

New York State Assembly | Sheldon Silver, Speaker



committee on

Labor

Susan V. John, Chair



SUSAN JOHN
Assemblymember 131ST District
Monroe County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Labor

December 15, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932 – Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Silver,

I am pleased to submit the 2009 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Labor. This year the Committee considered a number of important issues in various areas of Labor and Workers' Compensation Law. The Committee considered 35 bills and reported 34. Of these, seven became law.

While the main focus of the Committee has been on protecting the rights of workers and securing a safe, productive work environment, the exigencies of the state and national economies meant that all committee action was undertaken with extreme fiscal scrutiny. The realities of the fiscal situation during 2009 strained the funds on which the unemployment system is administered and limited the programs and initiatives that the Labor Committee ordinarily supports.

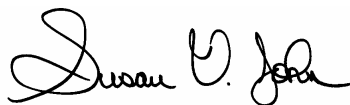
Much of the Committee's efforts this year, particularly during budget negotiations, were focused on maintaining the hard-fought rights of the working class against anti-worker legislation that sprang up as a result of universal fiscal hardship and consequent misguided actions against employees generally and organized labor in particular. The Committee succeeded during difficult budget negotiations in protecting the Wicks Law Reform of 2008, which promotes competition, reduces bid rigging and provides other essential protections to small and minority-owned businesses competing for public contracts; in insuring the competency and training of crane operators in the wake of the disasters in New York City last year; and in reforming the method of calculating workers' compensation premiums, which should lower the cost of administrative assessments charged to small business who secure their policies through carrier insurance. The Committee worked alongside the Governmental Employees Committee to protect the negotiated contracts of state workers.

This session, the Committee and Assembly passed a comprehensive whistleblower bill that would protect workers who report illegal actions by their employers; bills that would end the unjust exclusion of farmworkers and domestic workers from basic labor rights; and a package of bills designed to eliminate the wage gap between male and female employees. Together with the Senate and Governor, the Assembly enacted legislation that provides increased protections and wage enforcement mechanisms for low wage workers—which presaged a call for such reform by a number of employment advocacy organizations; an unemployment insurance bill that allowed the State to accept more than \$400 million in unemployment modernization funds and provide for continued coverage for the nearly 600,000 New Yorkers currently surviving off of this social insurance; ensures prompt payment to workers on construction projects; and, alongside the Judiciary and Governmental Operations committees, enacted legislation that protects victims of domestic violence from discrimination in the workplace.

Under your leadership the Assembly has successfully navigated through this difficult year. It will be the goal of the Labor Committee during the 2010 legislative session to continue to advocate for workers of all occupations. We look forward to your leadership as we continue to address the urgent problems with the state's Unemployment Insurance system; to expand the health and safety protections for workers; and to ensure a safe and productive employment environment as New Yorkers continue to struggle to overcome the current recession.

In closing, I want to thank you for your leadership and all of the members of the Labor Committee for their dedication and hard work during these difficult economic times. I look forward to 2010 as an opportunity to further help the working men and women of the State of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan V. John". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan V. John
Chair
Assembly Labor Committee

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
HON. SHELDON SILVER, SPEAKER**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR
HON. SUSAN V. JOHN, CHAIR**

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members

Majority

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Marc S. Alessi
Michael Benedetto
Joan K. Christensen
Barbara M. Clark
William Colton
Patricia A. Eddington
Carl E. Heastie
Andrew Hevesi
Earlene Hooper
Brian Kavanagh
Rory I. Lancman
George S. Latimer
Margaret M. Markey
Nettie Mayersohn
Joan L. Millman
Felix Ortiz
Jose R. Peralta
N. Nick Perry
Kenneth Zebrowski
Grace Meng

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Nancy Calhoun
James D. Conte
Clifford W. Crouch
David R. Townsend
Rob Walker
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Staff

Louann Ciccone, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Harry B. Bronson, Esq., Associate Counsel
Dallas Trombley, Legislative Analyst
Tanya Hensel, Committee Clerk
Hillary Lubin, Administrative Assistant
Molly McDonald, Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

Each session the Labor Committee considers legislation relevant to the working people and businesses of New York State. The Committee is responsible for protecting fundamental workers' rights, such as the right to a day of rest, a minimum wage, the right to a safe workplace and the ability to organize. The legislation considered impacts not only the lives and livelihood of New York's workers, but often affects the overall economy. In 2009 the Labor Committee considered 35 bills and reported 34 [see Appendix A].

