



Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

Senator Julia Salazar

Chair

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



CHAIR
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION

TREASURER
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ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

COMMITTEES
BANKS
CITIES 1
CODES
EDUCATION
FINANCE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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December 5, 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's Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction 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 six times in Session and reported 53 bills. The Committee also held one public 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 "Julia Salazar", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia Salazar
New York State Senator
Senate District 18

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION

**Senator Julia Salazar,
Chairperson**

Committee Members

Jamaal T. Bailey

Pete Harckham

José M. Serrano

Gustavo Rivera

Luis R. Sepúlveda

Robert G. Rolison

Dean Murray

Committee Staff

Adriele Douglas, Deputy Counsel

Gabrielle Bruno, Associate Counsel

Mark Mishler, Legislative Director

Julia Fetter, Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the criminal legal system and the people it serves.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 220 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 53 were reported from the Committee, 25 were passed by the Senate, and three passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of six 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 joint public hearing on the topic of the Safety of Persons in Custody, Transparency, and Accountability Within State Correctional Facilities.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The most significant work of the Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction related to the ongoing work to monitor the implementation of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act of 2021, enacted as Chapter 93 of 2021, the active response to ongoing crises that occurred in 2025 as it related to the murders of Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility and Messiah Nantwi at Midstate Correctional Facility, and the unsanctioned work stoppage by 13,000 correction officers. As a result, the work of the Chair included significantly increased correspondence with the DOCCS Commissioner, incarcerated individuals at most correctional facilities, formerly incarcerated individuals, and families of incarcerated individuals. In her capacity as Chair of the Committee, this year, the Senator visited Greene, Cayuga, and Five Points Correctional Facilities.

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

- S.159 (Salazar) - Reported from Committee – This bill provides that the Board of Parole shall release incarcerated persons who are eligible for release on parole, unless the parole case record demonstrates there is a current and unreasonable risk the individual will violate the law if released and such risk cannot be mitigated by parole supervision.
- S.342 (Cooney) - Reported from Committee – This bill provides incarcerated individuals increased good time and merit time allowance credit to incentivize good behavior and enrollment in educational, vocational, treatment-related, and other beneficial programming.
- S.394 (Myrie) - Reported from Committee – This bill establishes application processing and review requirements for reprieves, commutations and pardons by the governor.
- S.429 (Salazar) - Passed Senate - This bill authorizes the state inspector general to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities.
- S.2280 (Webb) - Passed Senate – This bill requires a lethality assessment in incidents of domestic violence.
- S.4583A (Salazar) - Passed Senate – This bill establishes a comprehensive human rights-based statutory policy relating to incarcerated pregnant or postpartum individuals and their children in New York state and local correctional facilities.
- S.8415 (Salazar) - Passed both houses – This bill enacts into law components of legislation necessary to implement an omnibus bill related to correctional services in the state of New York

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES & NOMINATIONS

In response to the active year within the State's correctional system, the Committee, joint with the Assembly Standing Committee on Correction, hosted a public hearing on the "Safety of Persons in Custody, Transparency, and Accountability Within State Correctional Facilities." At the hearing, the DOCCS Commissioner, corrections unions, formerly incarcerated individuals, legal experts, and families of incarcerated individuals harmed or killed in DOCCS custody testified before the Legislature.

The Committee voted on the following nominations appointed by the Governor, who were all confirmed by the Senate:

- Daniel J. O'Donnell - Board of Parole
- Darlene Grant Bruce - Board of Parole
- Elizabeth Kase - Board of Parole
- Jose Gomez - Board of Parole

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2025, three of the 53 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction passed both houses.

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.01806A	FERNANDEZ	Prohibits correctional facilities from denying entry to peer support advocates who are certified or licensed and are participating in the provision of corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services based on such advocates' prior history of incarceration.	Substituted By A.4159A - Chaptered 449
S.04906A	FAHY	Provides for certain victim statements to be taken at their workplace instead of the police department where such workplace was the scene of the crime and is a hospital, emergency medical facility, nursing home or residential health care facility.	Chaptered 468
S.08415	SALAZAR	Enacts into law components of legislation necessary to implement an omnibus bill related to correctional services in the state of New York	Chaptered 707

