

2017 Legislative Report

New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

JAMES N. TEDISCO

Chairman



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49th District

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Social Services

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Banks
Codes

Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Elections
Environmental Conservation
Health
Libraries Select Committee

THE SENATE
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Hon. John J. Flanagan
Temporary President and Majority Coalition Leader
New York State Senate
Room 330 CAP
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Leader Flanagan:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Services. The important work of this committee affords us the opportunity to enhance many aspects of citizens' lives, including serving those with disabilities; ensuring the upholding of human rights as well as equal opportunities for all New York State citizens; and also ensuring that those programs are accessible for low-income families.

As is outlined in this report, our work this year served to identify the delicate balance between our responsibility as public officials to provide for those in need or those who cannot defend themselves, with our interests in ensuring that government operates at the highest level of efficiency with the least amount of resources exhausted. Both in the context of the Committee and also during the Legislative Session, discussion included conservation of public assistance funds, marketing of alcohol and tobacco products for people on public assistance as well as minors, juvenile justice, direct care and clinical worker wages, workforce development funding at record levels, services for seniors, and protecting children in child protective services investigations.

In the 2018 Legislative Session, we will build on the progress we made last year. Many knowledgeable interest groups have contacted me, requesting that our Conference lead the fight to bring record levels of funding to childcare agencies, disability advocacy organizations, senior centers and veterans groups and organizations. In order to make this possible, it will take continued coordination and research of the issues to ensure that any legislation we put forth represents the best interests of our constituents, and ensures a fair and equitable balance between the needs of disadvantaged citizens and the responsible handling of previous taxpayer funds.

Leader, thank you for your continued support and advocacy. Working together, we will continue to address the needs of those New Yorkers who need a helping hand and enable them to sustain a higher quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James N. Tedisco'.

James N. Tedisco
49th Senate District

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2017 LEGISLATIVE REPORT - NEW YORK STATE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Senator James N. Tedisco, Chairman

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Ranking Minority Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Marisol Alcantara

Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.

Senator Pamela Helming

Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

Bills Reported from Committee

<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>S137</i>	LITTLE -- Directs child protective services to investigate and test a child under the age of 3 who was in the vicinity of a drug arrest of a parent, guardian or person legally responsible for the child
<i>S514</i>	YOUNG -- Relates to creating incentives for counties to investigate and prosecute medicaid fraud
<i>S539</i>	YOUNG -- Relates to additional options for local social services districts to implement effective welfare-to-work programs; repealer
<i>S542</i>	FUNKE -- Relates to the report of programs available to survivors of domestic violence
<i>S547</i>	YOUNG -- Relates to conducting appeals, within the department of family assistance, by means of electronic communications systems conference with independent hearing officers
<i>S766</i>	STEWART-COUSINS -- Requires residential health care facilities to provide notices to patients when a temporary operator has been appointed
<i>S916</i>	CROCI -- Relates to the provision of criminal history background checks free of charge to mentoring programs operated by not-for-profit corporations

- S1151A* **ORTT** -- Relates to a cost-of-living adjustment for designated human services for the purpose of establishing rates of payments
- S1161* **CARLUCCI** -- Relates to resource exemptions for applicants for public assistance programs
- S1170A* **CARLUCCI** -- Authorizes social services districts to offer participants in public assistance employment programs an option to complete a course of instruction in financial literacy and personal finance
- S1289* **AVELLA** -- Requires a study to evaluate the costs associated with the provision of child day care services
- S1375* **CARLUCCI** -- Relates to public assistance employment programs for disabled persons; and repealing certain provisions relating thereto
- S1728* **CARLUCCI** -- Exempts IRAs and Roth IRAs in the calculation of household benefits under public assistance programs
- S1784* **KLEIN** -- Prohibits placing of level 2 or 3 sex offenders in any temporary emergency housing or homeless shelters used to house families with children
- S1835* **KENNEDY** -- Relates to requiring child protective services to document home visits with photographs
- S1840* **KENNEDY** -- Requires the office of children and family services to post additional relevant qualifications of child day care providers on the office website
- S1882* **AVELLA** -- Increases the value of rent subsidies included as a part of preventive services