The Labor Committee considers bills from a number of sources including Members of the Assembly, the Governor's Program Bills and Departmentals introduced at the request of the Department of Labor, the Workers' Compensation Board, the Attorney General and the State Insurance Fund. Many of these bills address administrative issues, which allow these departments and the programs they oversee to run more efficiently. Others allow for stronger regulations and enforcement of current law in order to strengthen protections for workers.

The Committee also generates bills at the request of constituents, collective bargaining organizations, think-tanks as well as classifications or groups of workers. A representative sample of the legislative proposals acted upon this year included consideration of a "sweat-free consortium" to prevent abusive and exploitative labor practices in the apparel industry; a bill granting farm and domestic workers the basic rights guaranteed to other workers; the strengthening of workers' compensation protections for Lyme Disease patients; and a Paid Family Leave proposal.

During the budget process the Labor Committee works with the staff of the Ways and Means Committee in order to provide funding for numerous programs and initiatives. This year the Committee successfully restored funding to programs such as the Displaced Homemakers and the Jobs for Youth programs. The Committee restored funding to various programs aimed at helping to retrain unemployed workers in order to bring them back into the workforce with valuable skills. This year the recession increased the needs of workers while simultaneously decreasing State revenues. This caused the Committee to strategically appropriate funds to programs that would have the greatest net affect on the quality of life of New York State's workers.

Throughout the year, the Labor Committee works in conjunction with other committees and departments. For example, this year, the Labor Committee and the Local Governments Committee worked to protect labor rights as part of Industrial Development Agency and Wicks Reform, and through a Green Jobs bill, and the Labor, Governmental Operations and Judiciary committees worked together to pass legislation that protected victims of domestic abuse from workplace retaliation.

The Labor Committee holds hearings each year on important issues that affect the state workforce. These hearings serve as a sounding board wherein professionals, academics, workers, businesses and other public constituents provide testimony to Members of the Assembly. This year the Labor Committee participated in hearings on the public construction bidding process, on the outsourcing of information technology jobs to independent contractors rather than civil service employees, and on the effect of the H1N1 virus in the workplace.

The Labor Committee remains committed to ensuring the rights of working people and streamlining and strengthening government processes and protections.

SIGNIFIGANT LEGISLATION

Construction Industry

Construction has historically been an economic driver in New York State. Stimuli to this area have helped lead the state out of past recessions. However the current economic situation is different. The stale real estate market has decimated home construction and placed downward pressure on construction wages. In February, the federal government passed the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) which, *inter alia*, provided funds for public works projects that were shovel-ready. Many road and bridge and capital projects have been jumpstarted thanks to this infusion of federal funds.

When construction workers are improperly classified as independent contractors, it not only deprives those workers of their rights, it also places businesses that follow the laws at a disadvantage and costs taxpayers money. Construction remains a dangerous industry and workers, especially in times of high unemployment, need legislative protections both from on-the-job injuries and infringements on their constitutional right to adequate wages. In 2009 the Labor Committee reported numerous bills designed to protect construction industry workers, ensure that all companies play by the same rules, and protect taxpayers.

