The New York State Assembly
Annual Report

2025



Committee on
Judiciary

Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Charles D. Lavine, CHAIR

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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December 15, 2025

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

Dear Speaker Heastie:

As Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am pleased to present to you the Committee's Annual Report for the 2025 Legislative Session.

The Annual Report reviews the work of the Committee on Judiciary and highlights many of its major initiatives. It also includes a brief overview of various budgetary matters that concern the courts of the state and other areas within the Committee's purview.

The Judiciary Committee tackled many high-profile issues in 2025, including passing enhanced protections for the people and entities providing gender-affirming care and reproductive health services, decreasing obstacles for people to access estate planning and will creation services, and improving access to the courts for citizens seeking justice.

A top priority of the Committee each year is ensuring that funding is added to the state budget for civil legal services for low-income New Yorkers. The Judiciary Committee remains a strong advocate for providing civil legal services to those in need. This year, the Assembly continued its support for civil legal services in New York State by restoring its traditional funding as well as an increased appropriation for civil legal services through the Judiciary budget.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the Committee on Judiciary and all the members of the Assembly for their continued commitment to its work and to progressive legislation. As always, your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Charles Lavine, Chairperson
Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Charles D. Lavine, Chair

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

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Keith P. Brown
John Mikulin
Douglas Smith
Andrew Molitor

Staff
Jennifer Ashley, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Tyler Cooper, Associate Counsel
Gregory Branca, Analyst
Eric Brayman, Committee Assistant
Joann Butler, Executive Secretary

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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Assembly Committee on Judiciary has jurisdiction over legislation affecting all aspects of both state and local courts. It has primary jurisdiction over amendments to the Civil Practice Law and Rules, Judiciary Law, Uniform Court Acts, Family Court Act, Surrogate's Court and Procedure Act, Domestic Relations Law, Estates Powers and Trusts Law, Uniform Commercial Code, Lien Law, Debtor-Creditor Law, General Obligations Law, Real Property Law, Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Civil Rights Law, Partnership Law, Eminent Domain Procedure Law, and Indian Law. The Committee also shares budgetary oversight of the Office of Court Administration and the Department of Law with the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. In addition, all proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution are considered by the Judiciary Committee.

The highlights that follow demonstrate the breadth, diversity, and importance of the Judiciary Committee's work in 2025.

II. SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS[1]

A. PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES

Clarifying amendments to surrogacy programs and agreements.
A.2057 (Paulin) / S.819 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 98
This legislation amended Chapter 671 of the laws of 2024 to update insurance requirements, disclosures, and reimbursement guidelines for surrogates. It clarified the definition of "surrogacy program," refined Department of Health standards, and adjusted the retroactivity clause to 2021. The amendment also modified the effective date, with most provisions effective immediately and certain Family Court Act changes taking effect in three years.

No-fault judgments of legal separation.
A.3392-A (Lavine) / S.1261-A (Krueger) – Chapter 673
This legislation provides that an action for separation may be maintained due to the relationship between the spouses having broken down irretrievably for six months or more, attested to by one party under oath. It would also make technical amendments removing gendered language from the domestic relations law and allow for spouses who have lived apart pursuant to a judgment of separation or separation agreement for six months to maintain actions for divorce.

Access to birth certificates for adoptees.
A.1944 (Paulin) / S.3765 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 509
This legislation allows persons adopted from foreign countries and adopted persons over the age of eighteen to receive birth certificates in New York state by establishing that birth certificate issuance procedures apply to adopted persons of all ages.

Expanding protections under the Shield Law.
A.5480-C (Bronson) / S.4914-B (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 694
This legislation strengthens the Shield Law by protecting individuals who provide, receive, or facilitate legally protected health activity from criminal or civil liability or professional sanctions imposed by jurisdictions outside the state. It would block cooperation with out-of-state investigations regarding legally protected health activity, require affirmations for related subpoenas, and empower the Attorney General to enforce violations.

Family Court Alternative Dispute Resolution pilot program.
A.8297 (Lunsford) / S.8374 (Persaud) – Chapter 571
This legislation establishes a pilot program for free alternative dispute resolution in child support cases, administered by Community Dispute Resolution Centers in select counties, with court-referred participation, language access, trained facilitators, and safeguards for domestic violence, while ensuring all agreements return to Family Court for legal review and approval.

