

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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Committee On
Aging

Carl E. Heastie • Speaker
Ron Kim • Chairperson



ANNUAL REPORT



Ron Kim
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THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Aging

COMMITTEES
Education
Corporations, Authorities and Commissions,
Governmental Operations
Housing

December 15, 2022

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. The work accomplished during the 2022 Legislative Session reflects the commitment of the Committee and I to protect the health, safety, independence, and quality of life of New York's older adults.

This year, the Committee held a hearing in Albany examining the financial, economic, and social challenges non-Medicaid eligible older adults face in accessing home-based long-term care services. The Legislature also passed important legislation related to providing property tax and rent exemptions for certain older adults and greater transparency of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their continued support. Finally, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your leadership and support of our legislative initiatives to better protect New York State's older adults.

Sincerely,

Ron Kim
Chair, Committee on Aging

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Ron Kim, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
José Rivera
Philip Ramos
Brian Barnwell
Billy Jones
Inez Dickens
Daniel A. Rosenthal
Steve Stern
Mathylde Frontus
Karines Reyes
Catalina Cruz
Simcha Eichenstein
Charles D. Fall
Sarah Clark
Jenifer Rajkumar
Phara Souffrant Forrest
Stefani Zinerman
Zohran K. Mamdani
Yudelka Tapia
Edward Gibbs
Nikki Lucas

Minority

Michael Tannousis, *Ranking Member*
Jacob Ashby
Karl Brabenec
Douglas Smith
Joseph P. DeStefano
Jeff L. Gallahan
Michael Lawler
Eric Brown

Majority Staff

Maria Volpe-McDermott, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Felicia Harris, Legislative Analyst
Benjamin Decker, Associate Counsel
Peng Zhang, Committee Clerk
Mary Ellen O'Connor, Program and Counsel Executive Secretary

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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Aging has jurisdiction over legislation affecting the quality of life and independence of New York's older adults. The Committee has legislative and budgetary oversight of the implementation and administration of New York State Office for the Aging's programs, including the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) program, the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), Caregiver Resource Centers, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) Program, Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP), the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Respite programs, Social Adult Day programs, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs), the Foster Grandparent program, the Elder Abuse Education and Outreach program, and locally based Meals-on-Wheels programs.

The Committee also oversees the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, which is administered by the New York State Department of Health and reviews certain legislation providing property tax relief for older adults, including the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) program, the Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE) program, and the Disabled Homeowners Exemption (DHE) program.

During the 2022 legislative session, 60 bills were referred to the Assembly Committee on Aging. The following report details the major budgetary and legislative activities and accomplishments of the Assembly Committee on Aging during the 2022 Legislative Session.

II. STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022-23 enacted state budget provided funding for many programs dedicated to protecting the health, safety, independence, and quality of life of older adults, as well as assisting their caregivers and families.

A. BUDGET SUMMARY CHART

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Legislature provided General Fund support for the following programs:

| Program | Total |
|--|--------------|
| Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) | \$67,498,000 |
| Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program | \$33,617,000 |
| Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) Program | \$33,474,000 |
| Programs to Combat Social Isolation | \$2,900,000 |
| Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) | \$2,027,500 |
| Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs) | \$2,027,500 |
| Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP) | \$1,767,000 |
| Local Grants for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program | \$1,190,000 |
| Grants for Transportation Operating Expenses for the Elderly | \$1,121,000 |
| Grants for Providers of Social Model Adult Day Services | \$1,072,000 |
| Grants for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) | \$1,000,000 |
| Holocaust Survivors Initiative | \$1,000,000 |
| Elderly Abuse and Outreach Program | \$745,000 |
| State Aid Grants to Providers of Respite Services | \$656,000 |
| Lifespan Elder Abuse Prevention Program – Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams | \$500,000 |
| State Master Plan on Aging | \$500,000 |
| Congregate Services Initiative | \$403,000 |
| Caregiver Resource Centers | \$353,000 |
| Association on Aging in New York State | \$250,000 |
| Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) | \$216,500 |
| Older Adults Technology Services Center (OATS) | \$200,000 |
| Matching Federally funded Model Projects and/or Demonstration Grant Programs | \$175,000 |
| Livable New York Initiative | \$122,500 |
| New York State Adult Day Services Association, Inc. | \$122,500 |
| EAC/Nassau Senior Respite Program | \$118,500 |
| Foster Grandparents Program | \$98,000 |
| New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Care Program | \$86,000 |
| Home Aides of Central New York, Inc. Senior Respite Program | \$71,000 |
| New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc. – Patients’ Rights Hotline and Advocacy Project | \$31,500 |

III. COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. ELDER ABUSE

A.8799, Cruz; Chapter 63 of the Laws of 2022: This law is a chapter amendment to Chapter 655 of the Laws of 2021 to provide technical amendments.

B. ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM

A.928-A, Carroll; Chapter 800 of the Laws of 2022: This law prohibits an individual who is otherwise determined to be eligible for the EPIC program from becoming ineligible based upon their income solely because of an increase in either their public or private pension or an increase in their social security benefits where such increase did not exceed the consumer price index for such year.

C. EMPLOYMENT

A.3403-B, Stirpe; Veto Message No.70: This legislation would establish an Office of Older Adult Workforce Development within the State Office for the Aging to address the needs of older adults in the workplace.

D. LONG-TERM CARE

A.8592, Clark; Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2022: This law is a chapter amendment to Chapter 759 of the Laws of 2021 to clarify the Department of Health's role and amend the effective date.

A.8798, Cruz; Chapter 103 of the Laws of 2022: This law is a chapter amendment to Chapter 758 of the Laws of 2021 to make technical amendments, include the Department of Health as a chair of the task force, and amend the effective date.

A.10045-A, Clark; Chapter 776 of the Laws of 2022: This law enhances the state Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program's annual report to include an examination of recurring complaints, a reporting of all complaints, and the number of visits to each facility.

E. OTHER

A.2590-B, Eichenstein; Passed the Assembly: This bill would require SOFA to collect and provide a report to the Legislature on the unmet need for each program or service offered by each area agency on aging.

A.7855, Bronson; Chapter 573 of the Laws of 2022: This law defines the term "greatest social need" in law for purposes of administering the federal Older Americans Act.

F. PROPERTY TAX AND RENT EXEMPTIONS

A.1980, Dinowitz; Chapter 738 of the Laws of 2022: This law requires municipalities to send a second notice to eligible older adults 30 days prior to the application filing deadline to re-apply

for the Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE) program.

A.3956-A, Abinanti; Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2022: This law allows municipalities, beginning July 1, 2022, to increase the maximum income eligibility for the SCHE and Disabled Homeowners Exemption (DHE) programs from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

A.10142, Lucas; Chapter 292 of the Laws of 2022: This law extends certain provisions of the Senior Citizen Rent Income Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Income Exemption (DRIE) programs for two years until June 30, 2024.

A.10414-A, Rules (Niou); Chapter 686 of the Laws of 2022: This law extends the SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE programs to certain residents in Battery Park City and extends Battery Park City Authority's master ground lease for an additional 50 years.

IV. HEARINGS

A. Home-Based Long-Term Care Services

December 12, 2022

10:00 AM

Albany, NY

The Assembly Standing Committee on Aging conducted a hearing on home-based long-term care services. The purpose of this hearing was to seek testimony on the long-term needs of older adults who are not eligible for Medicaid, particularly the financial, economic, and social challenges these adults and their caregivers face in obtaining home-based long-term care services.

The Committee received testimony from the Association on Aging, AARP New York, LeadingAge New York, Home Care Association of New York State, LiveOn NY, New York State Adult Day Services Association, Better Aging and Policy Consulting, The Empire Center, ArchCare, Centro de Amigos Spanish-Language Social Adult Day Center, Gray Panthers NYC, Chinese Staff and Workers Association, Flushing Workers Center, National Mobilization Against Sweatshops, Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State, Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State, and New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2023

The Committee on Aging will continue to work to secure adequate funding for services and programs that serve older adults and their caregivers, so that they can age safely, independently, and comfortably in their homes and their communities. With more people living longer, it is essential that we meet the increasing demand of such programs and ensure that older New Yorkers receive the services they need.

VI. APPENDIX A

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| 2022 SUMMARY SHEET |
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SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

 Aging

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 5

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>ASSEMBLY</u> | <u>SENATE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
| <u>BILLS</u> | <u>BILLS</u> | <u>BILLS</u> |

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Codes | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Judiciary | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ways and Means | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Rules | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Floor | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 0 | 11 |

COMMITTEE ACTION

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Held For Consideration | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Defeated | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enacting Clause Stricken | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| REMAINING IN COMMITTEE | 51 | 9 | 60 |

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:

Ways and Means 1

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 1 | 0 | 1 |
|-------|---|---|---|