



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS



SENATOR
ZELLNOR Y. MYRIE
CHAIR

CHAIRMAN
ELECTIONS
COMMITTEES
CODES
CONSUMER PROTECTION
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY
SOCIAL SERVICES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
20TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 903
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2410
FAX: (518) 426-6856

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1077 NOSTRAND AVE., GROUND FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY 11225
(718) 284-4700
FAX: (718) 282-3585

EMAIL ADDRESS:
MYRIE@NYSenate.GOV

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 Elections 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.

During the 2021 session, this committee met four times in session and reported 49 bills. The Committee also held five hearings 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zellnor Y. Myrie", written in a cursive style.

Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
20th Senatorial District

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie, Chairperson

Committee Members

| Majority | Minority |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Senator Samra G. Brouk Senator Brian Kavanaugh Senator Rachel May Senator Shelley B. Mayer | Senator Edward A. Rath, III Senator Patty Ritchie |

Committee Staff

Matthew Baer, Director of Policy and Communications

Justin Perkins, Legislative Director

Jake Eisland, Legislative Fellow

Victoria Garcia, Legislative Aide/Committee Clerk

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning election security, voter registration, and State of Board Elections practices and procedures.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, 226 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 49 were reported from the Committee. 26 were passed by the Senate, and 18 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 five hearings. Topics of these hearings included collecting testimony from voters, poll workers, elections officials, advocates, and scholars following the results tabulation errors made by the New York City Board of Elections. These witnesses described their first-hand experiences as New York voters and the challenges they faced while doing their civic duty. In essence, many of these voters witnessed the structural flaws within our electoral system which disenfranchised people of color, low-income voters, voters with physical disabilities, or voters whose primary language is not English. The conclusion of the hearings led us to consider changes that would have the greatest impact on improving the system.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2021:

| Bill | Sponsor | Summary | Action |
|--------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| S264 | MYRIE | Relates to absentee voting application deadlines | SIGNED, CHAPTER #273 |
| S830B | COMRIE | Relates to voting and registration for voting by formerly incarcerated individuals convicted of a felony and to repeal certain provisions of the election law relating thereto | SIGNED, CHAPTER #103 |
| S1555A | MYRIE | Relates to the confidentiality of registration records for victims of domestic violence | SIGNED, CHAPTER #521 |
| S2733 | MAY | Reduces the number of signatures for designating petitions | SIGNED, CHAPTER #22 |
| S6126 | MAYER | Requires the posting of information concerning a change in the location of a polling place | SIGNED, CHAPTER #241 |
| S6395A | COMRIE | Provides an online absentee ballot tracking system | Delivered to Governor |
| S6482B | MYRIE | Establishes an electronic absentee ballot application transmittal system | Delivered to Governor |

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, 18 of the 226 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Elections passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 14 and vetoed 0. In addition, four bills remain to be acted on by the Governor.

| Bill | Sponsor | Summary | Action |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| S264 | MYRIE | Relates to absentee voting application deadlines | SIGNED, CHAPTER #273 |
| S613A | MAY | Relates to candidate declination | SIGNED, CHAPTER #276 |
| S830B | COMRIE | Relates to voting and registration for voting by formerly incarcerated individuals convicted of a felony and to repeal certain provisions of the election law relating thereto | SIGNED, CHAPTER #103 |
| S1027A | GIANARIS | Relates to the canvassing of absentee, military and special ballots and ballots cast in affidavit envelopes; repealer | Delivered to Governor |
| S1133 | LIU | Relates to the definition of the term name for purposes of designating or nominating a candidate for public office or party position | SIGNED, CHAPTER #490 |
| S1277A | KRUEGER | Provides for online and in-person instruction and examination of election inspectors, poll clerks and election coordinators | SIGNED, CHAPTER #310 |
| S1555A | MYRIE | Relates to the confidentiality of registration records for victims of domestic violence | SIGNED, CHAPTER #521 |
| S1644 | COONEY | Relates to absentee voting by residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities | SIGNED, CHAPTER #279 |
| S2733 | MAY | Reduces the number of signatures for designating petitions | SIGNED, CHAPTER #22 |

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|--------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| S4306B | GIANARIS | Relates to enacting the "Make Voting Easy Act" to require the board of elections to designate at least one early voting polling place for every thirty thousand registered voters in each county | Delivered to Governor |
| S5256A | HARCKHAM | Relates to the number of signatures of enrolled voters needed on a designating petition for any town office and the number of signatures required on a designating petition for a village election | SIGNED, CHAPTER #81 |
| S6125 | BRESLIN | Authorizes a change of location of early voting polling places for certain special, primary and run-off primary elections | SIGNED, CHAPTER #110 |
| S6126 | MAYER | Requires the posting of information concerning a change in the location of a polling place | SIGNED, CHAPTER #241 |
| S6379 | JACKSON | Relates to electronic applications for absentee ballots; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof | SIGNED, CHAPTER #249 |
| S6395A | COMRIE | Provides an online absentee ballot tracking system | Delivered to Governor |
| S6429 | GIANARIS | Relates to the mailing and receipt of absentee ballots; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof | SIGNED, CHAPTER #250 |
| S6482B | MYRIE | Establishes an electronic absentee ballot application transmittal system | Delivered to Governor |
| S6855 | MYRIE | Increases the number of registrants an election district may contain with the approval of the county board of elections | SIGNED, CHAPTER #260 |

