

Annual Report 2022

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# New York State Senate Standing Committee on **Local Government** **Senator James F. Gaughran**

Chair



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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore  
NYS Senate Majority Leader



**CHAIR**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**COMMITTEES**

CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND  
COMMISSIONS  
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

**NEW YORK**  
**STATE**  
**SENATE**



**SENATOR JAMES F. GAUGHRAN**  
**SENATOR, 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
485 UNDERHILL BLVD.  
SUITE 102  
SYOSSET, NY 11791  
(516) 922-1811

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
848 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3250

GAUGHRAN@NYSENATE.GOV

December 14, 2022

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 Local Government for the 2022 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction,

During the 2022 session, this committee met six times in session and reported 74 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 "James F. Gaughran".

James F. Gaughran  
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Local Government  
Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District



2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON Local Government

Senator James F. Gaughran, Chairperson

Committee Members

James F. Gaughran, <i>Chair</i> John E. Brooks Michelle Hinchey Elijah Reichlin-Melnick Kevin Thomas	Edward A. Rath, <i>Ranking Member</i> George M. Borrello
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Committee Staff

Chelsea Lemon, Committee Director  
Emma Wallach, Associate Counsel  
Frank Vanca, Senior Budget Analyst



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Local Government has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning counties, cities, towns, and villages, as well as issues affecting volunteer ambulance workers and firefighters.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, 379 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 74 were reported from the Committee. 64 were passed by the Senate, and 30 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 2022:

- **S3256/Comrie:** *On the Governor's Desk. This bill requires that prior to final approval, an IDA must provide notice and confirm delivery of such notice, of any projects proposed for development or deviation to affected local taxing jurisdictions and school districts. This promotes transparency and coordination amongst stakeholders without inhibiting economic growth or adversely affecting school district revenues or local taxpayers.*
- **S3527B/Bailey:** *Reported from Committee. The last raise for 18-b assigned counsel attorneys, who provide legal representation to children and indigent persons, was in 2004 to \$75/hour. This is far below the average rate of compensation for attorneys in NYS. This legislation raises the rate to \$150/hour in an effort to maintain the quality of attorneys available and attract experienced and qualified attorneys.*
- **S4471A/Mannion:** *On the Governor's Desk. This bill requires IDAs notify local taxing jurisdictions within two years of the expiration of a PILOT, or immediately in the event of an early termination. This coupled, with S3256, increases communication and transparency, while allowing for taxing jurisdictions to adequately plan budgets.*
- **S7186A/Brooks:** *Passed Senate. Also known as the "EMS Cost Recovery Act," this bill allows volunteer fire department to recover costs for emergency medical services rendered. This bill was included in the Enacted 2022-23 New York State Budget and now joins the nation in allowing cost recovery for volunteer fire department EMS services while providing over \$100 million in local property tax relief across the state.*
- **S7399A/Gaughran:** *Chapter 654 of 2022. In 2021, a law was enacted that allowed local governments the ability to provide additional Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) credits to volunteer firefighters who are still actively participating after 40 years of service, the maximum time frame. This bill provides parity by including volunteer ambulance workers.*
- **S8338/Gaughran:** *Chapter 196 of 2022. Currently, political subdivisions can donate surplus computer equipment to local schools, libraries and other not-for-profit organizations through SED's C.R.E.A.T.E. Programs. The law was set to expire in July 2022, and this law extends the expiration to July 2025.*
- **S8561A/Skoufis:** *On the Governor's Desk. In an effort to prevent confusion over whether a county website is credible or a falsified website, this legislation requires all counties maintain a .gov domain.*
- **S8717/Gaughran:** *Chapter 455 of 2022. Extends the ability of municipalities, school districts and other local governmental entities to use cooperative purchasing contracts (also known as "piggy-backing") to achieve cost savings through greater contract flexibility and procurement efficiencies, by amending the sunset of General Municipal Law § 103(16) from 2023 to 2026.*