1. Significant Legislation

- (a) **Chapter 417 of 2009:** Provides that payments to contractors must be tendered within 30 days of the completion of a construction project and allows for arbitration as a remedy for grievances. **A6493D (John) / S5982 (Savino)**
- (b) **A215 (Latimer) / S2909 (Stewart-Cousins):** Would mandate wage posting requirements and provide penalties for noncompliance. Passed Assembly.
- (c) **A393 (John):** Would require that a contractor or sub-contractor may not engage another person to work on a public works project unless it is pursuant to a written agreement. Passed Assembly.
- (d) **A3705 (John) / S4912 (Addabbo):** Would require that any project financed in whole or in part with public funds shall be subject to prevailing wage laws. Reported to Codes.
- (e) **A8522 (John):** Would mandate the preferential hiring of local, unemployed workers on public works construction projects. Reported to Codes.
- (f) **A8237A (John) / S6194 (Foley):** Would provide that construction workers shall be automatically considered employees rather than independent contractors unless it can be demonstrated to the contrary. This bill would also establish a taskforce to address misclassification in other fields besides construction, and create a construction industry classification fund for use by the Department of Labor to enforce misclassification violations. This bill was under consideration by the Labor Committee at the close of session.

Farm and Domestic Worker Protections

Workers who labor on farms and in our homes represent an unseen class of workers who are explicitly excluded from the employment protections and rights that most other workers enjoy. The federal Fair Labor Standards Act, passed in 1938 and adopted in large part in New York through various articles of the Labor Law, provides most workers with many protections, including but limited to, a minimum wage, a day of rest each week, and the right to organize and bargain collectively. However, farm and domestic workers are specifically exempted in both federal and state law from these rights. These workers toil under a subset of laws in employment situations conducive to abuse—meanwhile these same workers help to put food on our tables and allow other workers to travel to their jobs by caring for their children and homes. The immoral and archaic laws that govern these workers need to be revised. The Labor Committee and the Assembly passed multiple bills to provide these workers with the same rights most other employees enjoy. We remain committed to bringing these workers up to the same level as other workers in New York State.

1. Significant Legislation

- (a) **A1470 (Wright):** Would enact a comprehensive domestic worker reform statute designed to place domestic workers on par with other workers in New York State. The bill would mandate a day of rest each week, overtime pay, workers' compensation coverage and a minimum wage for domestic workers, as well as the right to collectively bargain. This bill passed the Assembly.
- (b) **A1867 (Nolan) / S2247 (Onorato):** Would enact a comprehensive farm worker reform statute designed to place farm workers on par with other workers in New York State. The bill would grant farm laborers a day of rest each week, disability insurance coverage, overtime pay, unemployment coverage and the right to collectively bargain. This bill passed the Assembly.

Low Wage Worker Protections

Many of New York's workers are employed in low wage industries, depending on a statutory minimum wage for their living or operating below the ordinary minimum wage and surviving on cash gratuities or other wage supplements. Many of these workers are unaware of their labor law rights. A recent study of workers in low wage industries in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City found these workers particular subjects of abuse. This study found that more than one-quarter of such workers were paid less than the minimum wage, three-quarters were not paid their statutory overtime rate, and there were many violations of wage-and-hour and workers' compensation laws. The Labor Committee remains dedicated to increasing workers' rights awareness and strengthening the ability of employees and the Department of Labor to enforce those rights.

1. Significant Legislation

- (a) **Chapter 270 of 2009:** Requires employers to notify workers in writing at the time they are hired of their hourly wage rate and their rate of overtime compensation. **A6962 (Latimer) / S3357 (Onorato)**
- (b) **Chapter 372 of 2009:** Provides increased enforcement mechanisms to employees and the Commissioner of DOL to protect the rights of low wage workers. This chapter shifts the burden of proof in wage and hour cases onto the employer, increases the penalties for wage and hour violations and allows the Commissioner to bring actions against employers on behalf of workers. **A6963 (Zebrowski) / S3358 (Onorato)**
- (c) **A470 (John):** Would require every procurement contract entered into by a state agency to contain a statement from the contractor that no forced labor was used. This bill passed the Assembly.

Occupational Safety and Health

One goal of the Labor Committee is to consider legislation that will prevent workplace injuries and protect the health of New York's workforce. Such legislation helps protect lives and lowers employers' workers' compensation premiums. Occupational Safety and Health programs offer opportunities for employee-management partnerships wherein both parties benefit from their cooperation to avoid unnecessary injury and expense. Such programs drastically decrease the number of workers who are hurt on the job as well as the severity of injuries that do occur. The Committee continues to reach out to organized labor in order to address current problems in this area and to expand these programs whenever possible. Additionally the Committee considered a number of pieces of legislation designed to protect workers and the public from dangerous employment situations.

