



Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Local Government

Senator Monica R. Martinez

Chair

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



CHAIRWOMAN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER

AGING

ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS

DISABILITIES

EDUCATION

TRANSPORTATION



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The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
State Senate Majority Leader
New York State Senate
188 State Street Room 907
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Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins,

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Local Government for the 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction, including issues concerning counties, cities, towns, villages and emergency services.

During the 2025 session, this committee met 5 times and reported 47 bills.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done, 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 "M. Martinez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Monica R. Martinez
New York State Senator
Fourth Senatorial District

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Senator Monica R. Martinez,
Chairperson**

Committee Members

Monica R. Martinez- Chair

James Skoufis

Samra G. Brouk

Patricia Fahy

April N.M. Baskin

Alexis Weik - Ranking Member

Rob Rolison

Committee Staff

Liam Tierney, Deputy Legislative Director

Paul McCarthy, Assistant Deputy Counsel

David Bissember, Policy Advisor

Beckan Gehan, Budget Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Local Government has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning counties, cities, towns and villages as well as emergency services.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 326 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 47 were reported from the Committee, 35 were passed by the Senate, and 15 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 5 committee meetings. A list of all bills that were 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 2025:

S683A Martinez: Chapter 670 of 2025. Establishes an optional real property tax exemption for the primary residences of surviving spouses of police officers killed in the line of duty. The bill authorizes municipalities to offer up to a fifty percent exemption. EFF. DATE 01/01/2026

S688A Martinez: Chapter 592 of 2025. Amends the real property tax exemption for surviving spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty to permit continuation of such exemption for volunteer members with service between two and five years. The bill also gives municipalities authorization to increase the current ten percent exemption up to fifty percent. EFF. DATE 12/05/2025

S4980 Martinez: Passed Senate. Expands the law to include the preservation of regionally significant projects with respect to agencies drawing on funds for new building projects. This bill closes the “tourism loophole” commonly used by storage facilities and car dealerships by requiring both the local Chief Executive Officer and the agency board where the project is located to determine that the project is likely to attract a significant number of visitors from outside the economic development region and the project will preserve or increase permanent, private sector jobs within the state.

S8151 Martinez: Passed Senate. Authorizes the commissioner of taxation and finance to establish segment special equalization rates starting in fiscal year 2025 for the Amityville Union Free School District and Farmingdale Union Free School District for the segments of the districts in the towns of Babylon and Oyster Bay.

S4824A Jackson: Chapter 693 of 2025. Provides a performance and discharge of duty presumption for any condition of impairment of health caused by leptospirosis, resulting in total or partial disability or death to a paid member of the uniformed force of a paid sanitation department, where such paid member is drawn from competitive civil service lists, who successfully passed a physical examination on entry into the service of such department, which examination failed to reveal any evidence of such condition. EFF. DATE 12/19/2025

S6009 Baskin: Passed Senate. Relates to youth programs sponsored by fire departments; provides that participants may respond to an emergency or hazardous activity, but shall remain in an appropriate and safe designated area that has been established by the chief or officer in charge; provides such participants cannot respond to an emergency on a vehicle using lights and/or sirens; provides such participants may not enter a burning structure; protects volunteer fire departments and fire companies from certain criminal and civil liability potentially arising from the operation of a youth program.

S6426 Mayer: Chapter 379 of 2025. Authorizes the assistant court clerk and fire marshal of the town of Harrison, county of Westchester, to be nonresidents of such town. EFF. DATE 09/10/2025