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

| Bill | Sponsor | Summary | Action |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| S91A | KAMINSKY | Relates to the disposition of campaign funds upon the conviction of a felony of a candidate, former candidate or holder of elective office | Committed to Rules |
| S253 | MYRIE | Relates to ballots where the express intent of the voter is unambiguous | Passed Senate Only |
| S264 | MYRIE | Relates to absentee voting application deadlines | SIGNED, CHAPTER #273 |
| S284A | MYRIE | Requires counting affidavit ballots of eligible voters if a voter appears at a polling place in the correct county but in the incorrect election district | Passed Senate Only |
| S286A | MYRIE | Relates to availability of electronic ballot images | Passed Senate Only |
| S309A | MYRIE | Relates to construction of voting machines and systems | Passed Senate Only |
| S483A | MYRIE | Relates to government vendor contributions | Passed Senate Only |
| S492 | HOYLMAN | Authorizes boards of elections to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations | Passed Senate Only |
| S516 | GIANARIS | Relates to the time period during which absentee ballots shall be mailed or delivered after an application for such ballot is received by the board of elections | Passed Senate Only |
| S518A | KAPLAN | Relates to the number and location of early voting polling sites | Committed to Rules |
| S557 | MAY | Establishes portable polling locations for early voting | Passed Senate Only |
| S600 | BENJAMIN | Requires the state board of elections to develop a program to be administered by all boards of elections to notify voters of certain information where their area has been redistricted | Referred to Ways and Means |

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|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| S613A | MAY | Relates to candidate declination | SIGNED, CHAPTER #276 |
| S631 | SALAZAR | Relates to requests for absentee ballots | Passed Senate Only |
| S632 | JACKSON | Relates to absentee voting | Passed Senate Only |
| S741 | BIAGGI | Relates to the use of campaign funds for any settlement fees, fines or penalties for sexual harassment civil or criminal actions | Passed Senate Only |
| S744 | BIAGGI | Relates to the location of early voting polling sites | Committed to Rules |
| S830B | COMRIE | Relates to voting and registration for voting by formerly incarcerated individuals convicted of a felony and to repeal certain provisions of the election law relating thereto | SIGNED, CHAPTER #103 |
| S1027A | GIANARIS | Relates to the canvassing of absentee, military and special ballots and ballots cast in affidavit envelopes; repealer | Delivered to Governor |
| S1028 | COMRIE | Relates to absentee ballot tracking | Passed Senate Only |
| S1126A | GIANARIS | Enacts the democracy preservation act | Passed Senate Only |
| S1133 | LIU | Relates to the definition of the term name for purposes of designating or nominating a candidate for public office or party position | SIGNED, CHAPTER #490 |
| S1277A | KRUEGER | Provides for online and in-person instruction and examination of election inspectors, poll clerks and election coordinators | SIGNED, CHAPTER #310 |
| S1283 | KAMINSKY | Relates to the order in which candidates appear on the ballot | Passed Senate Only |
| S1485 | GAUGHRAN | Relates to the number of early voting polling sites | Committed to Rules |
| S1555A | MYRIE | Relates to the confidentiality of registration records for victims of domestic violence | SIGNED, CHAPTER #521 |
| S1632 | MAYER | Relates to absentee voting during village elections | Passed Senate Only |

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|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S1644 | COONEY | Relates to absentee voting by residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities | SIGNED, CHAPTER #279 |
| S1705A | HINCHEY | Authorizes party designations and nominations for all elections to be made via video teleconference or web conference | Passed Senate Only |
| S1851 | SKOUFIS | Relates to state party names | Passed Senate Only |
| S2733 | MAY | Reduces the number of signatures for designating petitions | SIGNED, CHAPTER #22 |
| S2951 | KAVANAGH | Reduces the time for mailing and receipt of registration application to constitutional minimum | Passed Senate Only |
| S3855 | KENNEDY | Relates to authorizing registration records of victims of sexual violence to be kept confidential in certain cases | Passed Senate Only |
| S4210 | STAVISKY | Provides that absentee ballots for all elections shall be made available in Braille, upon request of a blind or visually impaired voter | Reported and Committed to Finance |
| S4306B | GIANARIS | Relates to enacting the "Make Voting Easy Act" to require the board of elections to designate at least one early voting polling place for every thirty thousand registered voters in each county | Delivered to Governor |
| S4413 | MAY | Relates to specification of objections to designating petitions, independent nominating petitions, certificates of nomination or ballot access documents | Passed Senate Only |
| S4542A | MAYER | Prohibits conflicts of interest among board of elections employees | Passed Senate Only |
| S4658 | PARKER | Makes provisions regarding the designation of polling places on college campuses | Passed Senate Only |
| S4723 | KAMINSKY | Authorizes full-time college students to act as election inspectors and poll clerks in the election district where their colleges are located | Passed Senate Only |

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|--------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| S5256A | HARCKHAM | Relates to the number of signatures of enrolled voters needed on a designating petition for any town office and the number of signatures required on a designating petition for a village election | SIGNED, CHAPTER #81 |
| S5800 | COMRIE | Relates to mandatory training curriculum; and to model poll worker training programs | Passed Senate Only |
| S6214 | MYRIE | Provides that a voter may register to vote at any residence to which the voter maintains a continuous connection with an intent to return | Passed Senate Only |
| S6215 | BRESLIN | Authorizes a change of location of early voting polling places for certain special, primary and run-off primary elections | SIGNED, CHAPTER #110 |
| S6126 | MAYER | Requires the posting of information concerning a change in the location of a polling place | SIGNED, CHAPTER #241 |
| S6379 | JACKSON | Relates to electronic applications for absentee ballots; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof | SIGNED, CHAPTER #249 |
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