

Annual Report 2023



# New York State Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary

**Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal**

Chair



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



**CHAIRMAN**  
JUDICIARY

**COMMITTEES**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
CODES  
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES  
AND COMMISSIONS  
FINANCE  
HEALTH  
INVESTIGATIONS AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



**SENATOR**  
**BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL**  
47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001  
PHONE: (212) 633-8052

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
ROOM 310  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PHONE: (518) 455-2451

**e-mail:**  
hoylman@nysenate.gov

**website:**  
hoylman.nysenate.gov

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 Judiciary 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, such as filling Court of Appeals vacancies, addressing court backlogs statewide, protecting families and medical providers with the Transgender Safe Haven Act, and shining a light on the widespread issues in Family Court.

During the 2023 Session, this Committee met sixteen times in Session, reported eighty bills, and favorably reported one nominee for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, one nominee for Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, fifteen nominees for Court of Claims, one nominee for Monroe County Family Court, and three nominees for Interim Supreme Court Justice. The Committee reported one nominee for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals without recommendation. The Committee also held one hearing 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,

Brad Hoylman-Sigal





## **2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

### **NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Chairperson**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Jamaal T. Bailey  
Neil D. Breslin  
Andrew S. Gounardes  
John C. Liu  
Shelley B. Mayer  
Zellnor Y. Myrie  
Jessica Ramos  
Sean M. Ryan  
Luis R. Sepúlveda  
James Skoufis  
Toby Ann Stavisky  
Kevin Thomas  
Anthony H. Palumbo (Ranker)  
Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
Andrew J. Lanza  
Jack M. Martins  
Thomas F. O'Mara  
Steven D. Rhoads

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Steven Koch, Senior Counsel, Majority Conference  
Kenan Kurt, Chief of Staff & Counsel, Senator Hoylman-Sigal  
Maia Berlow, Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Senator Hoylman-Sigal  
Jack Connors, Legislative Fellow, Senator Hoylman-Sigal



## COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning New York's civil justice system, debtor and creditor laws, domestic relations laws, estates, powers and trusts laws, general obligations laws, real property laws, and the judicial branch of state government. The Judiciary Committee also has the special responsibility of considering resolutions to amend the State Constitution, and to consider and approve certain gubernatorial judicial appointments, including appointees to the New York State Court of Claims and Court of Appeals.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 347 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, eighty were reported by the Committee. Sixty-five were passed by the Senate, and twenty-seven passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of nine committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

The committee also favorably reported one nominee for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, one nominee for Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, fifteen nominees for Court of Claims, one nominee for Monroe County Family Court, and three nominees for Interim Supreme Court Justice. The committee reported one nominee for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals without recommendation.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held a joint hearing with the Children & Families Committee on the New York Family Court.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- S.160/Hoylman-Sigal: Allows Recording of Court Proceedings
- S.180-A/Krueger: Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution
- S.2475-B/Hoylman-Sigal: Trans Safe Haven Act
- S.4398/Hoylman-Sigal: Enhances the Jurisdiction and Transparency of the Commission on Judicial Conduct
- S.5414/Hoylman-Sigal: Constitutional Amendment to Allow the Legislature to Increase the Number of Justices of the Supreme Court
- S.5935/Cleare: Hope Card Act
- S.6636/Hoylman-Sigal: Grieving Families Act
- S.7476/Gianaris: Provides that a foreign corporation's application for authority to do business in this state constitutes consent to jurisdiction of the courts of this state



