



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES



Senator Robert Jackson
Chair

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ROBERT JACKSON
SENATOR, 31ST 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

December 21, 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 Cities for the 2020 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction,

During the 2020 session, this committee met three times in session and reported 15 bills. The Committee also held one hearing this past year.

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.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Jackson
Senator, 31st District

2020 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

Matthew D. Levy, Policy Director
Chris Alexander, Committee Counsel
Bernie Mulligan, Committee Clerk
Sowaibah Shahbaz, Executive Assistant

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Cities has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning 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 2020 Legislative Session, 110 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 15 were reported from the Committee. Three were passed by the Senate, and one passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of three 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 hearing. Topics of this hearing included recommendations on how to approach and mitigate the disproportionate adverse impacts of COVID-19 on minority communities, which may include disparate impacts to industries, services and local governments and institutions including the surrounding health care system, through enhanced federal funding and appropriate policy initiatives.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2020:

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S26	Hoylman	This bill 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.	Advanced to Third Reading
S811	Lanza	This bill would require the removal of billboards that have been found to violate the New York zoning resolution, as well as the structures attached to them.	Advanced to Third Reading
S2819	Comrie	This bill would prohibit New York City from increasing property taxes on Class 1 or Class 2 properties where a property's assessed value has decreased in the previous year.	Reported and Committed to Finance
S4337	Serrano	This bill would reduce waste management costs for New York City by requiring recycling in parks, historic sites, and other facilities, as well as encouraging users of these facilities to carry out the waste they generate.	Passed the Senate Only
S5723	Jackson	This bill would prohibit school buses from parking on New York City streets overnight.	Passed the Senate Only

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, 1 of the 15 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Cities passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed one.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S7538	Borrello	This bill would exempt plumbing inspectors in the city of Jamestown from being required to live in the city of Jamestown.	Chapter 173 of 2020

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S26	Hoylman	This bill 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.	Reported from Committee
S811	Lanza	This bill would require the removal of 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 would increase fines for individuals who fail to comply with a stop work order; increase fines from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for initial violation and \$12,000 to \$20,000 for subsequent violations.	Reported from Committee
S2553	Stavisky	This bill requires New York City to repair any sidewalk damaged by a tree under its exclusive care that is adjacent to any class one property, class two condo or coop, or any house of religious worship.	Reported from Committee
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
S2819	Comrie	This bill would prohibit New York City from increasing property taxes on Class 1 or Class 2 properties where a property's assessed value has decreased in the previous year.	Reported from Committee
S4337	Serrano	This bill would reduce waste management costs for New York City by requiring recycling in parks, historic sites, and other facilities, as well as encouraging users of these facilities to carry out the waste they generate.	Passed the Senate Only
S5339	Comrie	This bill requires a written request, including an 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 fire fighting units.	Reported from Committee

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