senate
S08743	CLEARE	Directs the department of state, in consultation with the division of homeland security and emergency services and the New York state energy research and development authority, to develop and maintain safety resources, information, and protocols in regard to fire hazard prevention relating to, but not limited to, lithium-ion batteries, second-use lithium-ion batteries, bicycles with electric assist as defined in section one hundred two-c of the vehicle and traffic law, mopeds, and micromobility devices.	Substituted By A9338 - Chaptered 200

S09019A	GIANARIS	Prohibits contracts for the purchase or financing of a dog, cat, or rabbit from including provisions allowing repossession of the animal; provides that such provisions apply to the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits through an online website.	Passed the Senate
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