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, 27 of the 347 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Judiciary passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed eighteen and vetoed none, with six bills remaining to be acted on. Four bills were delivered to the Secretary of State, of which two went before the voters and were ratified in a statewide referendum.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S.108-A	Krueger	Relates to equal protection	Delivered to Secretary of State
S.155	Krueger	Requires the use of gender-neutral terms in law	Chapter 139 of 2023
S.548	Hoylman-Sigal	Provides a deceased tenant's legal representative the option to terminate such tenant's lease upon notice to the landlord	Chapter 632 of 2023
S.586-A	Krueger	Establishes venue in actions to recover student debt	Chapter 570 of 2023
S.1521	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to terms and conditions of employment of certain nonjudicial officers and employees of the unified court system; repealer	Chapter 1 of 2023
S.2475-B	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to certain prohibitions regarding the legal system and gender-affirming care	Chapter 143 of 2023
S.2997	Rivera	Provides that an affirmation of a health care practitioner may be served or filed in an action in lieu of and with same force and effect as an affidavit	Chapter 585 of 2023
S.3261	Hoylman-Sigal	Repeals section 470 of the judiciary law relating to allowing attorneys having offices in the state to reside in an adjoining state	On the Governor's Desk
S.3436	Skoufis	Exempts applications for an extreme risk protection order from requiring an index number fee	Chapter 428 of 2023
S.3542-A	Breslin	Relates to electronic signatures and salvage title	Chapter 543 of 2023
S.4397	Hoylman-Sigal	Authorizes the chief administrator of the courts to require and provide annual training regarding bail, recognizance, and commitment procedures and standards	On the Governor's Desk
S.4516	Fernandez	Relates to violations of nondisclosure agreements in certain settlement agreements	Chapter 658 of 2023

S.4597	Martinez	Relates to excluding certain indebtedness for the construction of sewage facilities in determining current local debt limitation	Ratified by Referendum
S.5025	Mayer	Relates to limitations on local indebtedness	Ratified by Referendum
S.5137	Gonzalez	Relates to prohibiting a court from denying class certification solely because the action involves governmental operations	On the Governor's Desk
S.5162	Hoylman-Sigal	Allows an affirmation by any person, wherever made, in a civil action	Chapter 559 of 2023
S.5400	Hoylman-Sigal	Requires disclosure of information concerning flood insurance on residential leases; repealer	Chapter 484 of 2023
S.5540	Harckham	Relates to the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex in Essex County	Delivered to Secretary of State
S.5835	Sepúlveda	Relates to the compensation of deputy public administrators in the city of New York	Chapter 414 of 2023
S.5935	Cleare	Enacts the "hope card act"	Chapter 538 of 2023
S.6491	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to court confirmation of arbitration awards for public sector arbitrations	Chapter 679 of 2023
S.6591	Griffo	Authorizes the district attorney in the county of Oneida to appoint five stenographers	Chapter 410 of 2023
S.6636	Hoylman-Sigal	Provides for the types of damages that may be awarded to the persons for whose benefit an action for wrongful death is brought	On the Governor's Desk
S.6854	Hoylman-Sigal	Extends the authorization for the New York city marshals to exercise the same functions, powers and duties as sheriffs with respect to the execution of money judgments	Chapter 151 of 2023
S.7474	Ramos	Extends expiration of provisions of judiciary law authorizing referees to determine applications for orders of protection while family court is in session	Chapter 323 of 2023
S.7476	Gianaris	Provides that a foreign corporation's application for authority to do business in this state constitutes consent to jurisdiction of the courts of this state	On the Governor's Desk
S.7496	Bailey	Relates to authorizing the office of court administration to pay certain judicial compensation	Chapter 185 of 2023

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S.14	Gounardes	Relates to the resolution of certain claims by certain employees	Passed Senate Only
S.27	Stec	Authorizes the state to convey certain forest preserve land	Passed Senate Only
S.108-A	Krueger	Relates to equal protection	Delivered to Secretary of State
S.155	Krueger	Requires the use of gender-neutral terms in law	Chapter 139 of 2023
S.160	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to audio-visual coverage of judicial proceedings; and repeals section 218 of the judiciary law and section 52 of the civil rights law relating thereto	Passed Senate Only
S.280	Gounardes	Designates April twentieth as a day of commemoration to be known as New York state constitution day	Passed Senate Only
S.286	Stewart-Cousins	Prohibits the termination of tenancy in certain housing occupied by senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities	Reported from Committee
S.345	Gounardes	Relates to the statute of limitations for actions based on employment discrimination	Passed Senate Only
S.473	Sepúlveda	Relates to filing in surrogate's court	Passed Senate Only
S.478	Salazar	Relates to the right to assistance of counsel for custody and guardianship proceedings	Reported from Committee
S.548	Hoylman-Sigal	Provides a deceased tenant's legal representative the option to terminate such tenant's lease upon notice to the landlord	Chapter 632 of 2023
S.893-A	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to proof of claims for unjust conviction and imprisonment	Reported from Committee
S.968	Bailey	Requires certain civil court documents to be provided to parties in their native language	Reported from Committee
S.994	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to admissibility of evidence of a victim's sexual conduct, sexual predisposition, or manner of dress	Reported from Committee

