



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

SENATOR JULIA SALAZAR

Chair

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

CHAIR
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION

COMMITTEE MEMBER
FINANCE
HEALTH
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MENTAL HEALTH
WOMEN'S ISSUES

MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
SELECT MAJORITY TASK FORCE ON
DIVERSITY IN THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE-NATIVE
AMERICAN RELATIONS
BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC &
ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



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December 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 Crime Victims, Crime and Correction for the 2024 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction,

During the 2024 session, this committee met 8 times and reported 64 bills. The Committee also held 1 public hearing 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Salazar', written in a cursive style.

Julia Salazar
New York State Senator, 18th District

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION**

Senator Julia Salazar, Chairperson

Committee Members

Majority Members	Minority Members
Senator Jamaal Bailey	Senator Patrick Gallivan (Ranker)
Senator Zellnor Myrie	Senator Robert Rolison
Senator Gustavo Rivera	
Senator Luis Sepulveda	

Committee Staff

Adriele Douglas, Assistant Deputy Counsel
Mark Mishler, Legislative Director/Counsel to Senator Salazar
Julia Fetter, Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction has legislative oversight for issues concerning the criminal legal system, its oversight, and the people it serves.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, 204 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 64 were reported from the Committee. 39 were passed by the Senate, and 15 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 8 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 1 public hearing on the topic of prison labor and CorCraft Industries.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **S126** (Ryan)- Chapter 499 of 2024. This Bill provides that members of the State Board of Parole can have either a degree and at least five years of experience in several fields or at least ten years of experience in such fields.
- **S222A** (Myrie)- Reported from Committee. This Bill establishes application processing and review requirements for reprieves, commutations and pardons by the Governor, and requires the Governor to provide a written notification that the application has been received, a receipt number that the applicant can then use to check on his or her application status, guidelines for supplementing the application with additional or updated information, and a notification when a decision is made on the application.
- **S303** (Salazar)- Passed Senate. This Bill clarifies the definitions of "essential personal property" and "property necessary and essential to the welfare of the victim" as those terms in the executive law to ensure that crime victims have meaningful access to reimbursement for property lost, damaged, or stolen as the result of a crime.
- **S307** (Salazar)- Reported from Committee. This Bill provides that the Board of Parole shall release incarcerated persons who are eligible for release on Parole, unless the Parole case record demonstrates there is a current and unreasonable risk the individual will violate the law if released, and such risk cannot be mitigated by Parole supervision.
- **S1942A** (Bailey)- Reported from Committee. This Bill provides voice communication services to incarcerated people at no cost.
- **S3103 C** (Brisport)- Reported from Committee. This Bill requires mental health services for incarcerated individuals with mental health issues related to the trauma of incarceration upon reentry and reintegration into society upon release.
- **S3328A** (Sepulveda)- Passed Senate. This Bill provides incarcerated people opportunities for in-person contact with relatives, friends, clergy, volunteers and other persons.
- **S5214** (Harckham)- Veto 73 of 2024. This Bill directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, in consultation with the commissioner of health and the commissioner of mental health, to develop a uniform electronic medical records system to be utilized by all correctional facilities in the state.
- **S5877A** (Salazar)- Passed Senate. This Bill expands the membership of the State Commission of Correction.
- **S6810** (Cleare)- Chapter 468 of 2024. This Bill directs the Commissioner of Corrections and Community Supervision to establish a program to purchase fresh produce from farms located in the state and to distribute such fresh produce to correctional facilities in the state to be utilized in the provision of wholesome and nutritious food to incarcerated individuals.
- **S6975** (Salazar)- Passed Senate. This Bill Authorizes the State Inspector General to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities and other places operated by DOCCS.