- S2130* **GALLIVAN** -- Relates to the submission of evidence at fair hearings
- S2135* **SERINO** -- Enacts the "public assistance integrity act" to prohibit sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or lottery tickets with public assistance benefits
- S2137A* **SERINO** -- Increases the enhanced residential care benefits for the aged, blind and disabled persons
- S2754A* **LAVALLE** -- Increases the personal needs allowance of individuals in nursing homes and individuals in residential programs for victims of domestic violence
- S2951* **STEWART-COUSINS** -- Requires local social services districts to obtain approval by the governing body of such district prior to applying to amend the consolidated services plan
- S3146* **GOLDEN** -- Directs the office of children and family services to promulgate regulations establishing workload standards for child protective service employees
- S4261* **MONTGOMERY** -- Directs social services districts to contract with non-residential programs for victims of domestic violence to provide outreach and education in high schools
- S4444* **MONTGOMERY** -- Relates to notice requirements when funding cuts are made
- S4492* **GOLDEN** -- Relates to a report on the impact of a tax deduction for expenses of the adoption of a special needs child
- S4833A* **AVELLA** -- Clarifies the definition of "prospective relative guardian" for purposes of subsidized kinship guardianship assistance

S5393 **TEDISCO** -- Relates to extending current exemptions of income and resources for public assistance programs

S5394A **TEDISCO** -- Relates to adding members to the advisory council and the domestic violence fatality review team

Legislative Overview

In 2017, the Social Services Committee reported 29 bills from Committee. Of these 29 bills, 14 were advanced to a committee of secondary reference and did not advance further. A total of 15 bills advanced to calendar, none of which died on third reading calendar. Of the 15 bills that advanced to calendar, 9 of them passed the Senate only, and died in the Assembly, and the remaining 6 passed both Houses. From the 6 that passed both Houses, 5 were signed into law and 1 was vetoed by the Governor.

Died in Committee of Secondary Reference

- S.542 (Funke) Relates to the report of programs available to survivors of domestic violence
- S.766 (Stewart-Cousins) Requires residential healthcare facilities to provide notices to patients when a temporary operator has been appointed
- S.916 (Crocì) Relates to the provision of criminal history background checks free of charge to mentoring programs operated by not-for-profit corporations
- S.1151-A (Ortt) Relates to a cost-of-living adjustment for designated human services for the purpose of establishing rates of payments
- S.1161 (Carlucci) Relates to resource exemptions for applications for public assistance programs
- S.1375 (Carlucci) Relates to public assistance programs for disabled persons; and repealing certain provisions relating thereto
- S.1728 (Carlucci) Exempts IRAs and Roth IRAs in the calculation of household benefits under public assistance programs
- S.1835 (Kennedy) Relates to requiring child protective services to document home visits with photographs
- S.1882 (Avella) Increases the value of rent subsidies included as part of preventive services
- S.2135 (Serino) Enacts the "Public Assistance Integrity Act" to prohibit sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or lottery tickets with public assistance benefits

- S.2754-A (LaValle) Increases the personal needs allowance of individuals in nursing homes and individuals in residential programs for victims of domestic violence
- S.2951 (Stewart-Cousins) Requires local social services districts to obtain approval by the governing body of such district prior to applying to amend the consolidated services plan
- S.4261 (Montgomery) Directs social services districts to contract with non-residential programs for victims of domestic violence to provide outreach and education in high schools
- S.4444 (Montgomery) Relates to notice requirements when funding cuts are made

Passed Senate Only

- S.137 (Little) Directs child protective services to investigate and test a child under the age of 3 who was in the vicinity of a drug arrest of a parent, guardian or person legally responsible for the child
- S.514 (Young) Relates to creating incentives for counties to investigate and prosecute Medicaid fraud
- S.539 (Young) Relates to additional options for local social services districts to implement effective welfare-to-work programs; repealer
- S.547 (Young) Relates to conducting appeals, within the department of family assistance, by means of electronic communications systems conference with independent hearing officers
- S.1289 (Avella) Requires a study to evaluate the costs associated with the provision of child day care services
- S.1784 (Klein) Prohibits placing of level 2 or level 3 sex offenders in any temporary emergency housing or homeless shelters used to house families with children
- S.1840 (Kennedy) Requires the Office of Children and Family Services to post additional relevant qualifications of child day care providers on the office website
- S.2130 (Gallivan) Relates to the submission of evidence at fair hearings
- S.2137-A (Serino) Increases the enhanced residential care benefits for the aged, blind and disabled persons

Signed Into Law

- S.1170-A (Carlucci) Authorizes Social Services Districts to offer participants in public assistance employment programs an option to complete a course of instruction in financial literacy and personal finance
- S.4492 (Golden) Relates to a report on the impact of a tax deduction for expenses of the adoption of a special needs child
- S.4833-A (Avella) Clarifies the definition of "prospective relative guardian" for purposes of subsidized kinship guardianship assistance
- S.5393 (Tedisco) Relates to extending current exemptions of income and resources for public assistance programs
- S.5394-A (Tedisco) Relates to adding members to the advisory council and the domestic violence fatality review team

Passed both Houses and Vetoed

- S.3146 (Golden) Directs the Office of Children and Family Services to promulgate regulations establishing workload standards for child protective service employees

