

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CARL E. HEASTIE
SPEAKER

ELLEN C. JAFFEE
CHAIR

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



Ellen Jaffee
Assembly 97th District

CHAIR
Committee on Children and Families

COMMITTEES
Education, Environmental Conservation,
Health, Mental Health

Taskforce on Women's Issues

Legislative Women's Caucus

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

December 15, 2020

Dear Speaker Heastie:

As Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families, it is my distinct pleasure to submit to you the 2020 Annual Report. This year, the Assembly has continued its commitment to improving outcomes for New York's children and families. The Committee put forward several policy initiatives this year that were enacted into law, such as requiring the video recording of interrogations involving juveniles in family court juvenile delinquency proceedings and allowing former foster care youth to re-enter the foster care system without having to file a motion with the family court during the declared COVID-19 state of emergency. Two vital reporting bills were also enacted into law. Such bills would require the Office of Children and Family Services to submit reports to the Governor and the Legislature on youth placed in foster care settings and the recruitment of foster parents, as well as the utilization and effectiveness of child welfare preventive services.

Despite the fiscal challenges in the budget, the Legislature was able to restore and increase funding to many crucial programs including Advantage Afterschool, Kinship and Youth Development. Additional language was also included in the final budget to make necessary changes to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) that will enable many New Yorkers to seek gainful employment, who may have otherwise been barred.

This year in particular posed unique operating and fiscal challenges for child care providers due to the COVID- 19 pandemic. To offset the financial burden, additional child care funding was allocated through the Federal CARES Act to assist providers with program operating grants and scholarships for essential workers. The Assembly has worked tirelessly to ensure the funding has been allocated to those most in need.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to you, the members of the Committee, and the many hardworking advocates across the State for continuing to support these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen C. Jaffee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Ellen Jaffee
Chair, Committee on Children and Families

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Ellen Jaffee
Chair**

Committee Members

Majority

Carmen E. Arroyo
Brian Barnwell
Patrick P. Burke
Catalina Cruz
Taylor Darling
Maritza Davila
Patricia Fahy
Mathylde Frontus
Kimberly Jean-Pierre
Clyde Vanel
Tremaine Wright

Minority

Marjorie Byrnes (Ranker)
Christopher Friend
Melissa Miller
Robert Smullen

Committee Staff

Christina Philo – Legislative Director

Program and Counsel Staff

Jennifer Sacco – Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Meg Antz – Principal Legislative Analyst
Lauren Ryan – Committee Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....5

II. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTION

A. CHILD CARE.....8

1. Legislative Initiatives.....8

2. Budget Initiatives.....9

3. Federal CARES Act Funding.....9

B. JUVENILE JUSTICE/YOUTH PROGRAMS.....10

1. Legislative Initiatives.....10

2. Budget Initiatives.....11

C. CHILD WELFARE.....11

1. Legislative Initiatives.....12

2. Budget Initiatives.....13

APPENDIX A - 2020 Summary Sheet.....15

APPENDIX B - 2020 All Bills.....16

I. INTRODUCTION

The Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families, established in 1975 as the Committee on Child Care, has jurisdiction over legislation affecting: 1) child welfare, including foster care, preventive services and adoption; 2) child care; 3) juvenile justice, including youth development and delinquency prevention programs, Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) and the detention and placement of adjudicated youth; 4) adult protective services; 5) residential and non-residential domestic violence services; and 6) other services and programs for children and their families, including Family Court processes.

In New York State, there are 62 counties and 58 local social services districts. Each county represents a local district, with the exception of New York City, which operates as one district for all five counties. The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) oversees local district provision and administration of child welfare, child care, youth programs, adult protective and other publicly funded services for children and families. In addition, in New York City, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) is responsible for the provision and administration of child welfare services, juvenile justice services and child care assistance.

Each local social services district is required by law to provide child protective services, preventive services where a risk of foster care exists and foster care services for children who are at imminent risk in their own homes. After a child protective investigation, a district will make a determination regarding the need for preventive services, as well as foster care. The district may provide preventive and foster care services directly or through contract with a private not-for-profit agency. Preventive services may help the family avoid foster care or help a child to return home from foster care. Such services may include counseling, drug treatment and home management skills.

