



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

# NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON CITIES



**Senator Robert Jackson**  
**Chair**



**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
306 Legislative Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12247  
Phone: (518) 455-2041

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
5030 Broadway, Rm. 701  
New York, NY 10034  
Phone: (212) 544-0173

EMAIL: JACKSON@NYSENATE.GOV  
WEBSITE: JACKSON.NYSENATE.GOV



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**ROBERT JACKSON**  
SENATOR, 31<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

**CHAIRPERSON**

Cities

**COMMITTEE MEMBER:**

Civil Service and Pensions  
Education  
Higher Education  
Housing, Construction and  
Community Development  
Labor  
New York City Education

**MEMBER**

New York State Black, Puerto Rican,  
Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus

12/18/2019

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 Cities 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 6 times in session and reported 25 bills.

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 that reads 'Robert Jackson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Jackson  
Senator, 31st District

**2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES**

**Senator Robert Jackson, Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Leroy Comrie Senator Brad Hoylman Senator Brian Kavanagh Senator Jessica Ramos	Senator Andrew Lanza Senator Rich Funke
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Committee Staff

Bernard Mulligan, Committee Clerk  
Sowaibah Shahbaz, Executive Assistant  
Matthew Levy, Policy Director

## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Cities has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues arising under General City Law (except select provisions covered by the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications), Second Class Cities Law, General Municipal Law (where referring to those cities with a population of one million or more), and Municipal Home Rule Law (which is also covered by the Committee on Local Government and includes New York City). The Committee considers issues particular to New York City, including the NYC Administrative Code (not all provisions), the NYC Charter, Real Property Tax Law affecting NYC, and issues arising under the General Business Law relating to New York City, or Real Property Tax Law relating to New York City.

During the 2019 Legislative Session 100 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 25 were reported from the Committee. 12 bills were passed by the Senate, and 8 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 6 committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2019:

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S1479	Hoylman	Requires the New York city department of buildings to confirm that there are no tenants living at certain properties prior to approving or issuing permits for demolition or substantial alteration	Committed to Rules
S2555	Stavisky	Provides elderly individuals water relief in N.Y. city	Amended and recommitted to Finance
S5723	Jackson	Relates to prohibiting school buses from parking overnight on a city	Referred to Assembly
S1969	Sanders	Requires the commissioner of the administration of children's services to obtain an order of consent before allowing experimental drug testing on certain children	Committed to Rules
S26	Hoylman	Requires that any disposition of land or buildings by the New York City Housing Authority be subject to and comply with the provisions of New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure	Committed to Rules
S1206	Ritchie	Requires restaurants that offer online delivery services to post their most recent sanitary inspection grade on their website	Reported and Committed to Health
S1966A	Gounardes	Relates to the number of alternate physicians who may be appointed	Chapter 249
S3628	Ramos	Relates to enabling N.Y. city to impose taxes on certain motor vehicles	Amend and recommit to Finance
S1556	Serrano	Relates to the sale, lease or other disposition of property of the city, the NYC department of education, the NYC educational construction fund and the NYC school construction authority	Committed to Rules

S15	Hoylman	Requires the division of housing and community renewal to calculate the period of rent reduction due to diminution of services from the date of actual diminution of the services	Committed to Rules
S811	Lanza	Relates to the declaration of a sign as a public nuisance and its removal	Committed to Rules
S4832	Felder	Requires all agencies of the city of New York which issue summons to document violations with photographic evidence when feasible	Committed to Rules

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2019, 8 of the 25 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Cities passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed seven and vetoed one.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S1588	Sanders	Relates to members of the police force who use hearing assistance devices and the definition of disabled	Chapter 341
S1966A	Gounardes	This bill grants the New York City Employees' Retirement system (NYCERS) medical board, commissioner of health and the Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services up to eight appointments for physicians to serve on the medical board. It provides that any three physicians from this pool of appointments may form a group to evaluate applicants for disability pensions.	Chapter 249
S2388	Lanza	Extends, until December 31, 2020, the authorization of residential property owners in high risk brush fire areas on Staten Island to cut and remove reeds	Chapter 393
S4118C	Liu	Relates to the repair or replacement of damaged residential lateral sewer and water pipes	Veto 217
S5246A	Gounardes	This bill gives retirees of NYC fire department diagnosed with certain cancers at a certain time a presumption that the cancer was	Chapter 250



		<p>incurred in the performance of duties. This is to ensure disability retirement benefits are available to members that qualify under this bill.</p>	
S5438	Metzger	<p>This bill mitigates the applicability of plumbing and drainage provisions to the City of Middletown. It exempts it from article four of the General City Law, except section 56-a, which requires the city maintain a board of plumbing examiners that is charged with the licensing of master plumbers authorized to do business in the city.</p>	Chapter 419
S6148	Addabbo	<p>This bill allows those residing in Breezy Point to continue rebuilding their homes following Hurricane Sandy. This act authorizes the reinstatement of prior approved work permits and waiving the requirements.</p>	Chapter 83