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, 30 of the 379 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Local Government passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 21 and vetoed 1 and is pending action on 8.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S953A	GAUGHRAN	Requires businesses that make payments in lieu of taxes to provide agencies, local governments and school districts with notice of their intention to change assessment	On the Governor's Desk
S2045	TEDISCO	Relates to the full-time status of the district attorney of Hamilton county	On the Governor's Desk
S3256	COMRIE	Relates to requiring notice and confirmation of such notice by affected local taxing jurisdictions and school districts prior to approval of projects by industrial development agencies	On the Governor's Desk
S4471A	MANNION	Relates to requiring certain notifications regarding PILOT agreements with industrial development agencies	On the Governor's Desk
S4598	BROOKS	Authorizes the Copiague Fire District to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 314 of 2022
S4778B	WEIK	Relates to authorizing the assessor of the town of Brookhaven to accept an application for exemption from real property taxes from Al-Muneer Foundation, Inc.	Chapter 621 of 2022
S6035A	BROOKS	Authorizes the Bellmore Fire District to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 440 of 2022
S6317	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church to retroactively apply for a real property tax exemption for certain property	Chapter 316 of 2022
S6893	LIU	Broadens the permissible scope of use of certain property conveyed to the Hollis-Bellaire-Queens Village Athletic Association, Inc.	Chapter 318 of 2022
S6925A	MAY	Provides the International Boxing Hall of Fame the option to purchase the reverter interest of certain lands conveyed by the New York state thruway authority	Chapter 445 of 2022

S7265	KAPLAN	Authorizes St. Francis Hospital, Roslyn, New York to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 448 of 2022
S7395	MATTERA	Authorizes the assessor of the town of Smithtown, county of Suffolk, to accept from the New Horizons Counseling Center, Inc., an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 250 of 2022
S7399A	GAUGHRAN	Relates to service awards for volunteer ambulance workers	Chapter 654 of 2022
S7549	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes St. Mark Coptic Church Center to retroactively apply for a real property tax exemption for certain property	Chapter 449 of 2022
S7610B	GAUGHRAN	Relates to permitting India Pentecostal Assembly, Inc. to file an application for real property tax exemption	Chapter 656 of 2022
S7612	GAUGHRAN	Relates to permitting India Pentecostal Assembly, Inc. to file an application for real property tax exemption	Chapter 657 of 2022
S7864B	BROOKS	Relates to county-wide shared services panels	Veto 44 of 2022
S7906A	KAMINSKY	Authorizes the Chabad of Oceanside, Inc. to receive retroactive real property tax exempt status	On the Governor's Desk
S8022A	KAPLAN	Relates to the Volunteer and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association of Westbury	Chapter 514 of 2022
S8023A	KAPLAN	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a real property tax exemption from the Carle Place Water District	Chapter 630 of 2022
S8129	KENNEDY	Provides for the sale of municipal obligations by the county of Erie	Chapter 329 of 2022
S8267	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the assessor of the town of Huntington, county of Suffolk, to accept from the Huntington Public Library an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 331 of 2022
S8338	GAUGHRAN	Extends a provision of law regarding the disposal of surplus computer equipment by political subdivisions	Chapter 196 of 2022
S8367	ORTT	Relates to authorizing Niagara county to waive certain fees by local law for veterans' organizations	Chapter 595 of 2022
S8497	KAMINSKY	Relates to base proportions in assessing units in Nassau county	Chapter 536 of 2022
S8531A	GAUGHRAN	Establishes the "Wyandanch Health and Wellness Center Design-Build Act"	On the Governor's Desk
S8561A	SKOUFIS	Relates to websites maintained by a county	On the Governor's Desk

S8717	GAUGHRAN	Extends provisions of law relating to providing local governments greater contract flexibility and cost savings by permitting certain shared purchasing among political subdivisions	Chapter 455 of 2022
S8718	GAUGHRAN	Extends the deadline for tax exemption applications for tax assessments for certain improved properties affected by Superstorm Sandy	Chapter 235 of 2022
S8750A	WEIK	Authorizes the county of Suffolk to alienate certain lands used as parklands to enable Sunrise Wind, LLC to construct, maintain and operate a subterranean conduit and electrical distribution cable system	On the Governor's Desk