REPORTED NOMINATIONS

During the 2025 legislative session 1 nomination was referred to the Committee for review. David F. Moog was nominated by the Governor to the State Board of Real Property Tax Services, and was confirmed by the Senate to the board on May 29, 2025.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2025, 15 of the 326 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Local Government passed both houses of the legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 15 with action pending on 0.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S00683A	Martinez	Establishes a real property tax exemption for the primary residences of surviving spouses of police officers killed in the line of duty.	Chaptered 670
S00688A	Martinez	Amends the real property tax exemption for surviving spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty to permit continuation of such exemption for volunteer members with service between two and five years.	Chaptered 592
S01678	Ryan C	Authorizes the board of trustees of the village of East Syracuse to permit that the office of village justice and/or associate justice may be held by a non-resident who lives in the town of Dewitt.	Chaptered 357
S03367	Mayer	Raises the exclusion of certain indebtedness of school districts other than school districts in a city with one hundred twenty-five thousand inhabitants or more according to the latest federal census.	Chaptered 545
S04483	Mayer	Relates to the filling of vacancies for elective offices in villages with November elections; provides such vacancies shall be filled in accordance with subdivision one of section forty-two of the public officers law.	Chaptered 604
S04824A	Jackson	Provides a performance and discharge of duty presumption for any condition of impairment of health caused by leptospirosis, resulting in total or partial disability or death to a paid member of the uniformed force of a paid sanitation department, where such paid member is drawn from competitive civil service lists, who successfully passed a physical examination on entry into the service of such department, which examination failed to reveal any evidence of such condition.	Chaptered 693
S05686	Lanza	Extends the time period for the conveyance of lands for the establishment of the Gateway National Recreation Area until June 30, 2027.	Chaptered 150
S05932	Mattera	Authorizes the town of Huntington to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands to the Huntington African American Museum.	Senate Rules

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S05994	Mayer	Updates the Pound Ridge Volunteer Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association's charter and provides for new duties of such charter.	Substituted By A7004 - Chaptered 378
S06159	Palumbo	Provides for the control and disposal of funds and property and the management of the Hampton Bays Volunteer Exempt Firefighter's Benevolent Association; increases the number of members of its board of trustees from five to eight; relates to the collection of taxes imposed by section 9104 of the insurance law for fire department use and benefit; makes technical corrections.	Substituted By A6593 - Chaptered 375
S06372	Mayer	Sets the probable usefulness of judgments, compromised claims or settled claims resulting from certain child sexual abuse cases to up to 30 years.	Chaptered 553
S06426	Mayer	Authorizes the assistant court clerk and fire marshal of the town of Harrison, county of Westchester, to be nonresidents of such town.	Substituted By A7287 - Chaptered 379
S06928	Ryan S	Extends provisions providing for the sale of municipal obligations by the county of Erie.	Substituted By A1177 - Chaptered 135
S07028C	Walczyk	Authorizes the city of Little Falls, in the county of Herkimer, to issue serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed three million four hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of liquidating deficits in its general, golf, and water funds; requires that the city of Little Falls prepare quarterly budget reports, quarterly trial balances and a three-year financial plan.	Chaptered 176
S07543A	Martinez	Authorizes New Hour for Women and Children LI, Inc. to receive a real property tax exemption for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 assessment rolls.	Substituted By A8601A - Chaptered 463
S07659	Mayer	Permits the city of White Plains, Westchester county, to lease certain sports field fences for advertisements.	Substituted By A8165 - Chaptered 382

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S00017	Skoufis	Allows industrial development agencies to make grants to municipalities for open space preservation, parkland improvements and conservation easements where the municipal governing body finds that the grant encourages tourism or otherwise improves quality of life.	Passed the Senate
S00190	Martinez	Establishes the payment of certain volunteer firefighter and volunteer ambulance worker death benefits shall be within ninety days of the filing of application to receive such death benefit.	Passed the Senate
S00192	Martinez	Requires the state shall offer a statewide emergency services internet protocol network (ESINet) available for connection to local public safety answering points (PSAPs).	Reported to Senate Finance
S00256	Martinez	Provides that a policy of this state should be to increase housing options and opportunities, including but not limited to affordable, and workforce and senior housing.	Reported to Senate Finance
S00273	Martinez	Permanently requires that the first installment of serial bonds mature not later than two years after the date of such bonds; provides that principal installments remaining unpaid on bonds may be called for redemption prior to their date of maturity in such amounts, at such times in such manner and pursuant to such terms as may be determined by the finance board of a municipality, school district or corporation at the time of the issuance thereof; repeals provisions that permanently eliminate the requirement that municipalities provide from current funds an amount equal to at least 5% of the estimated cost of each capital improvement (excluding from such cost state or federal grant funding and certain benefited area assessments) prior to the issuance of bonds or bond anticipation notes to finance such capital improvement.	Passed the Senate
S00537	Martins	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a real property tax exemption from Gurdwara Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, Inc. for all of the 2023 general taxes and all of the 2022-2023 school taxes.	Passed the Senate
S00600A	Hinchey	Requires certain municipal planning boards and zoning boards of appeals to receive at least one hour of environmentally conscious planning training annually.	Passed the Senate