1. Significant Legislation

- (a) **Chapter 57 of 2009:** This legislation contains provisions that regulate the certification of crane operators and the licensing, storage and transportation of fireworks. **Parts CC and DD of A157B / S57 (Budget)**
- (b) **Chapter 219 of 2009:** Makes permanent provisions mandating certain training and equipment by employees working on high voltage electrical lines. **A6350 (Magnarelli) / S2577 (Valesky)**
- (c) **A469 (John) / S2249 (Onorato):** Would establish dedicated funding to the occupational safety and health training and education and occupational health clinic programs fund. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.

- (d) **A2136A (John) / S2124A (Addabbo):** Would require the development and implementation of programs by schools to address workplace violence similar to current requirement of local municipalities. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
- (e) **A7144A (Benedetto) / S5737 (Klein):** Would provide increased protections for employees from retaliatory actions by employers where such employees report illegal business activities. **Veto 72 of 2009**
- (f) **A2247B (Schroeder) / S1948A (Stachowski):** Would authorize and direct the Department of Labor to study hostile workplace behavior and its consequences. **Veto 30 of 2009**

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance (UI) was designed as a safety net to workers who are ready, able and willing to work. Unemployment insurance benefits help workers meet their basic needs. These benefits are funded through an annual tax, paid exclusively by employers, based on each employee's payroll. The recent economic downturn has caused a dramatic increase in unemployment leading to the highest rate in decades both state- and nation-wide. This has led to nearly one million beneficiaries of unemployment insurance statewide. The UI system faces two predominant problems. New York Law stipulates that UI benefits must be the exclusive source of income for recipients or the benefit for the individual is reduced, yet the current benefit has not been increased in eight years and currently represents only 26% of the state average weekly wage. At the same time, the mechanism on which the benefit is funded is inadequate to such an extent that New York's UI fund became insolvent on the first day of 2009 and the state has been forced to borrow nearly \$90 million per week from the federal government to provide the benefits to New York's unemployed workforce. While the Committee worked with the Senate and the Governor's office to successfully extend the duration of the benefit by 20 weeks and to draw down federal funds for this purpose, the fundamental problems of insolvency and an inadequate benefit remain. The Committee stands ready to work with the Senate and Governor's office to address these urgent problems.

1. Significant Legislation

- (a) **Chapter 35 of 2009:** Extends the UI benefit duration during periods of high unemployment and allows for federal funding to cover the benefit through 2010. **A8273 (Meng) / S4110 (Onorato)**
- (b) **Chapter 106 of 2009:** Extends for two years the Self-Employment Assistance Program. **A6050 (Schimminger) / S3707 (Onorato)**
- (c) **A613 (John) / S4123A (Onorato):** Would provide that an offer of employment to a worker at an academic institution that is contingent upon factors such as enrollment and funding shall not constitute "reasonable assurance" of continued employment. Referred to Labor Committee.

- (d) **A2131 (John) / S2775 (Onorato):** Would increase the funding cap on the “599 retraining” program for unemployed workers. Referred to Labor Committee.
- (e) **A2256 (Stirpe) / S302 (Little):** Would exclude alien farmworkers from UI coverage. Referred to Labor Committee.
- (f) **A3703A (John):** Would repeal provisions of law relating to limiting the unemployment insurance benefits that a non-professional employee of an educational institution may receive during vacation periods. Referred to Labor Committee.
- (g) **A4920A (John) / S4053-A (Monserrate):** Would institute many important reforms to the state’s unemployment insurance program. It would incrementally raise the unemployment insurance benefit to one-half the average weekly wage in 2013 while also raising the taxable wage base to fund the benefit. It would address concerns relating to voluntary separation from employment and mandate that the claims of professional and non-professional employees of academic institutions be judged on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the bill would increase funding to unemployment retraining programs and increase the amount of remuneration an employer must pay in order to be liable for unemployment insurance payments. This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.
- (h) **A4921 (John) / S2245 (Onorato):** Would increase the maximum UI benefit to one-half the average weekly wage by 2013 as well as the taxable wage base on which the benefit is funded. This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