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S1479	Hoylman	Requires the New York city department of buildings to confirm that there are no tenants living at certain properties prior to approving or issuing permits for the demolition or the substantial alteration or renovation of such properties.	Reported from committee
S2388	Lanza	Extends, until December 31, 2020, the authorization of residential property owners in high risk brush fire areas on Staten Island to cut and remove reeds	Chapter 393
S2555	Stavisky	This bill would permit an exemption from further water rate increases to individuals in a city having a population of one million or more that have a primary residence or sole domicile in the city and are at least 62 years of age with a household income of \$50,000 or less for two consecutive tax years.	Reported from committee
S2819	Comrie	This bill prohibits the city of New York from increasing property taxes where a property's assessed value has decreased in the previous year; applies only to class one and class two properties.	Reported from committee
S26	Hoylman	An act to require that any disposition of land or buildings by the New York City Housing Authority be subject to and comply with the provisions of New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure.	Reported from committee

S1206	Ritchie	Requires restaurants that offer online delivery services to post their most recent sanitary inspection grade on their website and/or any internet-based food delivery service websites where consumers can order from such food service establishment.	Reported from committee
S3215	Comrie	Provides for increased fines for overnight parking of tractor-trailer combinations, tractors, truck trailers and semi-trailers on residential streets in NYC.	Reported from committee
S1966A	Gounardes	This bill grants the New York City Employees' Retirement system (NYCERS) medical board, commissioner of health and the Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services up to eight appointments for physicians to serve on the medical board. It provides that any three physicians from this pool of appointments may form a group to evaluate applicants for disability pensions.	Chapter 214
S2729	Krueger	This bill ensures that no sidewalk shed permit be renewed unless such sidewalk shedding is being used as part of an ongoing construction project.	Reported from committee
S3628	Ramos	This bill makes the annual commercial motor vehicle tax rate for medallion taxi-cabs equal to the rate paid by other vehicles that transport passengers in cities of one million or more.	Reported from committee
S1556	Serrano	This bill mandates that any disposition of public lands or buildings by the New York City Department of Education, New York City Educational Construction Fund, and the New York City School Construction Authority must go through the New York City's Uniform	Reported from committee

		Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).	
S2431	Serrano	This bill would increase the earned income tax credit against the city of New York's personal income tax from five to fifteen percent.	Reported from committee
S4118A	Liu	Requires public utility companies to repair or replace all damaged residential lateral sewer and water pipes where such damage was caused by such public utility company.	Veto 217
S15	Hoylman	This bill directs that Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) that any rent reduction for diminution of services should be effective for the entire period for which it is found that the services have not been maintained.	Reported from committee
S811	Lanza	This bill removes billboards that have been found to violate the New York zoning resolution, as well as the structures attached to them.	Reported from committee
S1078	Persaud	This bill adds a civil penalty for any person who fails to comply with a stop work order in the amount of five ten thousand dollars for initial violation and ten twenty thousand dollars for every subsequent violation, to be paid to the department.	Reported from committee
S2553	Stavisky	This bill codifies existing policy in NYC regarding a "trees and sidewalk repair" program and extending the program beyond class one properties to include cooperative and condominium properties that are in whole or in part owner occupied and used exclusively for residential purposes as well as houses of worship.	Reported from committee

S4832	Felder	This bill requires all agencies of the city of New York which issue summons to document violations with photographic evidence when feasible.	Reported from committee
S5246A	Gounardes	This bill gives retirees of NYC fire department diagnosed with certain cancers at a certain time a presumption that the cancer was incurred in the performance of duties. This is to ensure disability retirement benefits are available to members that qualify under this bill.	Chapter 250
S5339	Comrie	This bill requires written request, including environmental impact statement, and review by community boards, borough presidents and the council of proposed reductions in the level of fire services, including closure of firehouses or removal or relocation of firefighting units.	Reported from committee
S5438	Metzger	This bill mitigates the applicability of plumbing and drainage provisions to the City of Middletown. It exempts it from article four of the General City Law, except section 56-a, which requires the city maintain a board of plumbing examiners that is charged with the licensing of master plumbers authorized to do business in the city.	Chapter 419
S1588	Sanders	This bill ensures that members of the police force who can fully perform police duties with the use of a hearing assistance device not be labeled "disabled."	Chapter 341
S1969	Sanders	This bill requires the New York city commissioner of the administration of children's services to obtain an order of consent from the court before allowing experimental drug testing on children under the care and/or control of the administration of children's services.	Reported from committee

S5723	Jackson	This bill relates to prohibiting school buses from parking overnight on a city street.	Reported from committee
S6148	Addabbo	This bill allows those residing in Breezy Point to continue rebuilding their homes following Hurricane Sandy. This act authorizes the reinstatement of prior approved work permits and waiving the requirements.	Chapter 83





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