Electronic objections to child support orders.
A.8298 (Carroll P) / S.8176 (Persaud) – Chapter 534

[1] All references to chapter laws, except where otherwise noted, are chapters of the laws of 2025.

This legislation clarifies that the time period for which a party may file an objection to a child support order shall include electronic transmission of the order. It would extend judicial review timelines, require service of objections by a non-party over 18, and maintain the enforceability of orders during review unless modified.

Financial disclosure during divorce proceedings.
A.8299 (Lavine) / S.8270 (Webb) – Chapter 535
This legislation requires parties in a divorce proceeding to notify each other within 10 days of legal or financial events that could impact the marital estate, such as foreclosure or bankruptcy.

Adjournment in contemplation of dismissal in family court.
A.8304 (Lavine) / No Same As – Reported to Rules Committee
This legislation would establish procedures allowing family court proceedings to be adjourned in contemplation of dismissal with party and court consent. It would authorize temporary protective orders, require detailed judicial explanations for extensions or revocations, and mandate agency reporting during adjournment periods.

Rebuttable presumption on expenses in matrimonial actions.
A.8305 (Berger) / S.8372 (Brisport) – Passed Assembly
This legislation would establish a rebuttable presumption of admissibility for itemized bills or invoices under $10,000 in certain matrimonial actions, provided they are accompanied by a sworn statement attesting to their authenticity and customary nature. It would require that notice of intent to introduce such evidence be served on the opposing party at least 30 days before trial and would provide a mechanism for the adverse party to rebut the bill or invoice.

Custody determinations and registries review.
A.8407 (Lavine) / S.8198 (Brisport) – Chapter 536
This legislation requires the Family Court to check the registry of orders of protection, the sex offender registry, and records of child protective proceedings relating to individuals who may be granted custody of a child as a condition of a temporary or final order of protection.

B. PROTECTING TENANTS, HOMEOWNERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Clarifying amendments relating to mortgage flood insurance.
A.2056 (Hunter) / S.2670 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 64
This legislation amends Chapter 557 of the laws of 2024 concerning mortgage flood insurance. It clarified that mortgage flood insurance coverage must equal the lesser of the property's replacement value or the remaining mortgage balance at the start of the policy year, and requires notice to the mortgagor. The effective date was also amended from immediate implementation to 90 days after becoming law.

Extending Article 19-B of RPAPL.
A.7793 (McDonald) / S.8187 (Cooney) – Chapter 166
This law extends the provisions of Article 19-B of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law relating to abandoned commercial and industrial properties through June 30, 2028.

Eviction restrictions in Schenectady.
A.7653 (Santabarbara) / S.5675 (Tedisco) – Chapter 416
This law ensures rental properties in Schenectady comply with local law as a condition precedent for bringing an eviction action.

Homeowners' association lien notifications.
A.3470 (Lavine) / S.7413 (Kavanagh) – Chapter 433
This law requires homeowners' associations to provide notice to a unit owner of a lien for unpaid charges, assessments, fines, or fees prior to the commencement of a foreclosure action pursuant to the lien.

Extending tenant protections to rent-stabilized tenants.
A.6423-A (Lasher) / S.952-B (Kavanagh) – Chapter 436
This legislation extends the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act safeguards to rent-stabilized tenants. It caps security deposits at one month's rent, requires refunds within 14 days, and entitles tenants to pre- and post-tenancy inspections. The bill places the burden of proof on landlords in deposit disputes, establishes penalties for violations, and limits deductions to specified circumstances.

Prohibiting rent minimums in mortgages.
A.174 (Carroll) / S.1163 (Krueger) – Veto Memo 32
This legislation would prohibit mortgage agreements from penalizing borrowers for setting rents deemed too low and declaring such provisions void as against public policy.

Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Act.
A.1529 (Rivera) / S.4265-A (Kavanagh) – Passed Assembly
This legislation would require property owners to conduct a lead paint test in conjunction with a residential real estate purchase contract, and to provide prospective purchasers with the results of such test. This bill also would also require that, before a landlord executes a residential lease or rental agreement with a tenant, the owner of real property provide the tenant with a copy of all reports of a test for lead-based paint that have been issued or prepared.

