



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Senator Peter Harckham
Chair

CHAIR
ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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January 2, 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 Alcoholism and Substance Abuse 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.

During the 2019 session this committee met four times, reported fifteen bills and held one public forum. Most importantly this committee realized that some battles are too large to fight alone and thus the creation of the Joint Senate Task Force On Opioids, Addiction & Overdose Prevention, the report from this committee will be available shortly.

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 "Peter B. Harckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Harckham" clearly distinguishable.

State Senator Peter Harckham
Chairman, Senate Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Committee

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Senator Peter Harckham, Chairman
Senator Frederick J. Akshar II, Ranking Member

Committee Members

Senator James Gaughran
Senator John Liu
Senator Monica Martinez
Senator Kevin S. Parker
Senator James N. Tedisco

Room 812, Legislative Office Building

Albany, NY 12247

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COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the treatment and prevention of substance use disorder, this year our committee's main focus was to destigmatize the disorder and expand treatment.

We began the first meeting discussing bills which would make educational material available to pharmacists that may be distributed with prescribed controlled substance and discussed updating the term "substance abuse" to "substance use". As well as changing language to expand the number of eligible crimes for a person to be diverted for substance use treatment.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, thirty bills were referred to the committee for its review. Of these bills, fifteen were reported from the committee. The Senate passed eight of these bills, and two passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of four 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 public forum regarding proposed marijuana legislation. This forum touched base on multiple topics including: Legalize vs. Decriminalize, safety of marijuana, prior convictions, disproportionate impact, revenue distribution, town & village opt-out, zoning control, DUI, costs to public safety education, prevention, and treatment. Overall, the public forum helped educate the committee and other legislators on the concerns and recommendations of constituents in regards to the proposed marijuana legislation.

By the end of the year, Governor Cuomo signed two bills that went through the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Of the two, one removed outdated and demeaning definitions related to addiction disorders and changed the name of the "Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse" to the "Office of Addiction Services and Supports" in order to destigmatize the disorder.

SUMMARY OF BILLS REPORTED TO COMMITTEE

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S.379	Lanza	Relates to the distribution of educational materials regarding the misuse of and addiction to prescription drugs in counties with the most prevalent abuse of prescription opioids.	Committed to Rules
S.1977	Addabbo	Relates to compulsive gambling assistance.	Committed to Rules
S.2167A	Bailey	Promotes the education of the human trafficking information and referral hotline to assist persons in freeing themselves from severe acts of sex trafficking.	Reported and Committed to Finance
S.2172A	Bailey	Relates to a judicial diversion program for certain felony offenders	Committed to Rules
S.2507	Kaplan	Requires the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services to develop training materials for screening for alcoholism and chemical dependency	Referred to Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
S.3103	Biaggi	Establishes the problem gambling advisory council.	Committed to Rules
S.4496	Martinez	Creates a recovery living task force.	Referred to Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
S.4499	Harckham	Establishes an online directory for distributors of opioid antagonists.	Referred to ways and means
S.4599	Parker	Relates to creating the chemical dependence treatment bill of rights to be posted in a conspicuous place in all treatment facilities.	Referred to Ways and Means
S.4650	Sanders	Relates to reporting on the status and outcomes of initiatives created in response to the heroin and opioid epidemic.	Chapter 493
S.4741	Harckham	Relates to notice to certain persons of a patient previously treated in a chemical dependence program or facility.	Referred to Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
S.5440	Harckham	Establishes the council for treatment equity within the office of alcoholism and substance abuse.	Reported and committed to Finance
S.5457	Harckham	Authorizes the use of opioid antagonists by public accommodations for opioid overdose prevention.	Referred to Health
S.6361	Carlucci	Relates to information regarding the use of opioid antagonists for first aid or emergency treatment.	Chapter 504
S.6591	Carlucci	Relates to renaming the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services to be the office of addiction services and supports.	Chapter 281



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