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S49	KAPLAN	Establishes a green development neighborhood tax exemption	Passed Senate
S52A	KAPLAN	Relates to establishing the Nassau county and Queens county border task force	Passed Senate
S594C	MAY	Relates to Internet access and communications for municipalities	Reported from Committee
S952	GAUGHRAN	Establishes the payment of certain volunteer firefighter and volunteer ambulance worker death benefits shall be within ninety days of the filing of application to receive such death benefit	Passed Senate
S953A	GAUGHRAN	Requires businesses that make payments in lieu of taxes to provide agencies, local governments and school districts with notice of their intention to change assessment	On the Governor's Desk
S967A	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the taxation of certain state owned parks	Reported from Committee
S981	GAUGHRAN	Relates to subjecting the Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve and Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park to taxation for all purposes	Passed Senate
S983	GAUGHRAN	Relates to authorizing the appointment of an additional associate village justice by villages	Passed Senate
S1202	HARCKHAM	Directing the state board of real property tax services to conduct a study on real property tax saturation	Passed Senate
S1317A	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes municipalities to offer real property tax credits to certain volunteers who live in one municipality but who serve in neighboring municipalities	Passed Senate
S1656A	SKOUFIS	Relates to prohibiting industrial development agencies from incentivizing movements within the state	Passed Senate
S1659	SKOUFIS	Requires a municipality to give notice to an adjacent municipality of the adoption or amendment of certain zoning ordinances or local laws that affect parcels of land within 500 feet of the adjacent municipal	Passed Senate
S1769	SKOUFIS	Relates to preventing certain elected officials from being a member of an agency; repealer	Passed Senate

S1868	RITCHIE	Relates to authorizing the town of Dekalb, in the county of St. Lawrence, to reduce the maximum speed limit on certain public roadways	Passed Senate
S1871	RITCHIE	Makes certain state lands in the county of Oswego subject to taxation for all purposes	Reported from Committee
S2045	TEDISCO	Relates to the full-time status of the district attorney of Hamilton county	On the Governor's Desk
S2084	JORDAN	Requires multiple liens on farm property to be paid in chronological order, with the earliest lien being paid off first and the most recent being paid last	Reported from Committee
S2596	HELMING	Relates to youth programs sponsored by fire departments	Reported from Committee
S2629	SANDERS	Relates to notice to the commander of a military station of certain municipal actions	Passed Senate
S2728	KAMINSKY	Relates to the preservation of regionally significant projects with respect to agencies drawing on funds for new building projects	Passed Senate
S2972	HARCKHAM	Makes provisions permanent relating to disability due to disease or malfunction of the heart or coronary arteries	Passed Senate
S2973	HARCKHAM	Makes permanent provisions creating a presumption relating to certain lung disabilities incurred by volunteer firefighters	Passed Senate
S2991	HARCKHAM	Authorizes the town board of the town of Lewisboro, county of Westchester to establish certain speed limits on rural major and minor collector roads at twenty-five miles per hour	Passed Senate
S3220	TEDISCO	Allows for the creation of a joint police department for the towns of Webb and Inlet	Passed Senate
S3256	COMRIE	Relates to requiring notice and confirmation of such notice by affected local taxing jurisdictions and school districts prior to approval of projects by industrial development agencies	On the Governor's Desk
S3527B	BAILEY	Relates to the compensation an attorney shall be entitled to for client representation through the bar association	Reported from Committee
S3673	COMRIE	Authorizes industrial development agencies to provide assistance to agricultural producers for products	Reported from Committee

		grown, harvested or produced within the state	
S3967A	REICHLIN-MELNICK	Provides a tax exemption on real property owned by active auxiliary police officers in local law enforcement agencies in certain counties	Passed Senate
S3974	KENNEDY	Relates to permitting school districts to favor locally sourced goods	Passed Senate
S4471A	MANNION	Relates to requiring certain notifications regarding PILOT agreements with industrial development agencies	On the Governor's Desk
S4598	BROOKS	Authorizes the Copiague Fire District to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 314 of 2022
S4614A	KAPLAN	Authorizes every governing body of an assessing unit and every local assessor to accept a late application for certain tax exemptions for the 2020-2021 school taxes and the 2021 general taxes	Passed Senate
S4703A	KAPLAN	Requires the commissioner of taxation and finance to conduct a study on how successful property tax grievances have been over the prior three years throughout the state	Passed Senate
S4778B	WEIK	Relates to authorizing the assessor of the town of Brookhaven to accept an application for exemption from real property taxes from Al-Muneer Foundation, Inc.	Chapter 621 of 2022
S5010	REICHLIN-MELNICK	Authorizes municipalities in the county of Rockland to add unpaid housing code violation penalties, costs and fines to such municipalities' annual tax levy	Passed Senate
S5115	RYAN	Relates to authorizing the city of Buffalo and the Village of Angola to correct a property line	Reported from Committee
S5877C	GALLIVAN	Authorizes the village of Perry, county of Wyoming to hire a planning board member, zoning board of appeals member and zoning officer who are not residents of such village	Passed Senate
S6035A	BROOKS	Authorizes the Bellmore Fire District to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 440 of 2022
S6232	KENNEDY	Expands eligibility for the low interest rate program of the state of New York mortgage agency	Passed Senate
S6317	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church to retroactively apply	Chapter 316 of 2022

