



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON

## ALCOHOLISM & SUBSTANCE ABUSE



# SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM CHAIR



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**PETER B. HARCKHAM**  
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT

**CHAIR**

ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**COMMITTEES**

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

FINANCE

INSURANCE

VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

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December 2021

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 2021 Legislative Session. As Chairman, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. The committee is committed to supporting New York's addiction services and supports, as well as its oversight of professional substance use counselors and prevention practitioners.

During the 2021 session, this committee met four times in session and reported nineteen 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 "Peter B. Harckham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Harckham  
Senator, 40th District

# **2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**Senator Peter Harckham, Chairman**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Senator Samra G. Brouk      Senator Peter Oberacker, *Ranking Member*  
Senator Michelle Hinchey      Senator Fred Akshar  
Senator Anna M. Kaplan  
Senator Gustavo Rivera

### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Carolyn Sheridan - Counsel  
Joelle Foskett - Legislative Director  
Sarah Perez - Committee Clerk

## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning New York's addiction services and supports, as well as its oversight of professional substance use counselors and prevention practitioners. The committee's jurisdiction covers New York's Substance Use Disorder systems of care including prevention, treatment, and recovery.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, twenty-nine bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, nineteen were reported from the Committee. Fifteen were passed by the Senate, and six 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.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

For the 2021 Session, the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse focused on treatment equity, expansion of recovery support services, concurring disorders, data collection, and safeguarding of federal aid in relation to substance use providers.

This committee is an advocate for treatment equity and expansion of recovery support services. Disparities in the quality and access to care, existing among vulnerable and marginalized communities disproportionately impacting recovery and health outcomes. Bill S.679A by Senator Harckham, which is currently awaiting the Governor's approval, will establish a Council for Treatment Equity and the Treatment Equity Advisory Board.

This year the Senate passed S.1416 which seeks to create a pathway for recovery homes to become certified by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). Such voluntary certification would allow for recovery homes to become uniform on their standards and procedures while creating a pathway for reimbursement. Additionally, this committee reported S.1417 by Senator Harckham which was included in the state's FY 2021 budget. Such legislation enacted the "addiction recovery supportive transportation services demonstration program" which will enable two pilot programs, one rural, and one in an urban setting. The addiction recovery supportive transportation services demonstration program aids those in recovery by providing transportation to and from vital locations not covered by insurance like recovery meetings, school, work, and shopping locations.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented increase in overdose deaths with opioid involvement. Given the increase in overdose, this committee has concerns with the lack of up-to-date data available to monitor overdoses. Bills S.5128A which passed the Senate by Senator Harckham utilizes emergency room syndromic surveillance systems relating to non-fatal overdoses to get earlier access to overdose trends and to standardize the information captured from county to county. While bill S.6571 by Senator Hinchey, which is currently awaiting the Governor's approval, will ensure that the current quarterly reports include data on overdoses for non-opioid deaths, including alcohol and will make such reporting requirements permanent. These bills are necessary to not only understand the magnitude of the opioid crisis but to ensure that the state's budget accurately reflects the growing need for services.

Executive Orders resulted in increased operating costs, and in return many substance use treatment providers applied for extraordinary federal loans. Which were incentivized with loan forgiveness if applicants were able to maintain staffing levels. Given the financial instability of treatment providers, it would be a complete disservice to consider these federal loans a source of revenue. Senator Harckham's bill S.5066 which is currently awaiting the Governor's approval, would ensure that extraordinary federal loans are not considered a source of revenue allowing providers to be held harmless to these circumstances.

Most notably the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has been working collaboratively with the Committee on Mental Health to integrate care and ensure that people with concurrent disorders are being treated as a whole person while removing barriers to treatment. Senator Harckham's bill S.5084B, which has passed the Senate, takes the approach of merging the Office of Addiction Services and Supports and the Office of Mental Health.

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, six of the thirty bills referred to the Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed six and vetoed zero.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S361A	Persaud	Relates to approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience for counselors	Chapter 449 of 2021
S412A	Biaggi	Relates to gambling and the creation of a self-exclusion request for removal form	Chapter 564 of 2021
S679A	Harckham	Establishes the council for treatment equity within the office of addiction services and supports	Chapter 762 of 2021
S5066A	Harckham	Relates to operating costs for substance abuse providers receiving federal aid	Chapter 788 of 2021
S6044	Harckham	Establishes an online directory of distributors of opioid antagonists	Chapter 434 of 2021
S6571	Hinchey	Requires reporting of alcohol overdose data; and makes opioid overdose reporting requirements permanent	Chapter 741 of 2021

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S345	Kaplan	Requires the office of addiction services and supports to develop training materials for screening for alcoholism and chemical dependency	Passed Senate Only
S361A	Persaud	Relates to approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience for counselors	Chapter 449 of 2021
S409	Biaggi	Establishes the problem gambling advisory council	Passed Senate Only
S412A	Biaggi	Relates to gambling and the creation of a self-exclusion request for removal form	Chapter 564 of 2021
S679A	Harckham	Establishes the council for treatment equity within the office of addiction services and supports	Chapter 762 of 2021
S1416	Harckham	Relates to certifying recovery living residences	Passed Senate Only
S1417	Harckham	Establishes an addiction recovery supportive transportation services demonstration program	Reported from Committee
S1682	Bailey	Relates to a judicial diversion program for certain felony offenders	Passed Senate Only
S2976	Harckham	Relates to providing discharged patients with opioid overdose education and opioid antagonists for take home use	Passed Senate Only
S2980A	Harckham	Directs a review and report concerning the prescribing and treatment history of persons in this state who suffered fatal and nonfatal opiate overdoses	Reported from Committee
S3374A	Bailey	Promotes the education of the human trafficking information and referral hotline to assist persons in freeing themselves from severe acts of sex trafficking	Passed Senate Only
S4207	Addabbo	Relates to compulsive gambling assistance	Passed Senate Only
S5054	Parker	Relates to creating the chemical dependence treatment bill of rights to be posted in a conspicuous place in all treatment facilities	Passed Senate Only
S5066A	Harckham	Relates to operating costs for substance abuse providers receiving federal aid	Chapter 788 of 2021



<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S5084B	Harckham	Establishes the office of addiction and mental health services	Passed Senate Only
S5128A	Harckham	Requires the New York state department of health to collect and report data concerning non-fatal overdoses	Passed Senate Only
S6044	Harckham	Establishes an online directory for distributors of opioid antagonists	Chapter 434 of 2021
S6319	Harckham	Relates to setting standards for addiction professionals	Reported from Committee
S6571	Hinchey	Requires reporting of alcohol overdose data; and makes opioid overdose reporting requirements permanent	Chapter 741 of 2021







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STANDING COMMITTEE**

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