Protecting minors in eviction proceedings.
A.1656 (Rosenthal) / S.1615 (Brisport) – Ordered to Third Reading
This legislation would prohibit naming dependent children under the age of 18 in eviction petitions and warrants. It would seal any related records identifying such children.

Removal of unlawful restrictive covenants.
A.1820-A (Steck) / S.3178-A (Sanders) – Chapter 578
This legislation requires the removal of unlawful restrictive covenants from property records prior to the sale of real property. It would prohibit covenants based on protected characteristics such as race, religion, sex, disability, or source of income and mandate that condominium boards, co-op corporations, and homeowners' associations proactively delete such covenants within one year of the law's effective date.

Requiring commercial landlords to mitigate damages.
A.2611 (Otis) / S.421 (Liu) – Passed Assembly
This legislation would require that commercial landlords seek to mitigate damages when commercial tenants, prior to the expiration of the lease, break their lease and vacate the premises.

Statewide small claims notice reform in landlord tenant actions.
A.6250 (Simone) / S.6739 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Reported to Rules Committee
This legislation would standardize the language across the various court acts to allow tenants statewide to mail notice of claims to the address to which they send their rent in small claims proceedings.

Conversion of manufactured home titles to real property deeds.
A.7512 (Jones) / S.7120 (Ryan S) – Chapter 636
This legislation creates a process for manufactured homeowners to convert vehicle titles into real property deeds. It would require all liens to be satisfied before conversion, establish procedures involving DMV and county recorders, and amend real property law to govern conveyance and encumbrance of manufactured homes as real property.

C. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Adding a county judge in Schenectady County.
A.3441 (Santabarbara) / S.4836 (Fahy)- Reported to Ways and Means Committee
This legislation would increase the number of county court judges in Schenectady County from one to two, to address growing judicial caseloads.

Reimbursement for temporary court interpreters.
A.3669 (Conrad) / S.916 (Ryan) – Veto Memo 110
This legislation would raise the minimum daily compensation for temporary court interpreters to $110 for both foreign language and sign language services. It would allow town and village courts to receive reimbursement up to $110 per day, with any excess costs borne by the local municipality.

Allowing out-of-state attorneys to practice in New York.
A.3849 (Weprin) / S.2422 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Ordered to Third Reading
This legislation would authorize lawyers who are admitted in New York to practice in New York, regardless of whether they reside or have an office in the state.

Adding a county court judge in Saratoga County.
A.4630 (Woerner) / S.3739 (Tedisco) – Reported to Ways and Means Committee
This legislation would increase the number of county court judges in Saratoga County from one to two, to address growing judicial caseloads.

Expanding wrongful death claims and damages.
A.6063 (Lunsford) / S.4423 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Veto Memo 87
This legislation would permit the families of wrongful death victims to recover monetary damages commensurate with their loss. It would extend the statute of limitations from two to

three years, broaden damages to include grief, guidance, and lost inheritance, and expand the class of "close family members" to include individuals standing in loco parentis, subject to fact-finder review.

Admissibility of learned treatises and journals.
A.6983 (Bores) / S.6229 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Reported to Rules Committee
This legislation would permit statements from learned treatises, periodicals, and pamphlets to be admitted into evidence, as substantive evidence under a hearsay exception.

Extended bonding authority for Child Victims Act judgments.
A.7631 (Lunsford) / S.6372 (Mayer) – Chapter 553
This legislation allows school districts to issue bonds for up to 30 years to pay judgments resulting from the Child Victims Act.

Exempting non-electronic notarial acts from recordkeeping.
A.7683 (Lavine) / S.6910 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Passed Assembly
This legislation would exempt public notaries from recordkeeping and reporting requirements for non-electronic notarial acts, eliminating the current mandate to retain such records for ten years unless otherwise required by statute.

Amending claims in the Court of Claims.
A.8047-A (Rajkumar) / S.7735 (Hoylman-Sigal) – Reported to Rules Committee
This legislation would create a procedure to amend defective claims or notices against the state within specified time frames, either automatically or with court approval. Courts would be required to consider factors like excusability, state notice, and prejudice when deciding on amendment requests.