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S00624	Skoufis	Authorizes the village of Greenwood Lake, county of Orange to allow golf carts on certain streets under the exclusive control and jurisdiction of such village.	Passed the Senate
S00664	Skoufis	Subjects to taxation the possessory interest of a private individual or corporation which uses real property owned by the United States or the state, except for real property owned by public authorities, for business purposes; excludes private property where the use is for a concession available to the general public located on property, such as parks, available for the use of the general public.	Passed the Senate
S00683A	Martinez	Establishes a real property tax exemption for the primary residences of surviving spouses of police officers killed in the line of duty.	Chaptered 670
S00688A	Martinez	Amends the real property tax exemption for surviving spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty to permit continuation of such exemption for volunteer members with service between two and five years.	Chaptered 592
S00900	Martinez	Relates to the delivery of the good faith deposit following award of the bonds to the successful bidder; provides that a municipality, school district or district corporation may require that such deposit be made as a condition precedent to the consideration of a bid for the bonds.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01397	Gallivan	Authorizes the town of Eden, county of Erie, to discontinue as parklands and alienate certain lands for the purpose of providing needed resources to the existing parks within such town.	Passed the Senate
S01678	Ryan C	Authorizes the board of trustees of the village of East Syracuse to permit that the office of village justice and/or associate justice may be held by a non-resident who lives in the town of Dewitt.	Chaptered 357
S02084	Kavanagh	Requires municipalities to determine whether it is in the public interest to create a comprehensive plan adapted to the special requirements of the municipality and to determine whether it is in the public interest to update such comprehensive plan at least once every ten years to ensure that such plan addresses housing needs.	Passed the Senate
S02177A	Parker	Provides that all equipment used for the transmission and switching of radio signals for the provision of commercial mobile radio service or mobile internet access service no longer constitutes real property subject to the real property tax law.	Passed the Senate

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S02317A	Skoufis	Prevents certain elected officials from being a member of an agency or industrial development authority.	Passed the Senate
S02598	Mayer	Expands the training time for local municipalities in relation to the open meetings law; requires at least one hour of such training be provided by the committee on open government or an appropriate entity in relation to compliance with the open meetings law and if not provided, a justification shall be given.	Passed the Senate
S02701	Palumbo	Relates to the trustees of the Freeholders and the Commonalty of the town of Southampton, county of Suffolk; provides that the trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the town of Southampton have and shall continue to have the authority to enforce the public's easement and access upon the ocean beaches within the town of Southampton, including all rights of the public with respect to the said ocean beaches which were conferred upon them by the Dongan Patent of 1686; defines "ocean beaches".	Reported to Senate Finance
S03152	Cooney	Establishes the Monroe county housing advocate program to provide to residents of Monroe county, information and resources to current or prospective tenants on housing issues such as securing housing, eviction matters, issue resolution with landlords, and any other topics such advocate deems important; and referrals to legal assistance or social service providers when applicable; makes related provisions.	Reported to Senate Finance
S03367	Mayer	Raises the exclusion of certain indebtedness of school districts other than school districts in a city with one hundred twenty-five thousand inhabitants or more according to the latest federal census.	Chaptered 545
S03445	Helming	Authorizes the village of Sodus Point, in the town of Sodus, county of Wayne to allow golf carts on certain streets under the exclusive control and jurisdiction of such village.	Passed the Senate
S03665	Hinchey	Expands the tax exemption for new farm buildings to include buildings used for on-farm retail sales.	Passed the Senate
S03742A	Cleare	Requires landlords of certain housing accommodations to include with all new and renewal leases, on any rent bills, including any electronic communication the informational material describing eligibility for and the benefits of the senior rent increase exemption program and the disability rent increase exemption program.	Senate Rules

