



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS



**SENATOR
ALESSANDRA BIAGGI**
CHAIR



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

ALBANY, NY 12247

ALESSANDRA R. BIAGGI
SENATOR

December 14, 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 Ethics and Internal Governance 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 six 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.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' and 'B' followed by a flourish.

Alessandra R. Biaggi
New York State Senator, 34th District

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

Senator Biaggi, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey	Senator Andrew J. Lanza
Senator Neil D. Breslin	Senator Daphne Jordan
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky	Senator Thomas O'Mara

COMMITTEE STAFF

Leanne Evans- Committee Clerk

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning policies of the Senate, including, but not limited to: per diem and travel expenses, time and attendance, and workplace ethics.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, **20** bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, **6** were reported from the Committee. **0** were passed by the Senate, and **0** passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of **3** 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 2020:

- S445 Hoylman - Repeals provisions of law restricting public access to records of the joint commission on public ethics and the legislative ethics commission
- S2774A Comrie - Requires public officers and public bodies to make reasonable efforts to provide qualified interpreters at no charge for the hearing impaired at public meetings and hearings upon written request to the public officer responsible for the siting of such hearing; also requires installation and use of assistive listening devices.
- S3287 Krueger - Creates the non-partisan legislative budget office; directs such office shall provide information to legislative committees of the senate and assembly with respect to the state budget, appropriation bills and other bills providing budget authority or tax expenditures; requires such office to report to the temporary president of the senate, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly and the assembly minority leader.
- S3747A Kennedy - Prohibits officers or employees of a state agency, members of the legislature or legislative employees from committing acts of sexual harassment while serving in his or her official capacity.
- S5148A Biaggi - Prohibits campaign contributions to candidates for state senate and assembly by certain members of the legislative ethics commission; provides an exemption that permits present members of the legislature to make campaign contributions; imposes penalties.
- S7555 Kaminsky - Prohibits elected officials and persons in a leadership position of a party committee from receiving compensation for legal fees, consulting, or other work performed for an industrial development agency, an economic assistance corporation or state or local authority.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, 0 of the 20 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance passed both houses of the Legislature.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S445	Hoylman	Repeals provisions of law restricting public access to records of the joint commission on public ethics and the legislative ethics commission.	Reported from committee
S2774A	Comrie	Requires public officers and public bodies to make reasonable efforts to provide qualified interpreters at no charge for the hearing impaired at public meetings and hearings upon written request to the public officer responsible for the siting of such hearing; also requires installation and use of assistive listening devices.	Reported from committee
S3287	Krueger	Creates the non-partisan legislative budget office; directs such office shall provide information to legislative committees of the senate and assembly with respect to the state budget, appropriation bills and other bills providing budget authority or tax expenditures; requires such office to report to the temporary president of the senate, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly and the assembly minority leader.	Reported from committee
S3747A	Kennedy	Prohibits officers or employees of a state agency, members of the legislature or legislative employees from committing acts of sexual harassment while serving in his or her official capacity.	Reported from committee
S5148A	Biaggi	Prohibits campaign contributions to candidates for state senate and assembly by certain members of the legislative ethics commission; provides an exemption that permits present members of the legislature to make campaign contributions; imposes penalties.	Reported from committee
S7555	Kaminsky	Prohibits elected officials and persons in a leadership position of a party committee from receiving compensation for legal fees, consulting, or other work performed for an industrial development agency, an economic assistance corporation or state or local authority.	Reported from committee



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