Other Significant Legislation

Lump Sum Payment for Workers’ Compensation Benefits

Chapter 351 of 2009: Allows workers’ compensation claimants to receive the projected amount of their claim in one payment if the claimant requests such from the workers’ compensation board judge. **A2021B (John) / S2776B (Onorato)**

Leave of Absence for Victims of Domestic Violence

A438B (John) / S5610 (Robach): This bill would allow victims of domestic violence up to 90 days of unpaid leave in order to seek medical care and counseling, seek legal and social services and engage in safety planning. This bill was passed by the Assembly.

Pay Equity

A3911 (John) / S955 (Johnson): This bill would supplement inadequate Federal Law and require the establishment of a job classification system that does not systematically undervalue the work of women and minority workers in order to establish "equivalent jobs" that are dissimilar but require equivalent skills, effort, responsibility and working conditions. It would require employers to pay all employees who have equivalent jobs the same rate, with exceptions for seniority, merit systems, jobs based on the quality or quantity of work produced, and other non-sex or race-based factors. This bill passed the Assembly.

OUTLOOK FOR 2010

In 2010 the Labor Committee will continue its obligation to protect the rights of workers while balancing this objective with promoting private business and establishing policies that reduce burdens upon and enhance efficiency in government to protect taxpayers. The Committee remains dedicated to expanding basic workers' rights to the underprivileged and addressing the needs of workers and businesses around the state. In addition to many other issues, the Labor Committee faces the following specific challenges in 2010:

Unemployment Insurance Reform: New York's Unemployment Insurance system became insolvent in early 2009 and has only remained able to pay UI benefits by borrowing from the federal government, at times as much as \$90 million per week. While there has been discussion that the national recession may be over, unemployment is likely to remain high for the foreseeable future, and there is some speculation that it will be many years before the unemployment rate returns below five percent. In addition to these problems there is a heightened need in the current changing economy to increase the funding for UI retraining programs and to address the process wherein certain employees are excluded from UI benefits. The Committee will continue to advocate for many changes to the UI program in 2010.

Paid Family Leave: This year the Assembly introduced and supported a Paid Family Leave bill, which would amend the Temporary Disability section of the Workers' Compensation Law to grant an employee the ability to take time off of work to care for a sick parent, child or partner, or to bond with a newborn or adopted child. The Committee remains committed to passing a "family friendly" Paid Family Leave bill that would provide an adequate benefit to all employees so that workers will not have to choose between the responsibilities of their jobs and the health of their loved ones.

Employee Misclassification: The misclassification of an employee as an "independent contractor" allows employers to avoid unemployment and workers' compensation payments and frees the employer from many other tax and safety regulations. In February 2008, the Governor's office released its "Report of the Joint Enforcement Task Force on Employee Misclassification," and discussion has been underway establishing classification methods. The Committee remains committed to implementing policy aimed at curbing misclassification that will protect workers, taxpayers and those businesses that follow current laws.

Minimum Wage: In 2010 the Committee will continue to advocate raising the minimum wage. The cost of living in New York is higher than many other states in the nation, and the current minimum wage is inadequate to meet the basic needs of workers in New York. Raising the minimum wage helps the economy by providing those who are most likely to spend money with more money. It also functions as a safety net, which saves government tax dollars by keeping individuals off of public assistance. However, this safety net only functions if the minimum wage is sufficient to allow a worker to purchase food, utilities, health care, gas and rent.

Pay Equality: While the Assembly passed numerous pieces of legislation aimed at pay equality, for instance **A3911 (John)**, **A6712 (Rosenthal)**, **A2351 (Lifton)** and **A1119 (Destito)**, these bills did not pass the Senate. The Labor Committee will continue to fight for equal pay for jobs that are fundamentally the same.