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00156	SALAZAR	Increases the amount for awards made to crime victims; specifies certain items of personal property which are necessary and essential to the welfare of a claimant.	Passed the Senate
S.00159	SALAZAR	Provides for findings of the state board of parole necessary for discretionary release of incarcerated individuals on parole.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00319	SALAZAR	Provides that for the purposes of educational leave, an eligible incarcerated individual shall include an incarcerated individual who is within two years of being an eligible incarcerated individual.	Senate Rules
S.00342	COONEY	Establishes the “earned time act” providing for time allowances against the term or maximum term of sentences imposed by the court to be credited on an annual pro rata basis. Criminal Sanction Impact.	Reported to Senate Codes
S.00394	MYRIE	Establishes application processing and review requirements for reprieves, commutations and pardons by the governor; requires the governor to provide: a written notification that the application has been received; a receipt number that the applicant can then use to check on the applicant’s application status; guidelines for supplementing the application with additional or updated information; and a notification when a decision is made on the application; requires quarterly reports to the legislature regarding reprieves, commutations and pardons.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00395	MYRIE	Requires all incarcerated individuals who do not have a high-school diploma or its equivalent to receive a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening upon intake by the department of corrections; requires for such individuals who perform below a certain proficiency level to be provided with intervention services that are evidence-based, effective and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00429	SALAZAR	Authorizes the state inspector general to receive and investigate complaints of sexual assault in correctional facilities and other places operated by the department of corrections and community supervision for the confinement of persons; requires the state inspector general to establish protocol and procedures for such reports and investigations.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00439B	MYRIE	Enacts “the prison minimum wage act” relating to payment for labor performed by incarcerated individuals.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00856	SALAZAR	Increases the number of members on the state commission of correction; provides for the manner of confirmation of such members.	Passed the Senate
S.00863	BAILEY	Increases access to substance abuse programming for incarcerated individuals whose first language is not English.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.01048	SALAZAR	Requires public agencies to establish preliminary license application procedures to determine whether an applicant for a license would be ineligible for such license based on criminal history; establishes time frames for public agencies to respond to such applications; requires public agencies to report information regarding granting licenses annually.	Passed the Senate
S.01050	SALAZAR	Relates to allowing telephone calls prior to an incarcerated individual’s transfer except under exceptional circumstances.	Passed the Senate
S.01191	ADDABBO	Provides for limited credit time allowances for working in the horse handling program for a period of no less than eighteen months and receipt of a certification from the Groom Elite program.	Passed the Senate
S.01645	CLEARE	Provides for priority for applications and expedited determination of claims for a human trafficking victim who wishes to remove permanent marks that were part of the trafficking of such victim, including but not limited to, tattoos, markings, brandings, or other symbols or insignia.	Senate Rules
S.01692A	RAMOS	Relates to commissaries and canteens at correctional institutions; provides that items for sale at a commissary or canteen shall be sold for no more than a certain percentage over the purchase price; provides that the department of corrections and community supervisions shall publish on its website the price list for all commissary items for sale at each institution as of June 1, 2025 and on an annual basis thereafter.	Passed the Senate
S.01806A	FERNANDEZ	Prohibits correctional facilities from denying entry to peer support advocates who are certified or licensed and are participating in the provision of corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services based on such advocates’ prior history of incarceration.	Substituted By A.4159A - Chaptered 449

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.01856A	RIVERA	Prohibits county correction officers from dispensing medications to incarcerated individuals on the premises of a local correctional facility; provides that corrections officers or staff may dispense or administer medications during a medical emergency.	Senate Rules
S.01892B	JACKSON	Expands who may visit local correctional facilities to include persons and accompanying staff of the chief executive officer of a county, members of a county legislative body, mayor of the city of New York, New York city public advocate, New York city comptroller, and members of the New York city council.	Passed the Senate
S.02280B	WEBB	Requires law enforcement officers to conduct a lethality assessment as part of the standardized domestic incident report form when responding to incidents of domestic violence.	Passed the Senate
S.02508	SALAZAR	Relates to conditional release for eligible offenders who complete post-secondary degrees or programs; provides release twelve months before the completion of the controlling minimum period of imprisonment for eligible offenders who complete post-secondary degrees or programs. Criminal Sanction Impact.	Senate Rules
S.02509	SALAZAR	Repeals provisions relating to the transfer of incarcerated individuals from a county jail to a state correctional institution.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.02510A	SALAZAR	Establishes the Terry Cooper autopsy accountability act requiring autopsy reports to include all photographs of the body, microscopic slides, and post-mortem x-rays taken by, at the direction of, or reviewed by the person performing the autopsy.	Senate Rules
S.02656	STEC	Relates to segregated confinement; provides that certain incarcerated individuals shall not be placed in a residential rehabilitation unit; makes related provisions.	Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.02666A	SALAZAR	Relates to the provision of breast pumps and related collection and storage materials to certain incarcerated nursing birth parents who are confined in or committed to an institution or local correctional facility with or without their child subject to specific time limitations; requires institutions and local correctional facilities to provide pumps and related materials to such incarcerated birth parents, but not beyond the date such child reaches twenty-four months of age except in limited circumstances related to parole; allows children to remain with their incarcerated birth parents in a correctional institution until twenty-four months of age, or longer in certain cases related to parole; requires the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to issue an annual report on data relating to incarcerated birth parents.	Passed the Senate
S.03746	CLEARE	Relates to requiring at least one member of the state board of parole be a formerly incarcerated person.	Senate Rules
S.03795	MYRIE	Relates to college admissions for persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.	Reported to Senate Higher Education
S.03853	SANDERS	Directs the department of corrections and community supervision to conduct a comprehensive study on deaths in correctional facilities within New York state to provide data-driven insights and recommendations to improve prison conditions, healthcare, and policies to prevent future tragedies.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.03974	SEPÚLVEDA	Relates to failure to complete a program for time allowances due to circumstances beyond an individual's control.	Passed the Senate
S.04160	BAILEY	Relates to providing voice communication services to incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities at no cost.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.04379	COMRIE	Requires that curricula and educational programs provide incarcerated individuals the opportunity to earn educational or vocational credits which shall be transferable to an educational institution upon the release of the incarcerated individual.	Senate Rules
S.04520	BAILEY	Relates to the role of the department of corrections and community supervision in planning and facilitating the discharge or release of incarcerated individuals to the community.	Reported to Senate Finance

