



# Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate  
Standing Committee on

Disabilities

# SENATOR JOHN W. MANNION

Chair

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



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**SENATOR JOHN W. MANNION**  
50<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**CHAIR**

DISABILITIES

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

HEALTH

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December 15, 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 Disabilities 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, including, most specifically, improving quality of life for individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities. The Committee also serves a vital function in overseeing both the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, known as "OPWDD," and the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs.

During the 2024 session, this Committee met in session four times and reported nineteen bills. The Committee did not hold any hearings or roundtables this legislative session.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Mannion".

John W. Mannion  
New York State Senator  
50th Senatorial District





# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES

**Senator John W. Mannion,  
Chairperson**

### **Committee Members**

Senator Simcha Felder

Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Senator Bill Weber, Ranking Member

Senator Jacob Ashby

### **Committee Staff**

Noah K. Rohde, Committee Clerk

Amanda Godkin, Deputy Counsel, Majority Counsel  
& Program

Abisha Vijayashanthar, Associate Counsel & Policy  
Analyst, Majority Counsel & Program

Lekeya Martin, Deputy Secretary, Majority Finance

Donavan Borington, Director for Health & Public  
Protection, Majority Finance

Arianna Macio, Principal Analyst, Majority Finance

Kelly Mendoza, Senior Analyst, Majority Finance

Manpreet Kaur, Senior Analyst, Majority Finance



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Disabilities has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, sixty-four bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, nineteen were reported from the Committee; fifteen were passed by the Senate; and, six were passed by both Houses. This work was conducted through a series of four Committee meetings. A list of all bills 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 2024:

- **S1198A (Rivera)** – Veto Memo 49. This legislation would require the Commissioner of the Department of Health to review reimbursement adequacy for early intervention services. The Early Intervention (EI) program provides services for babies and toddlers who have developmental delays and disabilities. EI reimbursement rates have not been raised in approximately thirty years.
- **S1963A (Addabbo)** – Passed Senate. This legislation would require daycare facilities to maintain evacuation and lockdown plans for children with disabilities during an emergency situation. When a building lockdown or other emergency occurs, children are told to run and hide; however, students with disabilities may have difficulties complying with such commands.
- **S3105A (Mannion)** – Veto Memo 54. This legislation would require OPWDD to produce and publish a report on staffing at state-operated institutions, including the number and nature of state-operated residential facilities serving individuals with developmental disabilities, an official record of staff delivering services, and the hiring of new staff at such institutions.
- **S3108A (Mannion)** – Veto Memo 97. This legislation would establish an independent intellectual and developmental disability ombudsman program. A limited version of this program was established in the SFY 2023-2024 Budget along with a \$3 million appropriation.
- **S3118 (Mannion)** – Passed Senate. This legislation would require OPWDD to create a staffing plan for workforce emergencies when experiencing staffing shortages of ten percent or more in direct care and clinical staff in any region of the state.
- **S3196 (Mannion)** – Passed Senate. This legislation would create a housing navigation services program for individuals with disabilities. Appropriate housing is necessary for people to live stable, healthy lives. For individuals with disabilities, the right housing opportunity can lead to better overall well-being and success in all aspects of life.
- **S9246 (Mannion)** – Chapter 524. This law requires Boards of Visitors, which are state institutions tasked with providing oversight of residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to make their meetings and other activities available to the public.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2024, three of the 48 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, all three bills are currently on the Governor's desk.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S01198A	Rivera	Directs the commissioner of health to do a comprehensive assessment of the existing methodology used to determine payment for early intervention screenings, evaluations, services and service coordination; directs recommendations on reimbursement methodology as well as needs under the program.	Vetoed Memorandum 49
S03105A	Mannion	Requires the office for people with developmental disabilities to produce and publish a report to assess the staffing and other issues causing the continued displacement of individuals with developmental disabilities from various state-operated institutions under the jurisdiction of the office for people with developmental disabilities.	Vetoed Memorandum 54
S03108A	Mannion	Directs the independent developmental disability ombudsman program to establish a service delivery structure based in New York state that includes a toll-free telephone hotline, an interactive website, and availability of in-person, telephone and email access to ombudsman program staff or volunteers; to provide assistance for navigating and completing processes; to assist individuals in filing and preparing appeals; to assist individuals with any problems encountered; and to educate individuals on their rights and responsibilities with respect to access to services provided by the office for people with developmental disabilities and care coordination provided by health homes serving individuals with developmental disabilities or services provided by other providers.	Vetoed Memorandum 97
S08796	Mannion	Extends certain provisions relating to implementation of the federal individuals with disabilities education improvement act of 2004.	Substituted By A3982 - Chaptered 122
S09107A	Mayer	Relates to reserved funds for special educational services for certain children with disabilities. Eff. Date 11/22/2024 (See Table)	Chaptered 521
S09246	Mannion	Requires boards of visitors provide greater transparency to the public regarding such boards' activities including when it meets and providing materials to the public. Eff. Date 03/22/2025	Chaptered 524