Consent to jurisdiction for foreign corporations.
A.8303 (Lunsford) / S.8186 (Gianaris) – Veto Memo 134
This legislation would provide that a foreign corporation's application for authority to conduct business in New York constitutes consent to New York's jurisdiction. It would make conforming updates across related business and procedural statutes.

D. TRUST, ESTATES, AND GUARDIANSHIPS

Electronic wills authorization and procedures.
A.7856-A (Lavine) / S.7416-A (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 637
This legislation establishes procedures for executing, filing, and revoking electronic wills. It would amend the definition of a "will" to include electronic versions, update execution requirements, and apply the Electronic Signatures and Records Act to electronic wills.

E. INDIAN LAW

Grants to State recognition of the Montaukett Indians.
A.5295 (Schiavoni) / S.3308 (Palumbo) – Veto Memo 129

This bill amends the New York Indian Law to include the Montaukett Indians within the term "Indian nation or tribe." It would also add a new Article relating to the State recognition and acknowledgement of the Montaukett Indians and provide guidelines for the leadership of the Montaukett Indians, including elections, terms of office, qualifications of voters and the qualifications for holding office.

F. CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

Simplifying consumer debt litigation.
A.57-B (Epstein) / No Same As – Passed Assembly
This legislation would simplify consumer debt litigation by providing consistency across the law for all types of consumer debts.

Objective arbitrators in arbitration matters.
A.1219 (Dinowitz) / S.86 (Sepulveda) – Passed Assembly
This legislation would require an objective arbitrator in all arbitration matters. It would also require that any contractual language requiring a controversy be submitted to an arbitrator/arbitration organization that is not a neutral third party be deemed void unless a party knows of a potential conflict and fails to raise an objection prior to the commencement of the arbitration hearing. The bill would further require ongoing conflict disclosures and permits court review for nondisclosure.

Technical amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code.
A.3307-A (Bores) / S.1840-A (Hoylman-Sigal) – Chapter 579
This legislation updates and modernizes the Uniform Commercial Code to capture emerging financial products and digital assets.

Establishing a law enforcement peer support program.
A.6721-A (Griffin) / S.6244-A (Skoufis) – Chapter 641
This legislation codifies a law enforcement peer support program. It provides definitions, confidentiality rules, disclosure exceptions, written notice requirements, and direct DCJS to issue implementing regulations.

G. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Mount Van Hoevenberg constitutional amendment.
A.7454 (Jones) / S.5227 (Harckham) – Passed both Houses
This concurrent resolution would amend the state constitution to authorize 323 acres in Essex County for use in constructing and operating the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex. It would require the State to add 2,500 acres of equal or greater value to the Adirondack Park.

III. NEW YORK STATE JUDICIARY FUNDING

Judiciary Operations

The SFY 2025-2026 Enacted budget adopted the Judiciary's All Funds budget request of $4.1 billion. This is an increase of $336 million or 8.9 percent from SFY 2024-25. The Judiciary recommended support for 17,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, an increase of 1,000 positions from the SFY 2024-25 level. The SFY 2025-26 budget increased disbursements by $335 million, reflecting increases in personal service expenses related to the annualization of legislatively authorized judgeships, new judgeships, judicial and non-judicial salary increases, and non-judicial staffing increases. The Judiciary's State Operations Budget increased $227.6 million to increase personnel and provide overtime pay to address backlogs and other case processing needs, which included, funding 1,000 new non-judicial positions, and funding 43 new judgeships.

Capital Projects

The Judiciary's budget included $50 million in capital appropriations, unchanged from the prior fiscal year, for the continued improvements to court technology and facility renovations and improvements to the safety of courthouses.

IV. FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Civil Legal Services

The Enacted budget includes appropriations totaling $150 million, an increase of $45.5 million or 43.5 percent from SFY 2024-25, to support civil legal services to providing meaningful access to the courts for low-income and underserved New Yorkers, and a three percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for civil legal services providers.

2025 SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

JUDICIARY

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 7

	ASSEMBLY BILLS	SENATE BILLS	TOTAL BILLS
BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:			
Codes	8	0	8
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	6	0	6
Rules	16	0	16
Floor	9	0	9
TOTAL	39	0	39
COMMITTEE ACTION			
Held For Consideration	4	0	4
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	3	0	3
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	347	47	394

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:
Ways and Means

TOTAL	9	0	9

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