S.1243	Krueger	Provides a limitation on actions to collect overcharges	Reported from Committee
S.1305	Comrie	Relates to access to adjoining property to make improvements or repairs	Passed Senate Only
S.1521	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to terms and conditions of employment of certain nonjudicial officers and employees of the unified court system; repealer	Chapter 1 of 2023
S.1571	Gianaris	Requires the ethics commission of the unified court system to post judges' annual financial disclosures on the commission's website	Passed Senate Only
S.1610	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to certain notice requirements; and prohibits landlords from including incorrect information re rent decontrol in certain leases and renewals pertaining to units in the Affordable New York Housing Program	Passed Senate Only
S.1646	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to making technical corrections to ensure gender neutrality for the admission to practice law and preventing required disclosure of prior interaction with law enforcement or the criminal justice system	Passed Senate Only
S.1728	Sanders	Requires the modification of restrictive covenants prior to the sale of real property	Reported from Committee
S.1785	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to removing mandatory retirement age for certain judges and justices	Reported from Committee
S.2072	May	Requires the issuance of certificates of occupancy for rental property damaged by fire	Reported from Committee
S.2088	Kavanagh	Makes rent stabilized dwelling units eligible for certain protections	Passed Senate Only
S.2271	Liu	Clarifies requirements for acknowledgments, proofs, oaths and affirmations without the state	Passed Senate Only
S.2305	Myrie	Relates to the discoverability of recordings found on police body worn cameras and vehicle cameras	Reported from Committee
S.2352	Kavanagh	Requires real estate brokers and salespersons to compile and disclose client demographic data to the secretary of state	Passed Senate Only
S.2355	Felder	Relates to the hours of operation for family courts	Passed Senate Only
S.2389	Myrie	Authorizes the mortgagee or lienor of an abandoned multiple dwelling to apply for the appointment of a receiver to bring the building into compliance	Passed Senate Only

S.2475-B	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to certain prohibitions regarding the legal system and gender-affirming care	Chapter 143 of 2023
S.2483-A	Hoylman-Sigal	Prohibits residential landlords from charging tenants a fee for a dishonored rent check in excess of the actual costs or fees incurred by such landlord as a result thereof	Reported from Committee
S.2552	Hoylman-Sigal	Enacts the “sunshine in litigation act” regarding protective orders	Reported from Committee
S.2573	Gounardes	Relates to the admissibility of certain testimony and evidence by a person alleging discrimination	Passed Senate Only
S.2641	May	Requires the chief administrator of the office of court administration to establish a searchable public database providing information regarding eviction proceedings in the state	Reported from Committee
S.2744	Hoylman-Sigal	Increases the amount of allowance that trial and grand jurors are entitled to in each court of the unified court system	Reported from Committee
S.2869	Comrie	Relates to requiring financial reports for real property acquired by the state, including any agencies and authorities, through eminent domain	Reported from Committee
S.2948	Sanders	Prevents fraudulent deed transfers	Reported from Committee
S.2997	Rivera	Provides that an affirmation of a health care practitioner may be served or filed in an action in lieu of and with same force and effect as an affidavit	Chapter 585 of 2023
S.3030	Stec	Amends the constitution to convey land to Debar Pond Institute Inc. in order to facilitate the preservation of historic buildings	Reported from Committee
S.3170-A	Skoufis	Establishes “Kyra’s Law”	Reported from Committee
S.3260	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to the disqualification of a surviving spouse	Passed Senate Only
S.3261	Hoylman-Sigal	Repeals section 470 of the judiciary law relating to allowing attorneys having offices in the state to reside in an adjoining state	On the Governor’s Desk
S.3262	Hoylman-Sigal	Waives the biennial attorney registration fee for New York attorneys who are employed in a public service job	Reported from Committee