- **S7132** (Salazar)- Passed Senate. This Bill establishes a comprehensive human rights based statutory policy relating to incarcerated pregnant or postpartum individuals and their children in New York State.
- **S8881** (Sanders)- Chapter 518 of 2024. This Bill requires the Office of Victim Services to provide notification of potential eligibility for crime victims' awards and directs the state police and the municipal police training council to develop procedures for notifying next of kin of available programs and services upon in-person death notifications.
- **S9315** (Salazar)- Reported from Committee. This Bill clarifies the information that must be transmitted as part of an autopsy report regarding the death of an incarcerated individual.
- **S9350** (Salazar)- Delivered to Governor. This Bill directs the State Commission of Correction to promulgate rules and regulations for strip searches in correctional facilities which at a minimum include a requirement that no fewer than two staff members shall be present for any strip search.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES & NOMINATIONS

- **Public Hearing:** In February 2024, The Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee, the Investigations and Government Operations Committee, and the Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee held a joint Public Hearing to discuss the overall mission, goals, and economics of CorCraft- the Division of Correctional Industries within the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.
- **Nomination:** The Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee and the Finance Committee voted to advance the nomination of Daniel F. Martuscello III as the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)
- **Nomination:** The Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee and the Finance Committee voted to advance the nomination of Elizabeth A. Gaynes as a member of the State Commission of Correction (SCOC).
- **Nomination:** The Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee and the Finance Committee voted to advance the nomination of Laura El-Bahtity as a member of the Board of Parole.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

2024 Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee 2 House Bills

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00126	RYAN	Relates to the education and experience of members of the state board of parole; provides that members can have either a degree and at least five years of experience in several fields or at least ten years of experience in such fields. Eff. Date 11/22/2024	Chaptered 499
S00204	CLEARE	Provides incarcerated individuals with access to breast cancer screenings every two years and information about breast self-examinations. Eff. Date 06/11/2025	Chaptered 570
S03175	CLEARE	Provides information regarding termination of medicare part B coverage for the duration of incarceration to individuals committed to the department of corrections and community supervision.	Substituted By A5396 - Chaptered 463
S03176	CLEARE	Relates to certificates of relief from disabilities issued by courts or by the department of corrections and community supervision.	Substituted By A7194 - Delivered to Governor
S04621	SEPULVEDA	Conforms the definition of an incarcerated individual with a serious mental illness to the definition of "person with a serious mental illness" in the mental hygiene law.	Vetoed Memorandum 57
S05092A	CLEARE	Provides for the return of any identification materials to an individual upon release from custody.	Substituted By A9186A - Chaptered 485
S05214	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, in consultation with the commissioner of health and the commissioner of mental health, to develop a uniform electronic medical records system to be utilized by all correctional facilities in the state.	Substituted By A5902 - Vetoed Memorandum 73
S05502	SCARCELLA- SPANTON	Provides additional crime victims' rights; requires certain notifications. Eff. Date 03/13/2025	Chaptered 574
S06810	CLEARE	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to establish a program to purchase fresh produce from farms located in the state and distribute such fresh produce to correctional facilities in the state to be utilized in the provision of wholesome and nutritious food to incarcerated individuals.	Substituted By A6854 - Chaptered 468

S07781A	HARCKHAM	Directs the commission of corrections and community supervision to establish an annual heat mitigation plan; directs the extreme heat action plan work group of the department of environmental conservation to analyze the impact of extreme heat on incarcerated individuals and people working in prisons.	Substituted By A9169A - Chaptered 561
S08692A	GRIFFO	Relates to the use of the Madison and Oneida county correctional facilities; relates to county-tribal detention agreements between the Oneida Indian Nation and Madison county and between the Oneida Indian Nation and Oneida county. Eff. Date 07/30/2024 (See Table)	Chaptered 213
S08881	SANDERS	Requires the office of victim services to provide notification of potential eligibility for crime victims' awards; directs the state police and the municipal police training council to develop procedures for notifying next of kin of available programs and services upon in-person death notifications. Eff. Date 12/22/2024	Chaptered 518
S09056	SANDERS	Requires the department of corrections and community supervision within twenty-four hours of the attempted suicide or hospitalization of an incarcerated individual or any other individual occurring in the custody of the department, to notify the emergency contacts of such incarcerated individual or other such individual.	Substituted By A9678 - Chaptered 490
S09350	SALAZAR	Directs the state commission of correction to promulgate rules and regulations for strip searches in correctional facilities which at a minimum include a requirement that no fewer than two staff members shall be present for any strip search.	Substituted By A4904 - Vetoed Memorandum 111