APPENDIX A

**2009 SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE LABOR COMMITTEE**

FINAL ACTION	ASSEMBLY BILLS	SENATE BILLS	TOTAL BILLS
BILLS REPORTED WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT			
TO FLOOR; NOT RETURNING TO COMMITTEE	2	0	2
TO FLOOR; RECOMMITTED AND DIED	0	0	0
TO WAYS AND MEANS	10	0	10
TO CODES	21	0	21
TO RULES	1	0	1
TO JUDICIARY	0	0	0
TOTAL	34	0	34
BILLS HAVING COMMITTEE REFERENCE CHANGED	0	0	0
SENATE BILLS SUBSTITUTED OR RECALLED			
SUBSTITUTED		1	1
RECALLED		0	0
TOTAL		1	1
BILLS DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE	0	0	0
BILLS NEVER REPORTED, HELD IN COMMITTEE	1	0	1
BILLS NOT ON AN AGENDA	211	0	211
BILLS HAVING ENACTING CLAUSES STRICKEN	0	0	0
MOTIONS TO DISCHARGE LOST	0	0	0
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	246	1	247
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	6		

APPENDIX B

2009 ENACTED LABOR LEGISLATION

Chapter 35	Relates to voluntary separations from work for compelling family reasons and to extended benefits.	A8273 Meng
Chapter 106	Extends provisions of law relating to the self-employment assistance.	A6050 Schimminger
Chapter 219	Makes permanent chapter 206 of the laws of 1974, relating to industry work practices, procedures and standards applicable to energized high voltage line.	A6530 Magnarelli
Chapter 270	Requires employers to give written notice of the rate of pay and the regular pay day upon hiring, and get written acknowledgment thereof from each employee.	A6962 Latimer
Chapter 351	Provides that certain workers' compensation payments may be made in one lump sum without commutation to a present value amount.	A2021B John
Chapter 372	Strengthens wage and hour protections for working people.	A6963 Zebrowski
Chapter 417	Relates to the prompt payment of employees and contractors engaged in private construction contracts.	A6493D John

APPENDIX C

2009 LABOR LEGISLATION PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY

A215 Latimer	Would require the posting of a statement of wage rates and supplements; would provide penalties for failure to do so.
A393 John	Would require that a contractor or sub-contractor not engage another person to do work on a public works project unless it is pursuant to a written agreement.
A438B John	Would grant entitlement to unpaid leave of absence for victims of domestic violence.
A470 John	Would provide that every procurement contract entered into by a state agency shall contain a statement from the contractor that no forced labor was used.
A1470A Wright	Would amend provisions relating to domestic workers and such workers' employment regulations, employment restrictions and employment contracts.
A1477 Wright	Would require police officers who have discharged their weapon in the course of their employment to be tested for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol.
A1867 Nolan	Would enact the Farmworker's Fair Labor Practices Act, granting collective bargaining rights, workers' compensation and unemployment benefits to farmworkers.
A2247B Schroeder	Would authorize and direct the department of labor to study hostile workplace behavior and its consequences.
A3871A Rosenthal	Would require prior written notice upon hiring and once annually to all employees, informing them of the types of electronic monitoring that may occur.
A3911 John	Would enact the New York State Fair Pay Act.
A4984 Brodsky	Would include Lyme Disease as an occupational disease that is compensable under the workers' compensation law.
A6964 John	Would relate to unemployment benefits for innocent bystanders during an industry controversy.
A7144A Benedetto	Would enact provisions providing protections to employees from retaliatory actions by employers where such employees report illegal business activities.
A7660 Meng	Would increase the number of affirmative votes required to adopt, amend or repeal a rule of the State Insurance Fund.

