



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Social Services

SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD

Chair

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

CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CITIES I
CODES
DISABILITIES
TRANSPORTATION
WOMEN'S ISSUES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

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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 Social Services 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 five times in session and reported 28 bills. The Committee also held one public hearing and one roundtable discussion 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 dark ink that reads "Roxanne J. Persaud".

Roxanne J. Persaud

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Chairperson

Committee Members

Senator Cordell Cleare	Senator Dean Murray, Ranking Member
Senator Simcha Felder	Senator Alexis Weik
Senator Brian Kavanagh	
Senator José Serrano	

Committee Staff

Jacqueline Donaldson, Principal Budget Analyst
Jessica Keenan, Assistant Deputy Counsel
Janine Smith, Associate Counsel
Dennis Weakley, Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the alleviation of poverty, assistance to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, services for disconnected youth, assistance for individuals with disabilities, workforce readiness and numerous human services programs reaching and elevating vulnerable New Yorkers.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, 78 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 28 were reported from the Committee. 13 were passed by the Senate, and seven passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of five 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 one hearing and one roundtable meeting. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included the federal *Community Services Block Grant (CSGB)* program and *Inequities in the Human Services Cost of Living Adjustment*.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **S. 7830-A (Persaud)** would create a task force to examine benefit cliffs in New York State's social safety net programs.
- **S. 9343 (Persaud)** would require that NYS OTDA make public its federal waivers, rental and shelter supplement plans.
- **S. 8662 (Felder)** would require fraud detection for unauthorized EBT transactions.
- **S. 4548 (Parker)** would require public utility affordability program participant data matching between the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and public utilities.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES & NOMINATIONS

Nomination: Barbara Guinn, Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Nomination considered jointly with the Committee on Finance on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in Albany.

Public Hearing: The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in Albany.

Roundtable: Inequities in the Human Services Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Wednesday, October 23, 2024, in New York City.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

2024 Senate Social Services Committee Two House Bills

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00015A	GOUNARDES	Authorizes certain shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy where a single occupancy room is not available.	Substituted By A2583A - Passed Both Houses
S04924A	RAMOS	Prohibits requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage to be eligible for child care assistance.	Substituted By A1303A - Delivered to Governor
S07185	PARKER	Requires the office for the prevention of domestic violence to conduct a study on domestic violence in the transgender community with a focus on Black transgender women.	Vetoed Memorandum 63
S07830A	PERSAUD	Establishes a fiscal cliff task force to conduct a study on fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs and to make recommendations related thereto.	Vetoed Memorandum 65
S08662A	FELDER	Requires electronic benefit transfer systems to allow for benefit recipients to cancel or lock a credit or debit card when fraud has been suspected or reported; directs that any interactive voice response system associated with an electronic benefit transfer system which benefit recipients may call for support or assistance shall include an option for benefit recipients to report fraud and cancel, lock or unlock their electronic benefit transfer credit or debit card.	Substituted By A9269B - Chaptered 487
S09015	PERSAUD	Relates to the establishment and modification of child support orders; requires the court to consider the specific circumstances of the parent.	Substituted By A9505 - Chaptered 357
S09100	PARKER	Includes water-works corporations in the definition of "utility corporation" for purposes of automated identification of OTDA assistance program participants; provides for automated identification of OTDA assistance program participants for participation in water service affordability programs.	Substituted By A9522 - Delivered to Governor

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

2024 Senate Social Services Committee Activity			
BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00015A	GOUNARDES	Authorizes certain shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy where a single occupancy room is not available.	Substituted By A2583A - Passed Both Houses
S00183	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Relates to assisting persons with medically diagnosed HIV infection.	Reported to Senate Finance
S00799	COMRIE	Extends the period given to certain applicants for public assistance benefits to request a fair hearing on a determination of their ability to participate in work activities from ten days to sixty days or within sixty days of receipt of a work activity assignment.	Passed the Senate
S02143A	PERSAUD	Relates to the creation of a self-sufficiency standard study regarding how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given geographic location to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance.	Passed the Senate
S02144	PERSAUD	Exempts income earned by a head of household or any person in the household from certain job training or adult education programs from the determination of need for public assistance programs.	Passed the Senate
S02496	MANNION	Requires social services districts to, every heating season, automatically re-enroll persons or households currently receiving assistance through the low-income home energy assistance program, so long as each person or household maintains eligibility.	Passed the Senate
S02503	CLEARE	Establishes a co-navigation services program for persons who are deaf-blind to provide services to a person who is deaf-blind that assist the person to physically access the person's environment and to make informed decisions, including providing visual and environmental information or sighted guide services and assisting with communication accessibility by communicating in the preferred language and communication mode of the person who is deaf-blind.	Reported to Senate Finance
S02705B	PERSAUD	Relates to resource exemptions for applicants for public assistance programs; amends the Welfare Reform Act in relation to the effectiveness thereof.	Reported to Senate Finance
S02944	KAVANAGH	Prohibits requiring that an individual have a court proceeding initiated against him or her in order to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance.	Reported to Senate Finance