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

2024 Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee Activity

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00126	RYAN	Relates to the education and experience of members of the state board of parole; provides that members can have either a degree and at least five years of experience in several fields or at least ten years of experience in such fields. Eff. Date 11/22/2024	Chaptered 499
S00181	JACKSON	Expands who may visit local correctional facilities to include accompanying staff of legislative members and members of the department of corrections and community supervision requested by a legislative member.	Passed the Senate
S00204	CLEARE	Provides incarcerated individuals with access to breast cancer screenings every two years and information about breast self-examinations. Eff. Date 06/11/2025	Chaptered 570
S00222A	MYRIE	Establishes application processing and review requirements for reprieves, commutations and pardons by the governor; requires the governor to provide: a written notification that the application has been received; a receipt number that the applicant can then use to check on his or her application status; guidelines for supplementing the application with additional or updated information; and a notification when a decision is made on the application; requires quarterly reports to the legislature regarding reprieves, commutations and pardons.	Reported to Senate Finance
S00302	SALAZAR	Provides that for the purposes of educational leave, an eligible incarcerated individual shall include an incarcerated individual who is within two years of being an eligible incarcerated individual.	Passed the Senate
S00303	SALAZAR	Increases the amount for awards made to crime victims; specifies certain items of personal property which are necessary and essential to the welfare of a claimant.	Passed the Senate
S00307	SALAZAR	Provides for findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated individuals on parole.	Reported to Senate Finance

S00308	SALAZAR	Adds additional information to reporting requirements for temporary release programs including the number of incarcerated individuals denied participation in each temporary release program and the reasons for denial.	Passed the Senate
S00309B	SALAZAR	Relates to the establishment of emergency management release plans to be developed for use in correctional facilities in the event of a state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order; establishes an advisory board to provide recommendations for the development of such plans; establishes criteria to be used to determine eligibility for emergency release of incarcerated individuals.	Passed the Senate
S00393	CLEARE	Provides for priority for applications and expedited determination of claims for a human trafficking victim who wishes to remove permanent marks that were part of the trafficking of such victim, including but not limited to, tattoos, markings, brandings, or other symbols or insignia.	Senate Rules
S01233	BAILEY	Increases access to substance abuse programming for incarcerated individuals whose first language is not English.	Passed the Senate
S01278	BAILEY	Relates to the definition of "direct relationship" for the purposes of article 23-A of the correction law regarding licensures and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.	Senate Rules
S01744	RAMOS	Relates to commissaries and canteens at correctional institutions; provides that items for sale at a commissary or canteen shall be sold for market value; provides that money placed into an incarcerated individual's commissary or canteen account or fund shall only be used for purchasing items or goods.	Passed the Senate
S01942A	BAILEY	Relates to providing voice communication services to incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities at no cost.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01970	SEPULVEDA	Relates to failure to complete a program for time allowances due to circumstances beyond an individual's control.	Passed the Senate