APPENDIX D

2009 BILLS REPORTED BY THE LABOR COMMITTEE

A215 Latimer	Would require the posting of a statement of wage rates and supplements; provide penalties for failure to do so. This bill passed the Assembly and was returned to the Senate where it was referred to Rules.
A364 Peralta	Would require farm labor contractors to provide certified copies of payroll records to the commissioner of labor. This bill advanced to third reading calendar 69.
A393 John	Would require that a contractor or sub-contractor not engage another person to do work on a public works project unless it is pursuant to a written agreement. This bill passed the Assembly.
A404 John	Would provide that utility companies shall use competent workers and shall pay the prevailing wage on projects where a permit to use or open a street is issued. This bill was ordered to 3 rd reading rules calendar 578.
A438B John	Would relate to the entitlement to unpaid leave of absence for victims of domestic violence. This bill passed the Assembly.
A466 Jeffries	Would establish the "time off for democracy act." This bill was reported to Codes.
A469 John	Would relate to the dedicated occupational safety and health training and education and occupational health clinic programs fund. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
A470 John	Would provide that every procurement contract entered into by a state agency shall contain a statement from the contractor that no forced labor was used. This bill passed the Assembly.
A611 John	Would require farm workers and domestic workers to be given at least 24 hours of consecutive rest. This bill was reported to Codes.
A1470A Wright	Would relate to provisions regarding domestic workers and such workers' employment regulations, employment restrictions and employment contracts. This bill passed the Assembly.
A1477 Wright	Would require police officers who have discharged their weapon in the course of their employment to be tested for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol. This bill passed the Assembly.
A1867 Nolan	Would enact the Farmworker's Fair Labor Practices Act, granting collective bargaining rights, workers' compensation and unemployment benefits to farmworkers. This bill passed the Assembly.
A2021B John	Provides that certain workers' compensation payments may be made in one lump sum without commutation to a present value amount. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 351.
A2136A John	Would relate to developing and implementing programs to prevent workplace violence in public schools. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
A2247B Schroeder	Would authorize and direct the department of labor to study hostile workplace behavior and its consequences. This bill was delivered to the Governor and vetoed.

A2541 Cusick	Would relate to work hours for lifeguards. This bill was reported to Rules.
A3705 John	Would subject all projects financed, in whole or in part, through certain public entities, to hours, wages and supplements contract requirements. This bill was reported to Codes.
A3871A Rosenthal	Would require prior written notice upon hiring and once annually to all employees, informing them of the types of electronic monitoring that may occur. This bill passed the Assembly.
A3911 John	Would enact the New York State Fair Pay Act. This bill passed the Assembly.
A4350 Heastie	Would provide public and private employees the right to review their personnel file. This bill advanced to third reading calendar 322.
A4920A John	Would increase unemployment insurance benefits. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
A4921 John	Relates to increasing the maximum benefit rate for unemployment insurance. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
A4984 Brodsky	Would include Lyme Disease as an occupational disease that is compensable under the workers' compensation law. This bill passed the Assembly.
A6065 Schimminger	Extends provisions of law relating to the self-employment assistance program. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 106.
A6493D John	Relates to the prompt payment of employees and contractors engaged in private construction projects. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 417.
A6530 Magnarelli	Makes permanent Chapter 206 of the Laws of 1974, relating to industry work practices, procedures and standards applicable to energized high voltage line. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 219.
A6962 Latimer	Requires employers to give written notice of the rate of pay and the regular pay day upon hiring, and get written acknowledgment thereof from each employee. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 270.
A6963 Zebrowski	Strengthens wage and hour protections for working people. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 372.
A6964 John	Would relate to unemployment benefits for innocent bystanders during industry controversy. This bill passed the Assembly.
A7144A Benedetto	Would enact provisions providing protection to employees from retaliatory actions by employers where such employees report illegal business activities. This bill was vetoed by the Governor.
A7660 Meng	Would increase the number of affirmative votes required to adopt, amend or repeal a rule of the State Insurance Fund. This bill passed the Assembly.
A8100 John	Would relate to increasing the maximum benefit rate for unemployment insurance, part-time work, training and extended benefits. This bill was reported to Ways and Means.
A8273 Meng	Relates to voluntary separations from work for compelling family reasons and to extended benefits. This bill was signed into law as Chapter 35.
A8522 John	Would enact the Regional Labor Protection Act of 2009. This bill was reported to Codes.