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.04583A	SALAZAR	Relates to the health, safety and human rights of incarcerated pregnant individuals, incarcerated birthing parents and their children; requires the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to establish rules and regulations relating to conditions in institutions and correctional facilities and the treatment and care of birthing parents in such institutions and facilities.	Passed the Senate
S.04584	SALAZAR	Requires the office of victim services to publicize programs offered by the office and to include certain information in annual reports to the governor and the legislature and to make such reports public on the office's website; makes alterations to the amounts of and qualifications for awards of compensation to victims of crimes, including good samaritans who are injured.	Senate Rules
S.04906A	FAHY	Provides for certain victim statements to be taken at their workplace instead of the police department where such workplace was the scene of the crime and is a hospital, emergency medical facility, nursing home or residential health care facility. Eff. Date 02/13/2026	Chaptered 468
S.05035	SEPÚLVEDA	Relates to the department of correction and community supervision's role with respect to discharge planning to assist incarcerated individuals in obtaining housing before release to community supervision.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.05037	SEPÚLVEDA	Establishes visiting policies for incarcerated people, to provide incarcerated people opportunities for personal contact with relatives, friends, clergy, volunteers and other persons to promote better institutional adjustment and better community adjustment upon release.	Passed the Senate
S.05134	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, in consultation with the commissioner of health and the commissioner of mental health, to develop a uniform electronic medical records system to be utilized by all correctional facilities in the state.	Passed the Senate
S.05265	BAILEY	Requires screening incarcerated individuals for eligibility in the supplemental nutrition assistance program prior to release and assistance in applying for such programs; requires officials to seek waivers from the USDA for eligibility for such program.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.05680	SALAZAR	Provides notice of the death of an incarcerated individual occurring in the custody of the department of corrections and community supervision; requires the department to promptly notify the next kin and any other person designated as the representative of any incarcerated individual whose death takes place during custody.	Senate Rules
S.05701	SKOUFIS	Requires the department of corrections and community supervision to establish discharge plans and reentry services for wrongfully convicted individuals upon their discharge which includes housing needs, educational needs, employment needs, medical needs, and specific social service needs.	Passed the Senate
S.05976	PARKER	Authorizes a study by the department of corrections and community supervision pertaining to the treatment of aging prison populations.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.06365	SALAZAR	Relates to certain information provided to incarcerated individuals upon their release, relating to the payment of funds required by section one hundred twenty-five of this article in the form of an electronic benefit transfer card.	Passed the Senate
S.06389	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to study gender disparity in resources provided to incarcerated individuals and make a report to the governor and the legislature of the findings, conclusions and recommendations.	Passed the Senate
S.06390	HARCKHAM	Requires the commissioner of corrections and community supervision to make correctional facility water testing results accessible directly to incarcerated individuals and correctional facility staff in such facilities and make such water testing results available to the public on the website of the department.	Passed the Senate
S.06442	HARCKHAM	Directs the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services to study gender disparity in sentencing outcomes and make a report to the governor and the legislature of their findings, conclusions and recommendations.	Passed the Senate
S.06456	CLEARE	Expands prison work release program eligibility and participation.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.06463	CLEARE	Authorizes the transfer of pregnant and postpartum incarcerated individuals to residential treatment facilities; requires annual reporting on the number of such incarcerated individuals transferred.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.06481	CLEARE	Relates to commencing a study on the relationship between the corrections system and the child welfare system.	Reported to Senate Children and Families
S.06727	SALAZAR	Elevates the evidentiary standard for evidentiary and disciplinary hearings from substantial evidence to a preponderance of the evidence.	Senate Rules
S.06896A	BAILEY	Enacts the PTSD awareness and rehabilitation act to require PTSD screening, provide trauma-informed education, and implement evidence-based rehabilitation programs to ensure incarcerated individuals receive proper support for mental health challenges.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.07137	SALAZAR	Relates to the establishment of emergency management release plans to be developed for use in correctional facilities in the event of a state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order; establishes an advisory board to provide recommendations for the development of such plans; establishes criteria to be used to determine eligibility for emergency release of incarcerated individuals.	Senate Rules
S.07312	SALAZAR	Requires institutions and local correctional facilities to adhere to certain standards regarding the surveillance of incarcerated individuals and detainees, and access to such surveillance recordings.	Reported to Senate Finance

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