S02304A	MYRIE	Requires all incarcerated individuals who do not have a high-school diploma or its equivalent to receive a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening upon intake by the department of corrections; requires for such individuals who perform below a certain proficiency level to be provided with intervention services that are evidence-based, effective and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia.	Reported to Senate Finance
S02920A	CLEARE	Expands prison work release program eligibility and participation.	Senate Rules
S03103C	BRISPORT	Requires mental health services for incarcerated individuals with mental health issues related to the trauma of incarceration upon reentry and reintegration into society upon release.	Reported to Senate Finance
S03174	CLEARE	Authorizes the transfer of pregnant and postpartum incarcerated individuals to residential treatment facilities; requires annual reporting on the number of such incarcerated individuals transferred.	Passed the Senate
S03175	CLEARE	Provides information regarding termination of medicare part B coverage for the duration of incarceration to individuals committed to the department of corrections and community supervision.	Substituted By A5396 - Chaptered 463
S03176	CLEARE	Relates to certificates of relief from disabilities issued by courts or by the department of corrections and community supervision.	Substituted By A7194 - Delivered to Governor
S03250	SALAZAR	Requires public agencies to establish preliminary license application procedures to determine whether an applicant for a license would be ineligible for such license based on criminal history; establishes time frames for public agencies to respond to such applications; requires public agencies to report information regarding granting licenses annually.	Passed the Senate
S03269	SEPULVEDA	Relates to the department of correction and community supervision's role with respect to discharge planning to assist incarcerated individuals in obtaining housing before release to community supervision.	Senate Rules
S03318A	SEPULVEDA	Establishes visiting policies for incarcerated people, to provide incarcerated people opportunities for personal contact with relatives, friends, clergy, volunteers and other persons to promote better institutional adjustment and better community adjustment upon release.	Passed the Senate
S03415	MYRIE	Relates to college admissions for persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.	Reported to Senate Higher Education

S04071	SALAZAR	Relates to allowing telephone calls prior to an incarcerated individual's transfer except under exceptional circumstances.	Passed the Senate
S04621	SEPULVEDA	Conforms the definition of an incarcerated individual with a serious mental illness to the definition of "person with a serious mental illness" in the mental hygiene law.	Vetoed Memorandum 57
S05092A	CLEARE	Provides for the return of any identification materials to an individual upon release from custody.	Substituted By A9186A - Chaptered 485
S05214	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, in consultation with the commissioner of health and the commissioner of mental health, to develop a uniform electronic medical records system to be utilized by all correctional facilities in the state.	Substituted By A5902 - Vetoed Memorandum 73
S05502	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Provides additional crime victims' rights; requires certain notifications. Eff. Date 03/13/2025	Chaptered 574
S05830	SALAZAR	Prohibits the placement in segregated confinement of any person in the first eight weeks of the post-partum recovery period regardless of pregnancy outcome by amending the definition of special populations to include such persons.	On Calendar 176 Opposite House
S05877A	SALAZAR	Increases the number of members on the state commission of correction; provides for the manner of confirmation of such members.	On Calendar 483 Opposite House
S06011	PARKER	Authorizes a study by the department of corrections and community supervision pertaining to the treatment of aging prison populations.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06617	ADDABBO	Provides for limited credit time allowances for working in the horse handling program for a period of no less than eighteen months and receipt of a certification from the Groom Elite program.	On Calendar 167 Opposite House
S06810	CLEARE	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to establish a program to purchase fresh produce from farms located in the state and distribute such fresh produce to correctional facilities in the state to be utilized in the provision of wholesome and nutritious food to incarcerated individuals.	Substituted By A6854 - Chaptered 468

S06975	SALAZAR	Authorizes the state inspector general to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities and other places operated by the department of corrections and community supervision for the confinement of persons; requires the state inspector general to establish protocol and procedures for such reports and investigations.	On Calendar 452 Opposite House
S06977	SALAZAR	Clarifies the definition of persons with a disability for purposes of the definition of special populations to include people with a mental health diagnosis, people on the office of mental health caseload, people with an intellectual, developmental or cognitive diagnosis, people with physical disability or mobility impairment, and people with a sensorial disability diagnosis.	Passed the Senate
S07132A	SALAZAR	Relates to the health, safety and human rights of incarcerated pregnant individuals, incarcerated birthing parents of children and their children.	Passed the Senate
S07375	SALAZAR	Codifies the division of criminal justice services' authority to oversee probation pretrial monitoring and supervision. Division of Criminal Justice Services	Passed the Senate
S07607B	SALAZAR	Requires the publication of notice within twenty-four hours of the death of an incarcerated individual or any other individual occurring in the custody of the department of corrections and community supervision by department press release by posting on the department's public website.	Senate Rules
S07646	SKOUFIS	Requires the department of corrections and community supervision to establish discharge plans and reentry services for wrongfully convicted individuals upon their discharge which includes housing needs, educational needs, employment needs, medical needs, and specific social service needs.	Passed the Senate
S07781A	HARCKHAM	Directs the commission of corrections and community supervision to establish an annual heat mitigation plan; directs the extreme heat action plan work group of the department of environmental conservation to analyze the impact of extreme heat on incarcerated individuals and people working in prisons.	Substituted By A9169A - Chaptered 561
S07795	SALAZAR	Repeals provisions relating to the transfer of incarcerated individuals from a county jail to a state correctional institution.	Reported to Senate Finance