S.3266-A	Hoylman-Sigal	Creates additional remedies for unlawful discharge, penalty, or discrimination due to the exercise of an employee's right to be absent from employment for jury duty	Passed Senate Only
S.3280	Gounardes	Relates to veterans' preferences with respect to civil service promotions	Passed Senate Only
S.3315-A	Sepúlveda	Relates to establishing new fee rates for large estates	Passed Senate Only
S.3320	Sepúlveda	Creates a condominium owner bill of rights	Passed Senate Only
S.3340	Mayer	Relates to the reporting of extreme risk protection orders	Passed Senate Only
S.3436	Skoufis	Exempts applications for an extreme risk protection order from requiring an index number fee	Chapter 428 of 2023
S.3503-A	Skoufis	Relates to requiring principals to notify co-trustees and co-beneficiaries of the signing of a power of attorney	Reported from Committee
S.3542-A	Breslin	Relates to electronic signatures and salvage title	Chapter 543 of 2023
S.4167	Hoylman-Sigal	Prohibits using possession of reproductive or sexual health devices as evidence in a trial, hearing or proceeding in certain circumstances	Reported from Committee
S.4342	Sepúlveda	Relates to persons who may become a voluntary administrator	Passed Senate Only
S.4397	Hoylman-Sigal	Authorizes the chief administrator of the courts to require and provide annual training regarding bail, recognizance, and commitment procedures and standards	On the Governor's Desk
S.4398	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to the powers and authority of the state commission on judicial conduct	Passed Senate Only
S.4506	Ramos	Relates to the form of the juror qualification questionnaire	Reported from Committee
S.4516	Fernandez	Relates to violations of nondisclosure agreements in certain settlement agreements	Chapter 658 of 2023
S.4597	Martinez	Relates to excluding certain indebtedness for the construction of sewage facilities in determining current local debt limitation	Ratified by Referendum
S.5025	Mayer	Relates to limitations on local indebtedness	Ratified by Referendum

S.5107-A	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to surrogacy programs and agreements	Passed Senate Only
S.5137	Gonzalez	Relates to prohibiting a court from denying class certification solely because the action involves governmental operations	On the Governor's Desk
S.5162	Hoylman-Sigal	Allows an affirmation by any person, wherever made, in a civil action	Chapter 559 of 2023
S.5269	Persaud	Authorizes expedited settlement conference processes for establishing child support orders	Reported from Committee
S.5414	Hoylman-Sigal	Authorizes the legislature to increase the number of justices of the supreme court in any judicial district	Passed Senate Only
S.5482	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to the mandatory retirement age of judges and justices	Passed Senate Only
S.5485-A	Fernandez	Replaces the word addict or addicts with the words persons with substance use disorder or a variation thereof	Passed Senate Only
S.5515	Brouk	Prohibits an individual convicted of a crime involving elder abuse from inheriting from the elder's estate as a distributee	Reported from Committee
S.5540	Harckham	Relates to the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex in Essex County	Delivered to Secretary of State
S.5808	Fernandez	Increases the various fixed fees for the provision of certain services by the sheriff	Reported from Committee
S.5835	Sepúlveda	Relates to the compensation of deputy public administrators in the city of New York	Chapter 414 of 2023
S.5916	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to the filing of claims of adult sexual assault survivors	Passed Senate Only
S.6007	Parker	Increases the value of homesteads which are to be exempt from civil judgments	Passed Senate Only
S.6417	Bailey	Provides for review of bail data reports by the state commission on judicial conduct	Passed Senate Only
S.6491	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to court confirmation of arbitration awards for public sector arbitrations	Chapter 679 of 2023
S.6492	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to the number of judges in family court	Reported from Committee

S.6591	Griffo	Authorizes the district attorney in the county of Oneida to appoint five stenographers	Chapter 410 of 2023
S.6636	Hoylman-Sigal	Provides for the types of damages that may be awarded to the persons for whose benefit an action for wrongful death is brought	On the Governor's Desk
S.6665	Gianaris	Requires the chief administrator of the courts to provide certain reports related to the office of court administration	Passed Senate Only
S.6676	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to obtaining jurisdiction over certain defendants in matters relating to a tenancy or lease	Passed Senate Only
S.6854	Hoylman-Sigal	Extends the authorization for the New York city marshals to exercise the same functions, powers and duties as sheriffs with respect to the execution of money judgments	Chapter 151 of 2023
S.6887-A	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to expanding the available jurisdiction for issuing information subpoenas	Reported from Committee











Annual Report 2023

**New York State Senate Standing Committee  
on Judiciary**