

# 2018 Legislative Report

## New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services

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**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
JAMES N. TEDISCO  
Chairman**





**Chairman**  
Social Services

**Committees:**

Banks  
Children and Families  
Codes  
Crime Victims, Crime and Correction  
Elections  
Environmental Conservation  
Libraries Select Committee

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**JAMES N. TEDISCO**  
Senator, 49th District

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**Hon. John J. Flanagan**  
Temporary President and Majority 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 for the second year in a row. 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 NY citizens to succeed; deliberating programs that assist families caring for children, the disabled and senior 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 that 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, discussions included the provision of child daycare services, Medicaid fraud, services for domestic violence survivors and healthcare patient services.

In the 2019 Legislative Session, it is my hope that we will build off of 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 interest of our constituents, and ensures a fair and equitable balance between the needs of disadvantaged citizens and the responsible handling of precious 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'James N. Tedisco', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District





**2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Senator James N. Tedisco, Chairman**

**Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Ranker**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Senator Marisol Alcantara**

**Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.**

**Senator Pamela Helming**

**Senator Brian Kavanaugh**

**Senator Kenneth P. LaValle**



## **Legislative Overview**

In 2018, the Social Services Committee reported 15 Bills from Committee. Of these 15 bills, 4 were advanced to a committee of secondary reference and did not advance further. A total of 11 bills then advanced to Rules, 5 of which died without advancing to third calendar reading. Of the 6 bills that advanced to the calendar, all 6 passed the Senate, and 3 died in the Assembly. Of the 3 bills that passed both houses, one was vetoed by the Governor and 2 were signed into law.

### **Died in Committee of Secondary Reference**

- S.308 (Robach) Provides grant assistance for up to five thousand dollars for service dogs if a licensed physician deems them medically necessary
- S.542 (Funke) Relates to the report of programs available to survivors of domestic violence
- 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.1289 (Avella) Requires a study to evaluate the costs associated with the provision of child day care services

### **Died before Advancing to Calendar Reading (Died in Rules Committee)**

- 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.6293 (Lanza) Expands the crimes included in domestic violence to include identity theft, grand larceny and coercion, for purposes of assistance to victims thereof

- S.7051 (Ortt) Relates to allowing public welfare officials to withhold payment of rent to landlords who owe delinquent tax liabilities to local municipalities, school districts or counties

### **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.7743 (Serino) Provides supplemental security income for eligible individuals receiving enhanced residential care
- S.8599 (Ranzenhofer) Establishes the domestic violence accountability program; requires mandatory domestic violence counseling

### **Vetoed**

- S.8453 (Crocì) Instructs the office of temporary and disability assistance to apply for a waiver from the federal government to allow for the purchase of multivitamin-mineral dietary supplements with benefits through SNAP (Veto #305)

### **Signed Into Law**

- S.766 (Stewart-Cousins) Requires residential healthcare facilities to provide notices to patients when a temporary operator has been appointed (Chap. 401)
- S.8305 (Golden) Relates to services for victims of human trafficking including short-term and long-term safe housing (Chap. 238)