



Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Social Services

Senator

Roxanne J. Persaud

Chair

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



CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CITIES I
CODES
DISABILITIES
NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

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December 31, 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 Social Services 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 five times in Session and reported 31 bills. The Committee also held one public hearing and two stakeholder engagement meetings this past year. As Chair, I also convened human services sector officials and leaders for a discussion, Human Services Pay Equity is Racial Equity, as part of the 54th Annual Legislative Conference of the NYS Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators, Inc.

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 "Roxanne J. Persaud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roxanne J. Persaud
Senate District 19

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

**Senator Roxanne J. Persaud,
Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Cordell Cleare

Senator Brian Kavanagh

Senator José M. Serrano

Senator Sam Sutton

Senator Dean Murray,
Ranking Member

Senator Alexis Weik

Committee Staff

Jacqueline Donaldson, Principal Budget Analyst

Jessica Keenan, Assistant Deputy Counsel

Janine Smith, Associate Counsel

Dennis Weakley, Committee Director

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Social Services has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the alleviation of poverty, assistance to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, services for disconnected youth, assistance for individuals with disabilities, workforce readiness and numerous human services programs reaching and elevating vulnerable New Yorkers.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 87 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 31 were reported from the Committee. Twenty-five were passed by the Senate, and five passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of five 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 hearing and two stakeholder engagement meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or stakeholder engagement meetings included *Human Trafficking in the Transportation Sector*, *Rental Assistance Programs and the Need for Expanded Residential Rental Assistance to Prevent Evictions*, and *Youth Employment Programs and Employment Readiness*.

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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

- S. 181 (Persaud) expands the membership of the interagency task force on trafficking in persons.
Chapter 498, Laws of 2025.
- S. 184 (Persaud) would establish a full year youth and young adult employment immersion program.
Reported to Finance.
- S. 244 (Persaud) would establish a fiscal cliff task force to conduct a study on fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs and to make recommendations related thereto.
Veto no. 61 of 2025.
- S. 913 (Kavanagh) would prohibit requiring that an individual have a court proceeding initiated against them in order to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance.
Passed Senate.
- S. 1994 (Ramos) would prohibit requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage or work a minimum number of hours to be eligible for child care assistance.
Reported to Calendar.
- S. 3787 (Myrie) would eliminate rent for homeless shelters.
Reported to Finance.
- S. 7224 (Persaud) would authorize the reissuance of certain benefits in instances of fraud or theft of benefits.
Ordered to Third Reading Calendar.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS & NOMINATIONS

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting: *Human Trafficking in the Transportation Sector.* Monday, January 27, 2025, in Albany.

Joint Public Hearing *to assess Rental Assistance Programs and examine the need for expanded Residential Rental Assistance to prevent evictions.* Committees on Aging, Housing and Social Services. Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in New York City.

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting: *Pathways to Success and Opportunity: Youth Employment Programs and Employment Readiness.* Thursday, November 13, 2025, in Brooklyn.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00181	PERSAUD	Expands the membership of the interagency task force on trafficking in persons to include the commissioner of the department of transportation, the commissioner of the department of motor vehicles and the executive director of the New York state thruway authority. Eff. Date 11/12/2025	Chaptered 498
S.00244	PERSAUD	Establishes a fiscal cliff task force to conduct a study on fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs and to make recommendations related thereto.	Substituted By A.2497 - Vetoed Memorandum 61
S.04257A	PARKER	Relates to access to educational activities by public assistance recipients who are subject to work participation requirements; allows homework expected or required by an educational institution to count towards satisfaction of the work activity requirements for public assistance benefits for participants engaged in certain educational or training activities.	Vetoed Memo 127

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00113	CLEARE	Relates to the standards of monthly need for persons in receipt of public assistance; provides for an increased monthly allowance for persons and families residing in shelters.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00180A	PERSAUD	Increases the amount certain individuals are eligible for when receiving enhanced residential care.	Passed the Senate
S.00181	PERSAUD	Expands the membership of the interagency task force on trafficking in persons to include the commissioner of the department of transportation, the commissioner of the department of motor vehicles and the executive director of the New York state thruway authority. Eff. Date 11/12/2025 (See Table)	Chaptered 498
S.00182	PERSAUD	Increases the federal poverty level requirement for recipients where it concerns the one-time disregard of earned income following job entry.	Passed the Senate
S.00184	PERSAUD	Establishes a full year youth and young adult employment immersion program under the office of temporary and disability assistance for persons aged sixteen to twenty-four who have an income below two hundred sixty-five percent of the federal poverty line.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00201	MARTINEZ	Provides that in the event child protective services receives a duplicate report on an open case that has not been founded, indicated or referred to services, such duplicate report shall merge with the open case and remain open an additional thirty days for further investigation.	Passed the Senate
S.00244	PERSAUD	Establishes a fiscal cliff task force to conduct a study on fiscal cliffs in the state's public assistance programs and to make recommendations related thereto.	Substituted By A.2497 - Vetoed Memorandum 61
S.00246	PERSAUD	Relates to resource exemptions for applicants for public assistance programs; amends the Welfare Reform Act in relation to the effectiveness thereof.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00442	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Relates to assisting persons with medically diagnosed HIV infection.	Reported to Senate Finance