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S04075	Scarcella-Spanton	Authorizes the assessor of Richmond county to grant the Silver Lake Foundation Inc. retroactive real property tax exempt status upon an application therefor.	Passed the Senate
S04325	Rhoads	Authorizes Powell House, in the village of Farmingdale, county of Nassau, to apply for and receive a retroactive property tax exemption with respect to the 2024-2025 school tax assessment rolls and the 2025 general tax assessment roll.	Passed the Senate
S04464	Mayer	Relates to the organization of industrial development agencies and the definition of labor organization.	Passed the Senate
S04483	Mayer	Relates to the filling of vacancies for elective offices in villages with November elections; provides such vacancies shall be filled in accordance with subdivision one of section forty-two of the public officers law.	Chaptered 604
S04780	Skoufis	Requires a municipality to give notice to an adjacent municipality of the adoption or amendment of certain zoning ordinances or local laws that affect parcels of land within 500 feet of the adjacent municipality.	Passed the Senate
S04824A	Jackson	Provides a performance and discharge of duty presumption for any condition of impairment of health caused by leptospirosis, resulting in total or partial disability or death to a paid member of the uniformed force of a paid sanitation department, where such paid member is drawn from competitive civil service lists, who successfully passed a physical examination on entry into the service of such department, which examination failed to reveal any evidence of such condition.	Chaptered 693
S04872	Fahy	Provides notice of health insurance contracts for retired officers, employees, and their families.	Senate Rules
S04930	Martinez	Makes certain fees and charges related to emergency medical services permanent.	Senate Rules
S04980	Martinez	Expands the law to include the preservation of regionally significant projects with respect to agencies drawing on funds for new building projects.	Passed the Senate
S05432	Skoufis	Increases benefits for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05686	Lanza	Extends the time period for the conveyance of lands for the establishment of the Gateway National Recreation Area until June 30, 2027.	Chaptered 150

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S06009	Baskin	Relates to youth programs sponsored by fire departments; provides that participants may respond to an emergency or hazardous activity, but shall remain in an appropriate and safe designated area that has been established by the chief or officer in charge; provides such participants cannot respond to an emergency on a vehicle using lights and/or sirens; provides such participants may not enter a burning structure; protects volunteer fire departments and fire companies from certain criminal and civil liability potentially arising from the operation of a youth program. Criminal Sanction Impact.	Passed the Senate
S06159	Palumbo	Provides for the control and disposal of funds and property and the management of the Hampton Bays Volunteer Exempt Firefighter's Benevolent Association; increases the number of members of its board of trustees from five to eight; relates to the collection of taxes imposed by section 9104 of the insurance law for fire department use and benefit; makes technical corrections.	Substituted By A6593 - Chaptered 375
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S06928	Ryan S	Extends provisions providing for the sale of municipal obligations by the county of Erie.	Substituted By A1177 - Chaptered 135
S07028C	Walczyk	Authorizes the city of Little Falls, in the county of Herkimer, to issue serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed three million four hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of liquidating deficits in its general, golf, and water funds; requires that the city of Little Falls prepare quarterly budget reports, quarterly trial balances and a three-year financial plan.	Chaptered 176

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S07288A	Bynoe	Includes environmental pollution mitigation projects within the authorized purposes of industrial development agencies.	Senate Rules
S07543A	Martinez	Authorizes New Hour for Women and Children LI, Inc. to receive a real property tax exemption for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 assessment rolls.	Substituted By A8601A - Chaptered 463
S07659	Mayer	Permits the city of White Plains, Westchester county, to lease certain sports field fences for advertisements.	Substituted By A8165 - Chaptered 382
S07751	Martinez	Requires the level of assessment for state equalization rates for the Farmingdale union free school district and the Amityville union free school districts which are located in the same town, but in different counties, to be calculated at the same time and on a regular basis.	Senate Rules

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