S07843	SALAZAR	Relates to conditional release for eligible offenders who complete post-secondary degrees or programs; provides release twelve months before the completion of the controlling minimum period of imprisonment for eligible offenders who complete post-secondary degrees or programs. Criminal Sanction Impact.	Senate Rules
S07936	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to study gender disparity in resources provided to incarcerated individuals and make a report to the governor and the legislature of his or her findings, conclusions and recommendations.	Passed the Senate
S07937	HARCKHAM	Requires the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to make correctional facility water testing results accessible directly to incarcerated individuals and correctional facility staff in such facilities and make such water testing results available to the public on the website of the department.	Passed the Senate
S07938	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services to study gender disparity in sentencing outcomes and make a report to the governor and the legislature of his or her findings, conclusions and recommendations.	Passed the Senate
S08173	BAILEY	Requires screening incarcerated individuals for eligibility in the supplemental nutrition assistance program prior to release and assistance in applying for such programs; requires officials to seek waivers from the USDA for eligibility for such program.	Passed the Senate
S08624A	FERNANDEZ	Prohibits correctional facilities from denying entry to peer support advocates who are certified or licensed and are participating in the provision of corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services based on such advocates' prior history of incarceration.	Passed the Senate
S08692A	GRIFFO	Relates to the use of the Madison and Oneida county correctional facilities; relates to county-tribal detention agreements between the Oneida Indian Nation and Madison county and between the Oneida Indian Nation and Oneida county. Eff. Date 07/30/2024 (See Table)	Chaptered 213

S08881	SANDERS	Requires the office of victim services to provide notification of potential eligibility for crime victims' awards; directs the state police and the municipal police training council to develop procedures for notifying next of kin of available programs and services upon in-person death notifications. Eff. Date 12/22/2024	Chaptered 518
S08977	WEBB	Requires law enforcement officers to conduct a lethality assessment as part of the standardized domestic incident report form when responding to incidents of domestic violence.	Passed the Senate
S09056	SANDERS	Requires the department of corrections and community supervision within twenty-four hours of the attempted suicide or hospitalization of an incarcerated individual or any other individual occurring in the custody of the department, to notify the emergency contacts of such incarcerated individual or other such individual.	Substituted By A9678 - Chaptered 490
S09057	SANDERS	Directs the department of corrections and community supervision to conduct a comprehensive study on deaths in correctional facilities within New York state to provide data-driven insights and recommendations to improve prison conditions, healthcare, and policies to prevent future tragedies.	Reported to Senate Finance
S09315	SALAZAR	Establishes the Terry Cooper autopsy accountability act requiring autopsy reports to include all photographs of the body, microscopic slides, and post-mortem x-rays taken by, at the direction of, or reviewed by the person performing the autopsy.	Reported to Senate Local Government
S09350	SALAZAR	Directs the state commission of correction to promulgate rules and regulations for strip searches in correctional facilities which at a minimum include a requirement that no fewer than two staff members shall be present for any strip search.	Substituted By A4904 - Vetoed Memorandum 111



Annual Report 2024

**New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Higher Education**