

PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Corporations, Authorities & Commissions

SENATOR LEROY COMRIE

Chair

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

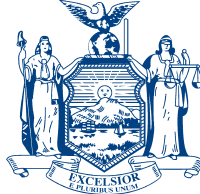
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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ALBANY
**SENATOR
LEROY COMRIE**
14TH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS

COMMITTEES
BUDGET AND REVENUE
CITIES I
FINANCE
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING
RULES

MEMBER
SELECT MAJORITY TASK FORCE
ON MINORITY AND
WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

December 16, 2024
The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins:

Thank you for your support and dedication to a better New York State and your leadership during another successful legislative session. During my Chairmanship of the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, we have made great strides in improving transparency, efficiency and results from our agencies, and I attribute that in large measure to your steady hand at the helm. I would like to thank all of my fellow committee members; Senators Brad Hoylman-Sigal, James Skoufis, Shelley B. Mayer, Jessica Ramos, Ranking Member Mario Mattera and Bill Weber and our respective staff for all the hard work this year and the perspective that they contribute to our committee.

Throughout the Legislative Session, the committee met eight times, six for the consideration of bills and two for consideration of nominees; forty eight bills were reported from committee and all nominations passed onto the floor. The Committee convened a public hearing with the Committee on Investigations and Government, bringing the State Liquor Authority before the state for review of its procedures and backlog.

From seeking out and passing legislation to innovations on transportation accessibility, confirming nominations to oversight boards throughout the State, seeking corporate transparency and consumer equity; the responsibility of being Chair to this committee, is an honor to maintain. I thank the Majority Conference and the Leader for continued support.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leroy Comrie".

Leroy Comrie
New York State Senator
District 14 | Queens



2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

**Senator Leroy Comrie,
Chairperson**

Majority Committee Members

Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Senator Jessica Ramos

Senator James Skoufis

Senator Mario R. Mattera, Ranker

Senator Bill Weber

Committee Staff

Mobeen Bhatti | Assistant Deputy Director Counsel

Martin Ascher | NYS Senate Senior Majority Counsel

Emma Wallach | NYS Senate Majority Counsel

Lahmar Louis | NYS Senate Majority Counsel

Derrick Davis | Chief of Staff to Senator Comrie

Nia James | Committee Director to Senator Comrie

Matthew Garcia | Legislative Director to Senator Comrie

Daiquan Llewellyn | Director of Community Affairs

Avery Aguas | Policy and Communications Assistant to
Senator Comrie

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Committees has legislative oversight responsibilities including but not limited to issues concerning public authorities, public development corporations, utility and benefit regulation by way of the Public Service Commission, and other entities such as not-for-profits and cemeteries. This Committee exercises its legislative oversight responsibilities by hosting meetings that consider bills within these areas of law, Governor nominations for members and leaders of various boards, as well as convening public hearings.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, 143 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 48 were reported from the Committee. 35 were passed by the Senate, and 11 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of eight committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

Committees also have the ability to call hearings to discuss major concerns around the State. A hearing can be called to address any area of interest under the purview of Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions, gather testimony for record on these issues and hear from constituents, non-profit organizations, and agencies alike. Aside from the budget hearings, the Corporations Committee convened a hearing with the State Liquor Authority in collaboration with the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations. Many stakeholders representing various industries provided comments on the benefits of firming up the licensing process, how we can assist the administration, suggestions for the Authority in their day-to-day operations moving forward and opined on their experiences with the Authority since new leadership.

It is important to bring authorities, agencies and commissions before the legislature for review. This allows for the legislature to assess the needs of these public serving entities and provoke new ideas for legislation. Hearings allow for more conversing with stakeholders for a perspective that cannot be provided solely with data or statistics. I aim to provide the public with the most transparent and civic involved government that we can operate.

