



Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders

Senator Nathalia Fernandez

Chair

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



**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



NATHALIA FERNANDEZ
SENATOR, 34TH DISTRICT

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ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

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December 15, 2025

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 Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders for the 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2025 Session, this Committee met four times in Session and reported 25 bills. The Committee also held one roundtable and 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathalia Fernandez".

Senator Nathalia Fernandez
NYS Senate District 34



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

**Senator Nathalia Fernandez,
Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Pete Harckham

Senator Monica R. Martinez

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Sean M. Ryan

Senator Peter Oberacker, *Ranking Member*

Senator Robert G. Rolison

Committee Staff

Kim Bernstein, Legislative Director

Andrew Title, Assistant Deputy Director

Abisha Vijayashanthar, Associate Counsel

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the systems of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery for substance use disorders. This includes legislation pertaining directly to the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports, as well as the NYS Office of Mental Health and NYS Department of Health.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 41 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 25 were reported from the Committee, 15 were passed by the Senate, and two 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 one hearing on the Treatment Court Expansion Act and one roundtable on alcohol use, prevention, and policy in New York State.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2025:

- S1819A (Fernandez) – Passed Senate – Provides that the results of urine tests conducted pursuant to a judicial diversion program shall be private and confidential.
- S2644 (Addabbo) – Passed Senate – Prohibits the retrospective denial of payment for substance use disorder treatment services.
- S3632 (Fernandez) – Passed Senate – Establishes the Problem Gambling Advisory Council.
- S3740A (Fernandez) – Vetoed Memo 117– Establishes the “Recovery Ready Workplace Act.”
- S4547 (Ramos) – Reported from Committee – Relates to the “Treatment Court Expansion Act.”
- S4950 (Harckham) – Passed Senate – Relates to the payment for services at addiction treatment centers operated by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports.
- S4953 (Harckham) – Passed Senate – Establishes an intensive addiction and medical services integrated services pilot program.
- S5105 (Harckham) – Passed Senate – Directs the Commissioner of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to promulgate rules and regulations for providers operating in rural locations.
- S6757 (Fernandez) – Chapter 425 of 2025 – Clarifies that all funds received pursuant to an opioid settlement agreement are directed to the Opioid Settlement Fund.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES AND NOMINATIONS

The Committee, in partnership with CUNY School of Public Health, held a roundtable on September 22, 2025, to discuss alcohol use, prevention, and policy in New York State. Participants included leaders in public health, policy, education, and behavioral health services. The discussion surrounded on the topic of alcohol use—which is the most reported primary substance of use—and its disparate impact on Black and Brown communities with a focus on prevention, equity, and solutions that strengthen our communities.

On October 10, 2025, the Committee held a public hearing on the Treatment Court Expansion Act (S.4547) with Senator Jessica Ramos. Participants included the Honorable Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas from the NYS Unified Court System, as well as individuals with lived experience, defense attorneys, behavioral health practitioners, and policy and advocacy experts. The goal of the hearing was to provide insight into the state of mental health services, how the criminal justice and correctional systems have become the de facto psychiatric facility for too many New Yorkers experiencing the most serious mental health challenges, and ways the Treatment Court Expansion Act could address this ongoing crisis.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Act
S03740A	Fernandez	Establishes the “recovery ready workplace act” which provides for the certification of an employer to become a recovery ready workplace; defines terms; establishes the recovery-ready workplace program; provides criteria for employers to obtain certification as a recovery ready workplace; provides for employee involvement.	Vetoed Memo 117
S06757	Fernandez	Clarifies that certain provisions related to statewide opioid settlement agreements shall cover settlements and releases related to any entities involved in the prescription drug marketing, supply and payment chain that may have contributed to the opioid epidemic through illegal conduct. Eff. Date 09/26/2025	Chaptered 425