S02982	KAVANAGH	Requires shelter allowances be set at up to one hundred percent of the fair market rent for the local social services district.	Senate Rules
S03069A	PERSAUD	Establishes the New York healthy incentive program (Part A); automates SNAP and the New York healthy incentive program (Part B); establishes the New York healthy incentive program outreach program (Part C).	Passed the Senate
S03414A	MYRIE	Relates to eliminating rent for homeless shelters; provides that a homeless individual or family applying for or receiving temporary housing assistance shall not be required to pay to any local or state government or agency or any provider, room and board or contribute any earned or unearned income, available benefits or resources to eliminate their need for temporary housing assistance or as a condition to receive temporary housing assistance from such provider.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04561A	GONZALEZ	Provides "WiFi service" internet access to all individuals residing in temporary housing; relates to funding for internet service under the ConnectAll digital equity grant program.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04888A	RIVERA	Implements additional restrictions on actions to recover overpayment of certain assistance.	Senate Rules
S04924A	RAMOS	Prohibits requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage to be eligible for child care assistance.	Substituted By A1303A - Delivered to Governor
S05270A	PERSAUD	Relates to increasing the standards of monthly need and home energy grant amounts for persons in receipt of public assistance.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06181A	KAVANAGH	Removes the requirement that rent arrears be repaid; forgives any outstanding repayment agreements for rent arrears.	Senate Rules
S06424C	PERSAUD	Expands the membership of the interagency task force on trafficking in persons to include the commissioner of the department of transportation, the commissioner of the department of motor vehicles and the executive director of the New York state thruway authority.	Passed the Senate
S06458	MARTINEZ	Provides that in the event child protective services receives a duplicate report on an open case that has not been founded, indicated or referred to services, such duplicate report shall merge with the open case and remain open an additional thirty days for further investigation.	Passed the Senate
S06696	PARKER	Allows college coursework to be credited as a work activity which may be used toward fulfilling the employment requirements for public assistance benefits under certain conditions.	Passed the Senate

S07185	PARKER	Requires the office for the prevention of domestic violence to conduct a study on domestic violence in the transgender community with a focus on Black transgender women.	Vetoed Memorandum 63
S07830A	PERSAUD	Establishes a fiscal cliff task force to conduct a study on fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs and to make recommendations related thereto.	Vetoed Memorandum 65
S07991	PERSAUD	Relates to the unearned income of a child when the parent or non-parent caregiver chooses to exclude such child from the public assistance household.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08374A	PERSAUD	Increases the federal poverty level requirement for recipients where it concerns the one-time disregard of earned income following job entry.	Passed the Senate
S08662A	FELDER	Requires electronic benefit transfer systems to allow for benefit recipients to cancel or lock a credit or debit card when fraud has been suspected or reported; directs that any interactive voice response system associated with an electronic benefit transfer system which benefit recipients may call for support or assistance shall include an option for benefit recipients to report fraud and cancel, lock or unlock their electronic benefit transfer credit or debit card.	Substituted By A9269B - Chaptered 487
S08767	PERSAUD	Increases the amount certain individuals are eligible for when receiving enhanced residential care.	Passed the Senate
S09015	PERSAUD	Relates to the establishment and modification of child support orders; requires the court to consider the specific circumstances of the parent.	Substituted By A9505 - Chaptered 357
S09100	PARKER	Includes water-works corporations in the definition of "utility corporation" for purposes of automated identification of OTDA assistance program participants; provides for automated identification of OTDA assistance program participants for participation in water service affordability programs.	Substituted By A9522 - Delivered to Governor



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