## 2024 SENATE DISABILITIES COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S01198A	Rivera	Directs the commissioner of health to do a comprehensive assessment of the existing methodology used to determine payment for early intervention screenings, evaluations, services and service coordination; directs recommendations on reimbursement methodology as well as needs under the program.	Vetoed Memorandum 49
S01963A	Addabbo	Requires daycare facilities to maintain evacuation and lockdown plans for children with disabilities during an emergency situation.	Passed the Senate
S01993A	Jackson	Relates to determinations of appropriate educational programs for certain students in a school district in a city having a population of one million or more.	Reported to Senate New York City Education
S02315	Cleare	Names an office for people with developmental disabilities facility located in the borough of Manhattan the "Willie Mae 'Goody' Goodman Community Facility".	Passed the Senate
S02360	Mannion	Prohibits the withholding of state funding for service providers for people with developmental disabilities due to the receipt of certain COVID-19 federal funds.	Reported to Senate Finance
S03105A	Mannion	Requires the office for people with developmental disabilities to produce and publish a report to assess the staffing and other issues causing the continued displacement of individuals with developmental disabilities from various state-operated institutions under the jurisdiction of the office for people with developmental disabilities.	Vetoed Memorandum 54

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S03118	Mannion	Requires the office for people with developmental disabilities to create a staffing plan for workforce emergencies when experiencing staffing shortages.	Passed the Senate
S03196	Mannion	Establishes a curriculum and task force to provide housing navigation services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Passed the Senate
S04127A	Mannion	Establishes a direct support wage enhancement to employees that provide direct care support or any other form of treatment, to individuals with developmental disabilities and whose income is less than \$125,000.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06433	Mannion	Safeguards cash accounts for people with developmental disabilities in a facility under the control of the commissioner of mental health, the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities and the commissioner of alcoholism and substance abuse services.	Passed the Senate
S07697B	Harcckham	Provides for adult changing tables to be placed within an enclosed restroom facility or other similar private facility that is for use by persons with disabilities who need help with diapering at commercial places of public amusement and state-owned buildings open to the public.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08183	Mannion	Extends for two years the requirement for OPWDD to give a 90-day notice to the Senate, Assembly, and labor organizations of any closures or transfer of a state operated individualized residential alternative.	Passed the Senate

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Act</b>
S08184	Mannion	Extends provisions of law relating to the care demonstration program from March 31, 2024 until March 31, 2026.	Passed the Senate
S08627	Mannion	Expands the legislative reporting requirements for the office of mental health and the office for people with developmental disabilities to include the chair of the assembly committee on people with disabilities and the chair of the senate committee on disabilities.	Passed the Senate
S08782A	Mannion	Establishes the “blue-ribbon commission on the future of New York state’s service delivery system for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities act” to conduct a study and prepare a report to examine, evaluate and make recommendations for systemic reforms to ensure a sustainable set of supports and services that meets the evolving needs of all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Reported to Senate Finance
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Disabilities**