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00913	KAVANAGH	Prohibits requiring that an individual have a court proceeding initiated against them in order to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance.	Passed the Senate
S.01127	PERSAUD	Relates to increasing the standards of monthly need and home energy grant amounts for persons in receipt of public assistance.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.01281	PERSAUD	Establishes the New York healthy incentive program (Part A); automates SNAP and the New York healthy incentive program (Part B); establishes the New York healthy incentive program outreach program (Part C).	Passed the Senate
S.01454	KAVANAGH	Requires shelter allowances be set at up to one hundred percent of the fair market rent for the local social services district.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.01458A	KAVANAGH	Removes the requirement that rent arrears be repaid for social services districts located in a municipality with a population of five million or more.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.01757	PERSAUD	Relates to the unearned income of a child when the parent or non-parent caregiver chooses to exclude such child from the public assistance household.	Passed the Senate
S.01966	RYAN C	Requires social services districts to, every heating season, automatically re-enroll persons or households currently receiving assistance through the low-income home energy assistance program, so long as each person or household maintains eligibility.	Passed the Senate
S.01994	RAMOS	Prohibits requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage to be eligible for child care assistance.	Third Reading
S.02022	COONEY	Exempts aid derived from funding from childcare stabilization grants, childcare desert funding, or other non-recurring funding, issued by the office of children and family services to childcare providers from income for the purpose of determining aid provided pursuant to public assistance programs.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.02257	COMRIE	Extends the period given to certain applicants for public assistance benefits to request a fair hearing on a determination of their ability to participate in work activities from ten days to sixty days or within sixty days of receipt of a work activity assignment.	Passed the Senate
S.02396	PERSAUD	Creates caseload standards for adult protective services workers such that such workers have no more than thirty cases at any time.	Third Reading
S.03189	PERSAUD	Requires the office of temporary and disability assistance to make publicly available on its website information regarding waivers, rental supplement plans and shelter supplement plans.	Passed the Senate
S.03582	RIVERA	Implements additional restrictions on actions to recover overpayment of certain assistance.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.03743	CLEARE	Establishes a co-navigation services program for persons who are deaf-blind to provide services to a person who is deaf-blind that assist the person to physically access the person's environment and to make informed decisions, including providing visual and environmental information or sighted guide services and assisting with communication accessibility by communicating in the preferred language and communication mode of the person who is deaf-blind.	Third Reading
S.03787	MYRIE	Relates to eliminating rent for homeless shelters; provides that a homeless individual or family applying for or receiving temporary housing assistance shall not be required to pay to any local or state government or agency or any provider, room and board or contribute any earned or unearned income, available benefits or resources to eliminate their need for temporary housing assistance or as a condition to receive temporary housing assistance from such provider.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.03913	RYAN S	Relates to the caseloads of preventative services caseworkers.	Reported to Senate Finance

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.04257A	PARKER	Relates to access to educational activities by public assistance recipients who are subject to work participation requirements; allows homework expected or required by an educational institution to count towards satisfaction of the work activity requirements for public assistance benefits for participants engaged in certain educational or training activities.	Vetoed Memo 127
S.05505	SALAZAR	Requires the office of temporary and disability assistance, in conjunction with the office of mental health and the office of children and family services, to develop a mental illness training course to be utilized by providers of temporary housing assistance to focus on recognizing signs and symptoms of mental illness.	Passed the Senate
S.06133	PARKER	Requires the office for the prevention of domestic violence to conduct a study on domestic violence in the transgender community with a focus on Black transgender women.	Passed the Senate
S.07005	ROLISON	Establishes a waiver program allowing a domestic violence residential program to apply to the office of children and family services for a waiver enabling a victim of domestic violence to remain at the program's shelter for a period exceeding one hundred and eighty days.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.07612	MARTINEZ	Establishes a co-shelter toolkit of best practices, resources, case studies and other information deemed helpful to inform and encourage the implementation and sustenance of co-shelter models for victims of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness with companion animals; makes related provisions.	Passed the Senate
S.07738	GOUNARDES	Authorizes certain shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy where a single occupancy room is not available.	Reported to Senate Finance

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