

Annual Report 2023

# 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  
TRANSPORTATION  
WOMEN'S ISSUES

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD  
19<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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December 29, 2023

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 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2023 Session, this committee met four times in Session and reported 18 bills. The Committee also held a joint hearing with the Women's Issues Committee on services and programs for survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.

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



**2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Cordell Cleare	Senator Dean Murray
Senator Simcha Felder	Senator Alexis Weik
Senator Brian Kavanagh	
Senator José M. Serrano	

Committee Staff

Jacqueline Donaldson, Principal Budget Analyst  
Nayram Gasu, Associate Counsel  
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, services for disconnected youth, assistance for individuals with disabilities, workforce readiness and a vast network of human services programs reaching vulnerable New Yorkers.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 65 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 18 were reported from the Committee. 12 were passed by the Senate, and eight 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 a joint hearing with the Women's Issues Committee regarding services and programs for survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2023:

- S2144 (Persaud) would provide public assistance recipients that have completed a public assistance employment program, and are transitioning off of assistance, with a six month 100% earned income disregard allowing for retention of certain existing benefits for six months. This bill passed the Senate only.
- S2982 (Kavanagh) would require all local social services districts to issue shelter allowances equal to 100% of the applicable HUD Fair Market Rent. This bill was reported from the Committee.
- S6424B (Persaud) would add the NYS Thruway Authority and NYS Departments of Motor Vehicles and Transportation, respectively, to the Interagency Taskforce on Human Trafficking. This bill passed in the Senate only. S7451, now Chapter 496 of 2023, added only the Secretary of State.
- S7259A (Persaud) would establish a Fiscal Cliff Taskforce to study public benefits “cliffs” in SNAP, subsidized childcare, Medicaid, and other programs that assist low-income New Yorkers. S7259A received a veto message.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, eight of the 65 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Social Services passed both houses of the Legislature. The Governor has signed six bills and vetoed two.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
S395	Cleare	Directs the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking to investigate connections between social media and human trafficking	Chapter 497 of 2023
S4546	Parker	Establishes an emergency heating energy assistance program benefit	Veto Memo 122
S4548	Parker	Provides for the automated identification of affordability program participants	Chapter 764 of 2023
S5897	Brisport	Relates to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents and repeals section two of chapter eleven of the laws of two thousand twenty-one	Chapter 739 of 2023
S5915	Gonzalez	Provides for the distribution of informational materials on economic abuse	Chapter 537 of 2023
S6944	Persaud	Extends current exemptions of income and resources for public assistance programs under the Welfare Reform Act of 1997.	Chapter 195 of 2023
S7259A	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	Veto Memo 62
S7451	Persaud	Relates to the composition of the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking	Chapter 496 of 2023

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S183	Hoylman-Sigal	Relates to assisting persons with medically diagnosed HIV infection; repealer	Reported from Committee
S395	Cleare	Directs the New York state Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking to investigate connections between social media and human trafficking	Chapter 497 of 2023
S799	Comrie	Extends the period given to certain applicants for public assistance benefits to request a fair hearing	Passed Senate Only
S1567	Salazar	Requires the development of mental illness training for providers of temporary housing	Passed Senate Only
S2143A	Persaud	Relates to the creation of a Self-Sufficiency Standard Study	Passed Senate Only
S2144	Persaud	Exempts income earned by persons from certain job training or adult education programs from the determination of need for public assistance programs	Passed Senate Only
S2496	Mannion	Requires social services districts to automatically re-enroll eligible persons or households for the low-income home energy assistance program	Passed Senate Only
S2503	Cleare	Establishes a co-navigation services program for persons who are deaf-blind	Reported from Committee
S2705A	Persaud	Relates to resource exemptions for applicants for public assistance programs	Reported from Committee
S2944	Kavanagh	Prohibits requiring that an individual have a court proceeding initiated against him or her in order to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance	Reported from Committee

S2982	Kavanagh	Requires shelter allowances be set at up to one hundred percent of the fair market rent for the local social services district	Reported from Committee
S3069	Persaud	Enacts into law major components of legislation which are necessary to implement the New York Healthy Incentive Program	Reported from Committee
S4546	Parker	Establishes an emergency heating energy assistance program benefit	Veto Memo 122
S4548	Parker	Provides for the automated identification of affordability program participants	Chapter 764 of 2023
S4561A	Gonzalez	Provides internet access to all individuals residing in temporary housing	Passed Senate Only
S4736	Persaud	Authorizes the reissuance of certain benefits in instances of fraud or theft of benefits	Reported from Committee
S4924	Ramos	Prohibits requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage or work a minimum number of hours to be eligible for child care assistance	Reported from Committee
S5897	Brisport	Relates to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents and repeals section two of chapter eleven of the laws of two thousand twenty-one	Chapter 739 of 2023
S5915	Gonzalez	Provides for the distribution of informational materials on economic abuse	Chapter 537 of 2023
S6181	Kavanagh	Removes the requirement that rent arrears be repaid	Reported from Committee
S6424B	Persaud	Expands the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons and extends such task force	Passed Senate Only

S6430	Cooney	Exempts certain income for the purpose of determining aid provided pursuant to public assistance programs	Passed Senate Only
S6458	Martinez	Relates to certain calls received by child protective services	Passed Senate Only
S6696	Parker	Allows college coursework to be credited as a work activity which may be used toward fulfilling the employment requirements for public assistance benefits	Reported from Committee
S6944	Persaud	Extends current exemptions of income and resources for public assistance programs	Chapter 195 of 2023
S7259A	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	Veto Memo 62
S7451	Persaud	Relates to the composition of the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking	Chapter 496 of 2023









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on Social Services**