		for a real property tax exemption for certain property	
S6401	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the posting by each municipality of turtle crossing signs on local roads located within such municipality	Passed Senate
S6893	LIU	Broadens the permissible scope of use of certain property conveyed to the Hollis-Bellaire-Queens Village Athletic Association, Inc.	Chapter 318 of 2022
S6925A	MAY	Provides the International Boxing Hall of Fame the option to purchase the reverter interest of certain lands conveyed by the New York state thruway authority	Chapter 445 of 2022
S7186A	BROOKS	Provides that authorities having control of a fire department or fire company which provides emergency medical services may establish fees and charges for services	Passed Senate
S7265	KAPLAN	Authorizes St. Francis Hospital, Roslyn, New York to file an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 448 of 2022
S7317	ORTT	Relates to the Volunteer and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association of Upper Mountain, Inc.	Passed Senate
S7359A	BROOKS	Relates to youth programs sponsored by fire departments	Passed Senate
S7395	MATTERA	Authorizes the assessor of the town of Smithtown, county of Suffolk, to accept from the New Horizons Counseling Center, Inc., an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 250 of 2022
S7399A	GAUGHRAN	Relates to service awards for volunteer ambulance workers	Chapter 654 of 2022
S7521	STEC	Establishes a retired employee health insurance premium reserve fund for the town of Saranac	Passed Senate
S7549	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes St. Mark Coptic Church Center to retroactively apply for a real property tax exemption for certain property	Chapter 449 of 2022
S7550	GAUGHRAN	Relates to training requirements for members of the board of ethics of a political subdivision or municipality	Reported from Committee
S7610B	GAUGHRAN	Relates to permitting India Pentecostal Assembly, Inc. to file an application for real property tax exemption	Chapter 656 of 2022
S7612	GAUGHRAN	Relates to permitting India Pentecostal Assembly, Inc. to file an application for real property tax exemption	Chapter 657 of 2022

S7641A	STEC	Relates to aquatic plant growth control districts	Passed Senate
S7657A	KAPLAN	Expands the real property tax exemption for persons with disabilities to property owners who are a parent or parents of an individual with a disability	Reported from Committee
S7864B	BROOKS	Relates to county-wide shared services panels	Veto 44 of 2022
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S8022A	KAPLAN	Relates to the Volunteer and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association of Westbury	Chapter 514 of 2022
S8023A	KAPLAN	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a real property tax exemption from the Carle Place Water District	Chapter 630 of 2022
S8129	KENNEDY	Provides for the sale of municipal obligations by the county of Erie	Chapter 329 of 2022
S8247	THOMAS	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a retroactive real property tax exemption from the Incorporated Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency	Passed Senate
S8248	THOMAS	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a retroactive real property tax exemption from the Incorporated Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency	Passed Senate
S8267	GAUGHRAN	Authorizes the assessor of the town of Huntington, county of Suffolk, to accept from the Huntington Public Library an application for exemption from real property taxes	Chapter 331 of 2022
S8274	KAPLAN	Authorizes the county of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a real property tax exemption from the Nassau Cemetery Association	Passed Senate
S8338	GAUGHRAN	Extends a provision of law regarding the disposal of surplus computer equipment by political subdivisions	Chapter 196 of 2022
S8367	ORTT	Relates to authorizing Niagara county to waive certain fees by local law for veterans' organizations	Chapter 595 of 2022
S8497	KAMINSKY	Relates to base proportions in assessing units in Nassau county	Chapter 536 of 2022



S8525	GAUGHRAN	Removes the requirement that where a municipal corporation, school district or district corporation issues indebtedness to finance certain costs of preparation of plans and specifications	Passed Senate
S8531A	GAUGHRAN	Establishes the "Wyandanch Health and Wellness Center Design-Build Act"	On the Governor's Desk
S8561A	SKOUFIS	Relates to websites maintained by a county	On the Governor's Desk
S8717	GAUGHRAN	Extends provisions of law relating to providing local governments greater contract flexibility and cost savings by permitting certain shared purchasing among political subdivisions	Chapter 455 of 2022
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