My Committee is eager to continue putting forth the most suitable candidates with the expertise to advocate and to build out an innovative New York, transparent agencies and corporate entities for different voting roles within authorities and fully functioning government through boards throughout the various Authorities and Commissions in our State. This year the Committee reviewed five nominations for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority members, a Niagara Frontier Authority member nominee, a Rochester-Genesee Transportation Authority member nominee, Capital District Transit Authority member nominee and Executive Director of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2024:

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S 490	Comrie	Relates to the maintenance of abandoned cemeteries; authorizes a solvent not-for-profit cemetery corporation that merges with an abandoned cemetery in a city to apply for state funds for the maintenance of an abandoned cemetery.	Delivered to the Governor
S 2901-A	Comrie	Relates to the organization of the Port Authority.	Delivered to the Governor
S 3546	Kennedy	Enacts the “food retail establishment subsidization for healthy communities act” (FRESH Communities); provides loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies and grants to businesses, municipalities, not-for-profit corporations or local development corporations for the purpose of attracting, maintaining food retail establishments in underserved areas.	Passed the Senate
S 4830-C	Kennedy	Establishes a highway and depot charging needs evaluation to assist in achieving targets, including the advanced clean truck, advanced clean cars II rules and the zero-emissions school bus mandate.	Vetoed Memo.52
S 5784-A	Comrie	Relates to retiring cemetery indebtedness.	Passed the Senate

NOMINATIONS, ROUNDTABLES AND HEARINGS

On March 1st, 2024, the committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in conjunction with the Investigations and Government Operations Committee requested the presence of the State Liquor Authority (“Authority”) and stakeholders in the spirits business before the committees. The Chair and her administrative team provided much needed insight on where the Authority remains in the backlog, updates in the licensing procedures and how the State can assist in speeding up the process.

The stakeholder response to the changes implemented by the new Chair of the Authority was positive. We will continue to follow up with the Authority to assess how they have incorporated the new features into their daily operations and how that process has assisted in fast tracking applications. The new Chair of the Authority had great ideas and communication with wholesalers, restaurants and retailers alike. The legislature looks forward to partnering with the Authority to sustain the needs of the State.

The Committee also reviewed several nominations from the Governor. This year the Committee reviewed five nominations for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“MTA”) members, a Niagara Frontier Authority member nominee, a Rochester-Genesee Transportation Authority member nominee, Capital District Transit Authority member nominee and Executive Director of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. All of the nominations that went through our committee were confirmed, but only the MTA nominees appeared in person for questioning. Some of the MTA nominees had served on the board previously in another capacity, so it was pertinent for them to opine on their plans for representing another seat on the MTA board.



Senator Comrie with Janno Lieber illuminating the incoming Zero-Emission Bus Fleet.



Senator Comrie and Speaker Adams at a press conference for the NYCDOT E-Scooter Program.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S00791A	Comrie	Extends the amount of time between notice of a project and a public hearing.	Vetoed Memorandum 91
S02901A	Comrie	Relates to port authority organization, appearance and notice; establishes the port authority transportation advisory committee.	Vetoed Memorandum 96
S03546	Kennedy	Enacts the “food retail establishment subsidization for healthy communities act” (FRESH Communities); provides loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies and grants to businesses, municipalities, not-for-profit corporations or local development corporations for the purpose of attracting, maintaining or permitting the expansion of food retail establishments in underserved areas.	Vetoed Memorandum 98
S05939	Ashby	Permits the Albany Cemetery Association to file a certificate of amendment of certificate of incorporation with the department of state within one year of the effective date.	Substituted By A7476-Chaptered 345
S06285	Comrie	Relates to cemetery trust funds and the maintenance and preservation of cemetery grounds.	Delivered to Governor
S07598B	May	Requires the central New York regional market authority to work with the department of agriculture and markets to assure proper development of agriculture and regional market facilities, in the Central New York Regional Market district; requires such authority to furnish an annual real estate report detailing all real estate holdings and detailed property information, including but not limited to the tenants, important lease terms, rents, durations of leases, as well as copies of each lease; authorizes the state comptroller to examine the accounts and books of the authority; makes related provisions. Eff. Date 12/13/2024	Chaptered 580