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S00489	Fernandez	Refers individuals to appropriate service providers that are able to provide services to such individual within seventy-two hours for substance use disorders.	Passed the Senate
S01731	Fahy	Renames an office of addiction services and supports scholarship program the "NYS Father Peter Young Memorial Addiction Professionals Scholarship Program"; codifies the purposes of such program as offering financial education assistance to individuals pursuing a bachelor's degree in addiction studies or the education requirements for an office of addiction services and supports credential at Alfred State College, Stony Brook University or Empire State University.	Passed the Senate
S01812	Fernandez	Provides for the certification of entities seeking to provide in-home based substance use disorder treatment services.	Passed the Senate
S01819A	Fernandez	Provides that the results of urine tests conducted pursuant to a judicial diversion program shall be private and confidential.	Passed the Senate
S02446	Fernandez	Establishes a wound care kit and xylazine test strip distribution program to supply wound care kits designed for the treatment of injection-related wounds and skin and soft tissue infections, and xylazine test strips, to individuals with a substance use disorder or who are otherwise at risk of drug use, free of charge; prohibits facilities from collecting personally identifying information on such individuals; prohibits police from targeting individuals receiving wound care kits or xylazine test strips under such program.	Reported to Senate Finance
S02644	Addabbo	Prohibits the retrospective denial of payment for substance use disorder treatment services if an insured was covered for such services at the time treatment was initiated; requires insurers to notify a treatment provider when an insured has lost coverage based on termination of the insured's employment.	Passed the Senate
S03518	Scarcella-Spanton	Establishes the fentanyl abuse and overdose prevention task force to conduct a comprehensive study on fentanyl abuse and overdose prevention and to report on the findings and recommendations of the task force.	Reported to Senate Finance

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S03632	Fernandez	Establishes the problem gambling advisory council.	Passed the Senate
S03740A	Fernandez	Establishes the “recovery ready workplace act” which provides for the certification of an employer to become a recovery ready workplace; defines terms; establishes the recovery-ready workplace program; provides criteria for employers to obtain certification as a recovery ready workplace; provides for employee involvement.	Vetoed Memo117
S04547	Ramos	Relates to judicial diversion programs; establishes a diversion part in each county; repeals certain provisions of law relating thereto.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04640A	Fernandez	Authorizes the commissioner of health to establish standards for approval of onsite overdose response services; requires nightlife establishments, sporting or event centers, theaters, concert venues, and amusement parks to maintain a supply of opioid antagonists; provides that emergency use of opioid antagonist is covered by good Samaritan law.	Passed the Senate
S04747	Cleare	Establishes an intensive addiction recovery and mental health integrated services pilot program to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to individuals with significant addiction and mental health issues who have had multiple and frequent treatment episodes.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04948	Harckham	Relates to reimbursement for non-medical transportation for individuals with a substance use disorder to receive peer support services.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04950	Harckham	Requires that services at addiction treatment centers operated by the office of addiction services and supports shall not be refused at such centers if a person is unable to pay.	Passed the Senate
S04953	Harckham	Establishes an intensive addiction and medical services integrated services pilot program to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and medical services integrated services to individuals who have significant addiction and medical issues.	Passed the Senate
S04956	Harckham	Designates services to be provided by a jail-based substance use disorder treatment, peer led recovery support services, and transition services program as essential medical care services.	Reported to Senate Finance

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S05103	Harckham	Requires schools to include instruction on the prevention of co-occurring disorders as an integral part of their health education programs.	Reported to Senate Education
S05105	Harckham	Directs the commissioner of the office of addiction services and supports to promulgate rules and regulations for providers operating in rural locations while taking into account the extra challenges encountered by such providers, including but not limited to, increased and additional expenses.	Passed the Senate
S05263	Ashby	Provides that coverage for outpatient diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorder shall not be subject to preauthorization.	Senate Rules
S05382	Harckham	Relates to the construction of facilities for chemical dependence services that promote the privacy of individuals while bathing, sleeping, using restrooms and receiving individual counseling services, while also allowing for maximization of the use of such facility.	Passed the Senate
S05779	Fernandez	Requires certain entities to stock opioid antagonists and to store naloxone nasal sprays with or adjacent to automated external defibrillator cabinets.	Passed the Senate
S05900	Lanza	Relates to the distribution of educational materials regarding the misuse of and addiction to prescription drugs in counties with the most prevalent abuse of prescription opioids.	Passed the Senate
S05969	Parker	Creates the substance use disorder treatment bill of rights to be posted in a conspicuous place in all treatment facilities.	Senate Rules
S06082	Parker	Establishes the community chemical dependency services expansion program; provides funding for local governmental units for the provision of new and expanded chemical dependency services.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06757	Fernandez	Clarifies that certain provisions related to statewide opioid settlement agreements shall cover settlements and releases related to any entities involved in the prescription drug marketing, supply and payment chain that may have contributed to the opioid epidemic through illegal conduct.	Chaptered 425

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