



2021 ANNUAL  
REPORT

# NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING



**SENATOR  
RACHEL MAY**  
CHAIR



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**RACHEL MAY**  
**SENATOR, 53<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

**Chair**  
Aging  
Legislative Commission on Rural  
Resources  
**Committees**  
Agriculture  
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks  
and Recreation  
Elections  
Environmental Conservation  
Higher Education

**Albany Office**  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 803  
Albany, New York 12247  
(518) 455-2838

**District Office**  
State Office Building  
Room 805  
333 East Washington St.  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
(315) 478-8745  
may@nysenate.gov

December 17, 2021

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 Aging for the 2021 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. This year, as we found ourselves in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Aging Committee grappled with the devastating impacts on nursing home residents and home care recipients and strove to bring new direction and focus on our state's long-term care systems. It is our hope that through our efforts this year and in coming years, we will be able to ensure that nursing home residents and their caregivers will not struggle as they did during this challenging and uncertain year.

During the 2021 session, this committee met 4 times in session and reported 22 bills. The Committee also held a hearing this past year focused on the workforce challenges at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and with homecare. My office subsequently issued a report on this hearing. I want to thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel May". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rachel May, 53<sup>rd</sup> District

## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Aging has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning Elder Law, nursing homes, caregivers, and senior services.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, 58 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twenty-two (22) were reported from the Committee. Eighteen (18) were passed by the Senate, and six (6) passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 4 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 topic of workforce challenges at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and in homecare settings.

**2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

**Senator Rachel May, Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Rachel May Senator Joseph Addabbo Senator Samra Brouk Senator Simcha Felder Senator Jose Serrano	Senator Sue Serino Senator George Borrello
--	---

Committee Staff

Kristin M. Williams, Committee Clerk

**2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

**Senator Rachel May, Chairperson**

Committee Members

Senator Rachel May Senator Joseph Addabbo Senator Samra Brouk Senator Simcha Felder Senator Jose Serrano	Senator Sue Serino Senator George Borrello
--	---

Committee Staff

Kristin M. Williams, Committee Clerk

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2021:

- **S598B (MAY)** which, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, would study the state of long-term care services in the state through the creation of a task force
- **S1560 (MAY)** which would incorporate identity theft into the definition of elder abuse for purposes of support services and programs for older persons
- **S3085A (STEWART-COUSINS)** which would increase the amount of income that property owners may earn and maintain eligibility for property tax exemptions when they are over 65 years of age and for persons with disabilities who have limited income
- **S612 (MAY)** which enacts the “Long-term care ombudsman program reform act”

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, six (6) of the 58 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Aging passed both houses of the Legislature and the Governor has signed four (4) bills into law.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>S6740</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to long term care ombudsman access to assisted living facilities</b>	<b>Chapter 202 of 2021</b>
<b>S598</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Enacts the "reimagining long-term care task force" to create a task force to study the state of long-term care services in this state</b>	<b>Chapter 758 of 2021</b>
<b>S612B</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to enacting the "long-term care ombudsman program reform act"</b>	<b>Chapter 759 of 2021</b>
<b>S1560</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Incorporates identity theft into the definition of elder abuse for purposes of support services and programs for elder persons</b>	<b>Chapter 655 of 2021</b>
<b>S6526</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to the definition of social adult day services</b>	<b>Chapter 296 of 2021</b>
<b>S6528</b>	<b>Persaud</b>	<b>Relates to establishing an elder abuse enhanced multidisciplinary team program under the office for the aging</b>	<b>Chapter 223 of 2021</b>



## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

All bills reported from the Committee on Aging in 2021:

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
<b>S78A</b>	<b>Hoylman</b>	<b>Clarifies the meaning of the phrase greatest social need for purposes of the administration of programs under the federal Older Americans Act of 1965</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S554</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Directs the office for the aging and the department of economic development to expand encore entrepreneurship in the state, to empower individuals fifty years of age or older to establish small businesses</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S555A</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Creates the office of older adult workforce development within the office for the aging</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S598B</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Enacts the "reimagining long-term care task force" to create a task force to study the state of long-term care services in the state</b>	<b>Chapter 758 of 2021</b>
<b>S612B</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to enacting the "long-term care ombudsman program reform act"</b>	<b>Chapter 759 of 2021</b>
<b>S913</b>	<b>Sanders</b>	<b>Relates to informal caregiver training</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S1065</b>	<b>Biaggi</b>	<b>Establishes the elder abuse shelter aftercare demonstration program</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S1560</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Incorporates identity theft into the definition of elder abuse for purposes of support services and programs for elder persons</b>	<b>Chapter 655 of 2020</b>
<b>S2535A</b>	<b>Rivera</b>	<b>Relates to program eligibility for plans comparable to Medicare part D</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>

<b>S2823</b>	<b>Serino</b>	<b>Relates to the duty of office for the aging to provide certain information relating to services through electronic means</b>	<b>Reported From Committee</b>
<b>S3085</b>	<b>Stewart-Cousins</b>	<b>Increases the amount of income property owners may earn for the purpose of eligibility for the property tax exemption for persons over sixty-five years of age and persons with disabilities and limited income</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S3483</b>	<b>Bailey</b>	<b>Relates to income eligibility under the EPIC program</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S3678</b>	<b>Comrie</b>	<b>Provides for the creation of a drug guide for seniors regarding the drugs commonly used by people over 62 years of age</b>	<b>Reported From Committee</b>
<b>S3932</b>	<b>Savino</b>	<b>Specifies procedures for the closure and/or decertification of assisted living residences</b>	<b>Reported From Committee</b>
<b>S4216</b>	<b>Stavisky</b>	<b>Relates to tax abatement for rent-controlled and rent regulated property occupied by senior citizens or persons with disabilities</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S4412</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Establishes an Alzheimer's disease outreach and education program</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S5196B</b>	<b>Sanders</b>	<b>Provides for elder abuse prevention training</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>
<b>S6260</b>	<b>Rivera</b>	<b>Expands eligibility for tax abatement for rent-controlled and rent regulated property occupied by persons with disabilities</b>	<b>Reported From Committee</b>
<b>S6526</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to the definition of social adult day services</b>	<b>Chapter 296 of 2020</b>
<b>S6528</b>	<b>Persaud</b>	<b>Relates to establishing an elder abuse enhanced multidisciplinary team program under the office for the aging</b>	<b>Chapter 223</b>
<b>S6664</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Establishes a state-level program of all-inclusive care for the elderly</b>	<b>Passed Senate Only</b>

<b>S6740</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Relates to the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to long term care ombudsman access to assisted living facilities</b>	<b>Chapter 202 of 2020</b>
--------------	------------	---	----------------------------











2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

AGING