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S08366	Ryan	Relates to the application of provisions of the not-for-profit corporation law and other laws to certain crematoriums located in the town of Tonawanda; provides that provisions of this chapter will apply to a crematory or crematorium operated by a funeral entity in the town of Tonawanda that has been subject to a consent order issued by the department of environmental conservation. Eff. Date 05/21/2025	Chaptered 513
S08642	Webb	Exempts the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Dryden, Tompkins county from the forty-five percent limit on non-resident members.	Substituted By A9345-Chaptered 354
S08872	Gounardes	Provides for the financing and construction of facilities for Saint Ann's school through the dormitory authority.	Substituted By A9699-Chaptered 248

2024 SENATE CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S00145	Gianaris	Exempts the metropolitan transportation authority from the requirement to reimburse the state for state services provided to such authority.	Passed the Senate
S00397	Cleare	Directs the metropolitan transportation authority, in consultation with the New York city department of transportation and New York city department of housing preservation and development, to study the transportation and housing needs of Randalls and Wards Islands.	Passed the Senate
S00545	Gianaris	Prohibits confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions from inclusion in contracts pertaining to economic development, entered into by the state or a municipality or any party negotiating on behalf of such governmental entity.	Passed the Senate
S00791A	Comrie	Extends the amount of time between notice of a project and a public hearing.	Vetoed Memorandum 91
S01081	Comrie	Relates to creating annual reporting obligations by municipal housing authorities to the authorities budget office with respect to state-funded activities of such municipal housing authorities.	Passed the Senate
S01087A	Comrie	Requires public corporations and agencies to provide written 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 the Senate
S01104	Comrie	Relates to the sale or transfer of certain real property by the state or public authorities; requires mandatory review by the attorney general and comptroller of the sale of certain real property; requires notice to members of the legislature and county executives in districts and counties in which land subject to transfer is located of the proposed transfer of state property between state departments, divisions, bureaus, agencies, state agencies, or to a public authority or public benefit corporation.	Passed the Senate

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S01394	Liu	Provides that the port authority shall prohibit nonstop flights to or from points beyond one thousand five hundred miles, except on Saturdays and flights to Denver, Colorado, from flying to or from LaGuardia airport, an air terminal of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.	Passed the Senate
S01410	Ortt	Provides that farmers shall receive an exemption from tolls when transporting products to the city of New York for consumption in such city, subject to an appropriation for the 2025-26 state fiscal year.	Reported to Senate Transportation
S01616A	Addabbo	Relates to certain duties and responsibilities of cemetery corporations; provides for the filing of consumer complaints.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01737	Krueger	Establishes a local authorities searchable subsidy and economic development benefits database; relates to the obligations of certain industrial development agencies and local development corporations.	Passed the Senate
S01862	Ryan	Establishes the New York state innovation voucher program; provides small businesses with access to research and development by colleges and universities, government laboratories and public research institutes in order to assist such businesses in the creation of innovative products or services.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01883	Skoufis	Relates to obligations of members of economic development entities.	Passed the Senate
S01910	Cleare	Provides for the operation of a youth services unit within the port authority police department tasked with aiding youths in danger of exploitation.	Passed the Senate
S01936	Comrie	Provides for requirements for disposals and contracts for disposal of property.	Passed the Senate
S01937	Comrie	Requires explanatory statements regarding disposal of property to include the names of all beneficial owners.	Passed the Senate
S02297	Mayer	Allows for the examination of projects and/or actions by industrial development agencies and not-for-profit corporations by county comptrollers.	Passed the Senate
S02451	Comrie	Makes certain not-for-profit corporations subject to the freedom of information and open meetings laws.	Senate Rules

