

Annual Report 2023

# New York State Senate Standing Committee on Aging

## Senator Cordell Cleare

Chair



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



**CORDELL CLEARE**  
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**THE SENATE**  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**

**CHAIR**  
AGING

**COMMITTEES:**

BANKS  
CITIES 1  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS & RECREATION  
EDUCATION  
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIAL SERVICES

December 13, 2023

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins,

I am honored to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Aging for the 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address the spectrum of essential matters facing New York's fastest growing population segment—our beloved older New Yorkers.

During the 2023 Session, the Aging Committee had a total of 65 bills referred to it, and consequently met three times during Session and reported 19 bills. Our work touched upon so many important issues such as the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, senior workforce and entrepreneurship issues, access to comprehensive dental services, expansion of critical programs such as SCRIE and EPIC, solutions to dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's, preventing elder abuse, expanding NORCs and addressing social isolation.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee, including Senators José M. Serrano, Jabari Brisport, Simcha Felder, former Chair Rachel May, Ranking Member Jacob C. Ashby and Robert G. Rolison. I also appreciate the continued support from the Majority Conference Counsel/Program and Finance teams.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cordell Cleare'.

Cordell Cleare  
Chair, Aging Committee  
Senator | 30<sup>th</sup> District



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

### NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING

Senator Cordell Cleare, Chair  
Senator Rachel May, Member  
Senator Simcha Felder, Member  
Senator Jabari Brisport, Member  
Senator José M. Serrano, Member

Senator Jacob C. Ashby, Ranking Member  
Senator Robert G. Rolison, Member

#### **Committee Staff:**

Janine Smith, Associate Counsel | Majority Counsel/Program  
Jessica Keenan, Assistant Deputy Counsel | Majority Counsel/Program  
Kelly Mendoza, Senior Analyst | Senate Finance Majority  
Manpreet Kaur, Budget Analyst | Senate Finance Majority

#### **Chair Staff:**

Tyler James, Legislative Assistant  
Chris LaBarge, Committee Director

## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Aging has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning Elder Law, nursing homes, caregivers, and senior services. During the 2023 Legislative Session, 65 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 19 were reported from the Committee. Including those bills discharged from the Committee to the Rules Committee after regular committee meetings ended, 4 Passed both houses, 7 Passed the Senate only, 1 made it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Calendar and 8 passed Aging and were referred to another Committee, predominantly Finance. This work was conducted through a series of 3 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 2023:

<a href="#">S569</a>	<p>KAVANAGH Relates to establishing a maximum rent of one-third of household income for the senior citizens rent increase exemption and disability rent increase exemption Same as A 2974 O'Donnell <b>Last Act:</b> 05/09/23 REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE</p>
<a href="#">S717</a>	<p>CLEARE, HELMING Includes in definition of income all sources after deduction of all medical and prescription drugs not reimbursed or paid by insurance Same as A 6053 Dinowitz Last Act: 03/28/23 referred to aging</p>
<a href="#">S887</a>	<p>CLEARE, ASHBY, BORRELLO, CHU Establishes a dementia and Alzheimer's disease program database Same as A 5306 Hyndman Last Act: 05/30/23 referred to aging</p>
<a href="#">S2875</a>	<p>COMRIE Establishes a senior dental services grant program Same as A 5423 Hyndman Last Act: 03/15/23 REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE</p>
<a href="#">S3004</a>	<p>CLEARE, ADDABBO Creates the office of older adult workforce development within the office for the aging Same as A 6324 Stirpe Last Act: 11/17/23 VETOED MEMO.73</p>
<a href="#">S3005</a>	<p>CLEARE Relates to improving and expanding the pharmaceutical insurance coverage program for certain medicare enrollees Same as A 6450 Kim Last Act: 05/09/23 REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO HEALTH</p>
<a href="#">S3392</a>	<p>MAY, HOYLMAN-SIGAL Relates to the naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program Same as A 5915 Kim Last Act: 10/25/23 SIGNED CHAP.586</p>

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 65 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 19 were reported from the Committee. Including those bills discharged from the Committee to the Rules Committee after regular committee meetings ended, 4 Passed both houses—3 were signed, 1 was vetoed.

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
S.3392	MAY	Relates to the naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program	Signed, Chapter 586
S.5907	CLEARE	Directs the state office for the aging to conduct a study on the number of older adults residing in naturally occurring retirement communities or neighborhood naturally occurring retirement communities who are suffering from social isolation and loneliness	Signed, Chapter 661
S.6907	CLEARE	Relates to the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to long term care ombudsman access to assisted living facilities	Signed, Chapter 303
S.3004	CLEARE	Creates the office of older adult workforce development within the office for the aging	Vetoed, Number 73



## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 65 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 19 were reported from the Committee. Including those bills discharged from the Committee to the Rules Committee after regular committee meetings ended, 4 Passed both houses, 7 Passed the Senate only, 1 made it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Calendar and 8 passed Aging and were referred to another Committee, predominantly Finance.

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
S.569	KAVANAGH	Relates to establishing a maximum rent of one-third of household income for the senior citizens rent increase exemption and disability rent increase exemption	FINANCE
S.713	CLEARE	Establishes the aging in place task force, and provides for its powers and duties	FINANCE
S.717	CLEARE	Includes in definition of income all sources after deduction of all medical and prescription drugs not reimbursed or paid by insurance	PASSED SENATE
S.884	MAY	Directs the office for the aging and the department of economic development to expand encore entrepreneurship in the state, to empower individuals fifty years of age or older to establish small businesses	FINANCE
S.887	CLEARE	Establishes a dementia and Alzheimer's disease program database	PASSED SENATE
S.1296	SANDERS	Relates to informal caregiver training	PASSED SENATE
S.1491	COMRIE	Provides for the creation of a drug guide for seniors regarding the drugs commonly used by people over 62 years of age	3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading/RULES
S.1730	SANDERS	Provides for elder abuse prevention training	PASSED SENATE
S.1819	STAVISKY	Relates to tax abatement for rent-controlled and rent regulated property occupied by and real property owned by senior citizens or persons with disabilities	PASSED SENATE
S.2875	COMRIE	Establishes a senior dental services grant program	FINANCE

S.3005	CLEARE	Relates to improving and expanding the pharmaceutical insurance coverage program for certain medicare enrollees	HEALTH
S.3007	CLEARE	Establishes the Office for an Age-Friendly New York	FINANCE
S.3128	MANNION	Requires the state to handle the income verification process for the purposes of the senior citizen tax exemption	FINANCE
S.4349	SEPÚLVEDA	Relates to providing language access services to individuals relating to the tax abatement program	PASSED SENATE
S.4517	FERNANDEZ	Establishes the elder abuse shelter aftercare demonstration program	FINANCE
S.6095	CLEARE	Relates to notification of a senior real property tax exemption	PASSED SENATE





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on Aging**