



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE**

ON AGING



**Senator Rachel May
Chair**

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**RACHEL MAY
SENATOR, 53RD DISTRICT**

Chair
Aging
Legislative Commission on Rural
Resources
Committees
Agriculture
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks
and Recreation
Elections
Environmental Conservation
Higher Education

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 803
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2838

District Office
State Office Building
Room 805
333 East Washington St.
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 478-8745
may@nysenate.gov

January 17, 2020

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 Aging for the 2019 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. I am very proud of our victory in the budget of securing enhanced funding for home and community-based services for older New Yorkers. This funding has helped area agencies on aging to clear waiting lists of clients - some in their 90s - in need of vital home-based services. Seniors are the fastest growing segment of our state's population, and we have to ensure we have the services and resources to support them in their daily living.

During the 2019 session, this committee met 4 times in session and reported 18 bills. The Committee also held participated in the Older New Yorkers Day Celebration honoring older volunteers from communities across the state in May of this past year. The Committee's work was enhanced by the presentations of several advocacy and research groups at Committee meetings and we look forward to continuing this practice during the 2020 Legislative Session.

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 cursive script that reads 'Rachel May'.

Rachel May
Senator 53rd District

**2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Senator Rachel May, Chairperson

Committee Members

Majority

Senator Joseph Addabbo
Senator Alessandra Biaggi
Senator Jose Serrano
Senator Kevin Thomas

Minority

Senator Sue Serino
Senator Chris Jacobs

Committee Staff

Kristin M. Williams – Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Aging has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning welfare, protection and support of the State's growing population of older individuals.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, 66 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 18 were reported from the Committee. Eleven of those bills were passed by the Senate, and 6 passed in both houses and were subsequently chaptered. This work was conducted through a series of 4 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 sponsored an Aging Advocacy Day in February, 2019 and welcomed many groups for discussion and recognition of the special needs of the aging populations and those which could be met by adequate appropriation in the 2019-20 budget.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

S5958 - To improve the State Office of the Aging's approach to LGBT populations through a series of measures including competency training, updates to the intake form that area agencies on aging use, and generally recognizing that this group of our population has a unique set of realities and needs especially as they age.

S4407 - This bill places new regulations on reverse mortgage products pertaining to the marketing, origination, and management of these products issued in New York State under the federal home equity conversion mortgage program for seniors in the hope of preventing defaults or foreclosures on mortgages.

S5780 - The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is an important advocate for older adults in long term care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult homes. This bill would extend the authorization of the LTCOP to advocate on behalf of managed long term care participants for two more years until December 31, 2021 and help to ensure older adults are receiving quality, appropriate care.

S4060 - To put in place a reminder mechanism for renewal for senior citizens enrolled in the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE). The program provides much needed assistance to senior citizens in New York City by supplementing their rent payments, thereby keeping them in their homes and out of nursing homes. This bill will make the renewal process simpler, help prevent expiration of benefits, and maintain continuity of services.

S5489 – This bill will require the state office for the aging to include reports on older adults who are primary caregivers or guardians of minors and on substance use disorders among older adults in such office's annual reports to the governor and legislature. These are two areas of growing importance among the state's older population and will now be considered by SOFA in their annual report.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2019, 6 of the 66 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Aging passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 6 and vetoed none of them.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S4060	Hoylman	Relates to requiring renewal notices for applications under the SCRIE program	Chapter 472 of 2019
S4285A	Carlucci	Relates to the community guardianship program	Chapter 579 of 2019
S4407	Gounardes	Provides for the regulation of federal home equity conversion mortgages	Chapter 581 of 2019
S5489	May	Requires the state office of aging to report on older adults who are primary caregivers or guardians of minors	Chapter 501 of 2019
S5780	May	Relates to long term care ombudsman access to assisted living facilities	Chapter 564 of 2019
S5958	May	Requires the director of the office for the aging to establish or approve a sexual discrimination training program	Chapter 721 of 2019

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

S1419	SERINO -- Relates to directing a report regarding calls received during extended hours of the Adult Protective Services line
S2187A	BAILEY -- Relates to income eligibility under the EPIC program
S2288	SANDERS -- Relates to requiring renewal notices for applications under the SCRIE program
S2313	SKOUFIS -- Relates to the definition of income in relation to the enhanced STAR exemption
S2373	CARLUCCI -- Provides for the establishment of the New York state home equity conversion information summary
S2521A	COMRIE -- Establishes a senior dental services grant program
S2912B	HOYLMAN -- Establishes the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender long-term care facility residents' bill of rights
S3291	COMRIE -- Provides for the creation of a drug guide for seniors regarding the drugs commonly used by people over 62 years of age
S3531	CARLUCCI -- Relates to calculations of enhanced STAR upon sale of a parcel of real property with such exemption
S3657B	KENNEDY -- Establishes the aging in place task force, and provides for its powers and duties
S4060	HOYLMAN -- Relates to requiring renewal notices for applications under the SCRIE program
S4407	GOUNARDES -- Provides for the regulation of federal home equity conversion mortgages
S4408	GOUNARDES -- Requires lenders foreclosing upon home equity conversion reverse mortgages to provide notice to the department of financial services and the mortgagors
S4609A	SAVINO -- Specifies procedures for the closure and/or decertification of assisted living residences
S5209A	SANDERS -- Relates to informal caregiver training
S5489	MAY -- Requires the state office for the aging to report on older adults who are primary caregivers or guardians of minors and on substance use disorders among older adults
S5557A	STEWART-COUSINS -- Increases the amount of income property owners may earn for the purpose of eligibility for the property tax exemption for persons over sixty-five years of age and persons with disabilities and limited income
S5780	MAY -- Relates to the effectiveness of certain provisions of chapter 462 of the laws of 2015 amending the elder law relating to long term care ombudsman access to assisted living facilities

Bills discharged from committee:

S2945B	STAVISKY -- Makes reclassification of rent controlled dwelling retroactive to time of decrease in income of members of household of dwelling
S4285A	CARLUCCI -- Relates to the community guardianship program
S5891	BIAGGI -- Establishes the elder abuse shelter aftercare demonstration program
S5958	MAY -- Requires the director of the office for the aging to establish or approve a sexual discrimination training program



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