

Annual Report 2023

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

TREASURER
BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC &
ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



SENATOR
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December 15, 2023

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 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2023 Session, this Committee met five times in Session and reported 32 bills. The Committee also held one hearing this past year on criminal justice data and statistics.

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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Julia Salazar
Senate District 18
Chair, Committee on Crime Victims, Crime
and Correction

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

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

Senator Julia Salazar, Chairperson

Committee Members

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie Senator Gustavo Rivera Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda	Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (Ranker) Senator Robert G. Rolison
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Committee Staff

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

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

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

During the 2023 Legislative Session, one hundred eighty-nine bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, thirty-two were reported from the Committee, nineteen were passed by the Senate, and five 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 on criminal justice data and statistics.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The most significant work of the Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction related to the ongoing work to monitor the implementation of HALT Solitary Confinement Act of 2021, enacted as Chapter 93 of 2021, and The Less is More Bill, enacted as Chapter 427 of 2021. The work of the Chair included significantly increased correspondence with DOCCS' Commissioners Office, incarcerated individuals at most Correctional Facilities, formerly incarcerated individuals, families of incarcerated individuals, and the Office of Victim Services. The Chair hosted a resource fair for crime victims, and made multiple visits to Correctional Facilities including but not limited to Great Meadow, Otisville, and Sing Sing.

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2023:

- S214A (Myrie): Expands eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds
- S303 (Salazar): Relates to awards made to crime victims
- S307 (Salazar): Relates to findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated individuals on parole
- S3250 (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
- S5965A (Bailey): Relates to providing notice of voting rights to persons released from local jails
- S6975 (Salazar): Authorizes the state inspector general to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, five of the one hundred eighty-nine bills referred to the Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed four and vetoed one.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S214A	Myrie	Expands eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds	Chapter 695 of 2023
S4748B	Ramos	Requires religious dietary food options in prison commissaries and visitor's areas	Chapter 687 of 2023
S5965A	Bailey	Relates to providing notice of voting rights to persons released from local jails	Chapter 473 of 2023
S6714B	Thomas	Establishes the New York state organized retail crime task force	Vetoed
S7373	Salazar	Extends certain provisions relating to the boarding of out of state incarcerated individuals	Chapter 302 of 2023

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S126	Ryan	Relates to the education and experience of members of the state board of parole	Passed Senate Only
S181	Jackson	Expands who may visit local correctional facilities	Reported from Committee
S204	Cleare	Provides incarcerated individuals with access to breast cancer screenings and information about breast self-examinations	Passed Senate Only
S214A	Myrie	Expands eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation fund	Chapter 695 of 2023
S302	Salazar	Relates to educational leave for eligible incarcerated individuals	Passed Senate Only
S303	Salazar	Relates to awards made to crime victims	Passed Senate Only
S307	Salazar	Relates to findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated individuals on parole	Reported from Committee
S308	Salazar	Relates to reporting requirements for temporary release programs	Passed Senate Only
S309	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	Reported from Committee
S393	Cleare	Provides for priority status to victims of human trafficking for the receipt of certain assistance	Reported from Committee

S1233	Bailey	Increases access to substance abuse programming for incarcerated individuals whose first language is not English	Reported from Committee
S1278	Bailey	Relates to the definition of "direct relationship" for the purposes of article 23-A of the correction law regarding certain licensures and employment	Reported from Committee
S1970	Sepúlveda	Relates to failure to complete a program for time allowances due to circumstances beyond an individual's control	Discharged from Committee Passed Senate Only
S2304A	Myrie	Requires a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening for certain incarcerated individuals	Reported from Committee
S2920A	Cleare	Expands prison work release program eligibility and participation	Reported from Committee
S3103B	Brisport	Requires mental health services for incarcerated individuals with mental health issues related to the trauma of incarceration	Reported from Committee
S3174	Cleare	Authorizes the transfer of pregnant and postpartum incarcerated individuals to residential treatment facilities	Reported from Committee
S3250	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	Reported from Committee
S3269	Sepúlveda	Relates to discharge planning to assist incarcerated individuals in obtaining housing before release to community supervision	Reported from Committee
S3318	Sepúlveda	Establishes a visiting program for incarcerated people	Passed Senate Only

S4071	Salazar	Relates to allowing telephone calls prior to an incarcerated individual's transfer	Passed Senate Only
S4261	Sepúlveda	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	Discharged from Committee Passed Senate Only
S4748B	Ramos	Requires religious dietary food options in prison commissaries and visitor's areas	Chapter 687 of 2023
S5502	Scarcella-Spanton	Relates to victims assistance	Passed Senate Only
S5830	Salazar	Amends the definition of special populations to include persons who are in the first eight weeks of the post-partum recovery period, regardless of how the pregnancy ended	Passed Senate Only
S5965A	Bailey	Relates to providing notice of voting rights to persons released from local jails	Chapter 473 of 2023
S6617	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.	Discharged from Committee
S6714B	Thomas	Establishes the New York state organized retail crime task force to provide the governor and the legislature with information on organized retail crime and various countermeasures to counter losses from such crime in the state.	Discharged from Committee Vetoed
S6975	Salazar	Authorizes the state inspector general to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities	Passed Senate Only

S6977	Salazar	Clarifies the definition of persons with a disability for purposes of the definition of special populations	Reported from Committee
S7373	Salazar	Extends certain provisions relating to the boarding of out of state incarcerated individuals	Discharged from Committee Chapter 302 of 2023
S7375	Salazar	Codifies the division of criminal justice services' authority to oversee probation pretrial monitoring and supervision	Passed Senate Only



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Committee on Crime Victims,
Crime and Correction**