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S02535	Comrie	Relates to project applications and advisory opinions of the public authorities control board.	Passed the Senate
S02727B	Skoufis	Relates to the applicability of open meetings and freedom of information laws to certain not-for-profit corporations.	Passed the Senate
S02872	Comrie	Exempts the metropolitan transportation authority from bond issuance charges otherwise required to be paid to the state.	Passed the Senate
S02901A	Comrie	Relates to port authority organization, appearance and notice; establishes the port authority transportation advisory committee.	Vetoed Memorandum 96
S02921B	Cleare	Relates to gender balance on boards of state and local public authorities; provides that all appointive state and local authorities heretofore or hereafter established by law or resolution shall have recommendations for appointments, or reappointments that are gender balanced.	Senate Rules
S03014	Comrie	Relates to applications for the approval and construction of energy-related projects of the New York Power Authority by the public authorities control board.	Passed the Senate
S03437	Skoufis	Establishes a procedure for appointing a president or chairperson upon a vacancy of such position; corrects certain gendered language.	Passed the Senate
S03546	Kennedy	Enacts the “food retail establishment subsidization for healthy communities act” (FRESH Communities); provides loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies and grants to businesses, municipalities, not-for-profit corporations or local development corporations for the purpose of attracting, maintaining or permitting the expansion of food retail establishments in underserved areas.	Vetoed Memorandum 98
S04405	Comrie	Establishes environmental standards for public authorities.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04416	Comrie	Provides that funds recovered from public authorities for the provision of governmental services and allocated to the independent authorities budget office shall only be used for direct expenses of the authorities budget office and may not be used for fringe benefits and indirect costs.	Reported to Senate Finance

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S05603	Comrie	Provides the NYC water board shall not establish a limit of less than six years to challenge any fee, rate, rent or other service charges for the use of or services furnished by the water board and/or sewerage systems.	Passed the Senate
S05939	Ashby	Permits the Albany Cemetery Association to file a certificate of amendment of certificate of incorporation with the department of state within one year of the effective date.	Substituted By A7476 - Chaptered 345
S06285	Comrie	Relates to cemetery trust funds and the maintenance and preservation of cemetery grounds.	Delivered to Governor
S06746	Ryan	Relates to reviews by the authorities budget office; grants the authorities budget office the authority to commence an action or special proceeding to annul the corporate existence or dissolve a corporation that has acted beyond its capacity or power; makes related provisions.	Passed the Senate
S06776A	Comrie	Requires certain reports of public authorities are published via the public authorities reporting information system and shall not require login credentials.	Passed the Senate
S07598B	May	Requires the central New York regional market authority to work with the department of agriculture and markets to assure proper development of agriculture and regional market facilities, in the Central New York Regional Market district; requires such authority to furnish an annual real estate report detailing all real estate holdings and detailed property information, including but not limited to the tenants, important lease terms, rents, durations of leases, as well as copies of each lease; authorizes the state comptroller to examine the accounts and books of the authority; makes related provisions. Eff. Date 12/13/2024	Chaptered 580
S07648	Kavanagh	Relates to the appointment of members of the Battery Park city authority; increases the number of members to nine; requires five of the nine members be primary residents of Battery Park city.	Passed the Senate
S07655	Salazar	Repeals the requirement that the senate vote to confirm the appointment of certain chief executive officers within a certain time period; amends certain provisions of law relating thereto.	Passed the Senate
S08142	Comrie	Relates to voting by members of the New York state authorities control board.	Passed the Senate

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S08366	Ryan	Relates to the application of provisions of the not-for-profit corporation law and other laws to certain crematoriums located in the town of Tonawanda; provides that provisions of this chapter will apply to a crematory or crematorium operated by a funeral entity in the town of Tonawanda that has been subject to a consent order issued by the department of environmental conservation. Eff. Date 05/21/2025	Chaptered 513
S08495	Comrie	Relates to assistance for certain small businesses including dry cleaners and those that practice nail specialty for necessary code related improvements.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08496	Comrie	Requires certain companies and corporations to report certain data regarding the gender, race and ethnicity of their employees.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08642	Webb	Exempts the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Dryden, Tompkins county from the forty-five percent limit on non-resident members.	Substituted By A9345 - Chaptered 354
S08861	May	Includes stormwater in the definition of sewage for purposes of certain water, sewer, and water and sewer authorities; defines stormwater.	Passed the Senate
S08872	Gounardes	Provides for the financing and construction of facilities for Saint Ann's school through the dormitory authority.	Substituted By A9699 - Chaptered 248



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**New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Corporations, Authorities & Commissions**