

New York State Assembly

Annual 2024 Report

Committee on
Aging



Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Ron Kim, Chair



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, 2024

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 2024 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. The work accomplished during the 2024 Legislative Session reflects the Committee's commitment to protect the health, safety, independence, and quality of life of New York's older adults.

This year, the Committee held a hearing on the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP). The Legislature also passed important legislation related to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs, oversight of Social Adult Day Care Programs, 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 New York State's older adults.

Sincerely,

Ron Kim
Chair, Committee on Aging

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Ron Kim, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Philip R. Ramos
Inez E. Dickens
Steve Stern
Karines Reyes
Charles Fall
Sarah Clark
Jenifer Rajkumar
Phara Forrest
Stefani Zinerman
Zohran K. Mamdani
Yudelka Tapia
Edward Gibbs
Nikki Lucas
William C. Conrad III
George A. Alvarez
Christopher W. Eachus
John Zaccaro Jr.
Sarahana Shrestha
Sam Berger
Steven Raga

Minority

Alec Brook-Krasny, *Ranking Member*
Douglas Smith
Joseph DeStefano
Jeff L. Gallahan
Scott Bendett
Lester Chang
Scott A. Gray
Michael Novakhov
Sam T. Pirozzolo

Majority Staff

Maria Volpe-McDermott, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Benjamin Decker, Associate Counsel
Adam Tenney, Legislative Analyst
Joann Butler, 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 2024 legislative session, 35 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 2024 Legislative Session.

II. STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A. BUDGET SUMMARY CHART

In the 2024-25 enacted state budget, the Legislature provided General Fund support for the following programs:

Program	Total
Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)	\$ 10,000,000
Cost of Living Adjustment	\$ 2,847,277
Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)	\$ 2,500,000
Holocaust Survivors Initiative	\$ 1,430,000
Guardianship Hotline	\$ 1,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) and Neighborhood NORC (NNORC) Nursing Services	\$ 1,000,000
Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty	\$ 900,000
LISMA Foundation	\$ 700,000
Regional Aid for Interim Need, Inc.	\$ 400,000
Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.	\$ 375,000
Center for Elder Law and Justice	\$ 325,000
SAGE LGBT Welcome Elder Housing	\$ 300,000
Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island	\$ 250,000
Westchester Residential Opportunities	\$ 250,000
LiveOn NY	\$ 200,000
Older Adult Technology Center	\$ 200,000
Queens Community House	\$ 200,000
Statewide Senior Action Council Patients' Rights Hotline	\$ 200,000
Colonie Senior Services Center	\$ 150,000
Wayside Out-Reach Development, Inc.	\$ 150,000
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Inc.	\$ 115,000
Guardianship Corp.	\$ 112,000
Project Guardianship	\$ 112,000
Selfhelp Community Services, Inc.	\$ 100,000
Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.	\$ 100,000
NY Foundation for Seniors	\$ 86,000
Glen Cove Senior Center	\$ 50,000
India Home	\$ 50,000
Spring Creek Senior Partners (NORC)	\$ 50,000
Jewish Association for Services for the Aged - Bay Eden Senior Center	\$ 25,000
Total	\$24,177,277

B. ARTICLE VII

The Assembly rejected the Executive's proposal to establish an elder justice coordinating council within the State Office for the Aging to protect older adults from abuse and mistreatment and enhance collaboration between State agencies involved in elder justice.

III. COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM

A.9369-A, McDonald; Passed Both Houses: This bill would require the Department of Health to update the EPIC program application to allow eligible participants to be automatically enrolled in the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

B. LONG-TERM CARE

A.8520, Kim; Chapter 49 of the Laws of 2024: This law is an amendment to Chapter 770 of the Laws of 2023 to require the Department of Health to provide the State Long Term Care Ombudsman with a status report on the resolution of a reported issue instead of the staff or volunteer who reported such issue.

C. NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES (NORC)

A.8519, Kim; Chapter 32 of the Laws of 2024: This law is an amendment to Chapter 661 of Laws of 2023 to clarify that certain data included in the study on the number of older adults residing in NORCs who are suffering from social isolation and loneliness be based on residents participating in programs or services provided by the NORCs.

D. OTHER

A.10142, Kim; Vetoed (Veto Memo 88): This bill would enhance the State Office for the Aging's oversight capacity of social adult day care programs.

E. PROPERTY TAX AND RENT EXEMPTIONS

A.10141, Lucas; Chapter 144 of the Laws of 2024: This law extends provisions of law related to the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs through June 2026.

A.10411, Bichotte Hermelyn; Chapter 592 of the Laws of 2024: This bill would allow NYC to utilize either the most recent income tax year or multiple different years to determine an applicant's eligibility for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE and DHE depending on what data is available.

IV. HEARINGS

A. Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)

October 17, 2024

10:00 AM

New York, NY

The Assembly Standing Committee on Aging conducted a hearing on the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly program (EISEP). The purpose of this hearing was to review and examine the effectiveness of EISEP and the current needs of the program. The Committee sought testimony to evaluate the funding provided for EISEP, including the \$10 million in funding allocated in the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 enacted budget designed to eliminate unmet need.

The Committee received testimony from the New York State Office for the Aging, New York City Department for the Aging, AARP New York, Association on Aging New York, LiveOn NY, SAGE USA, and Essential Care Visitor.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2025

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

2024 SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

 Aging

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 3

	<u>ASSEMBLY</u>	<u>SENATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>BILLS</u>	<u>BILLS</u>	<u>BILLS</u>
BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:			
Codes	0	0	0
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	5	0	5
Rules	0	0	0
Floor	2	0	2
TOTAL	7	0	7
COMMITTEE ACTION			
Held For Consideration	0	0	0
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	0	0	0
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	49	14	63
BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:			
Ways and Means 1			
TOTAL	1	0	1

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