If a child is placed in foster care, that decision must be affirmed by a Family Court judge. The court will also determine whether the local district has made reasonable efforts to reunite the child with his or her family and set forward a permanency goal for the child. Foster children may reside in a variety of settings, including foster family homes, group homes and residential institutions. Foster parents receive subsidy payments, comprised of federal, state and local funds and issued by the local social services district.

Local social services districts also issue subsidy payments to child care providers on behalf of low-income families eligible for child care assistance. This assistance is comprised of federal, state and local funds and helps families maintain employment while their children are being cared for in a safe environment. Outside of New York City, child care providers are licensed or registered by OCFS, which also conducts inspections to ensure compliance with state regulations. In New York City, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the licensing agency for child care providers, while ACS contracts with and issues payments to providers. These payments may also come in the form of a voucher given directly to the eligible family. Statewide, child care is provided in a variety of settings such as child care centers, group family day care homes and family day care homes. Informal child care is also available statewide for providers that serve no more than two children or serve children for no more than three hours a day. Unlike child care centers and family day care homes, these providers are not required to be registered or licensed. However, due to amendments made by the federal government in 2014, which re-authorized the

Child Care Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG), a block grant to state, territory and tribal governments that provides support for children and their families with paying for child care, these providers are now required to receive background checks and meet additional requirements similar to child care centers and family day care homes. The key goals of the 2014 CCDBG re-authorization are to protect the health and safety of children in care through more consistent standards and monitoring of standards; improve the quality of care, including through increased supports for child care providers; and enable families to more easily access child care assistance that supports stable and continuous care and that can be coordinated with other programs.

The juvenile justice system in New York State is comprised of state, local and privately operated programs for youth. Youth may be placed by the Family Court in a private voluntary agency, contracting with either the local social services district or OCFS. OCFS operates secure and limited-secure juvenile justice facilities, where adjudicated youth may be placed as juvenile delinquents or by the Criminal Court as juvenile offenders. The “Close to Home” reform enacted in the SFY 2012-13 budget requires that adjudicated youth from NYC be placed with the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) rather than OCFS. This reform lowered the number of youth placed with OCFS by transferring NYC youth in non-secure facilities to, and by placing all newly adjudicated youth with, ACS.

In 2017, the enacted budget included language to increase the age of juvenile jurisdiction, thereby ensuring that more youth will receive necessary services and diversion rather than becoming more deeply entrenched in the criminal justice system. Under the new law, youths age 16 or 17 charged with a misdemeanor offense would have their cases heard in Family Court. For youths age 16 and 17 charged with a felony, their cases would originate in a separate Youth Part in Criminal Court with a family court judge presiding, where non-violent felonies would be subject to removal to Family Court.

OCFS provides after-care services to youth leaving placement, based in statewide Community Multi-Services Offices. Each youth leaving placement in an OCFS-operated facility receives after-care services to help with the transition back into the community. Pursuant to the “Close to Home” plan submitted by ACS, the city provides after-care to youth transitioning out of placement in voluntary agencies.

Localities also operate and provide juvenile justice programs and services. Counties operate detention facilities where a youth may be held prior to adjudication or placement. Counties also operate or contract with providers for non-mandated services for youth involved, or at risk of involvement, in the juvenile justice system. These programs include alternatives to detention and residential care, where an at-risk youth may receive services such as supervision and counseling. While the state provides funding for alternative programs, the number and types of programs that are available vary statewide.

Local social services districts are also responsible for providing adult protective services for adults who, because of mental or physical impairments, are unable to manage their own resources, carry out activities of daily living, protect themselves from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and have no one willing or able to assist them. Districts are mandated to accept and investigate reports of persons alleged to be in need of protective services and provide such services without regard to

income. These services may include arranging for medical and mental health services, assisting in relocating the adult to a safe location, drug treatment and assuming guardianship of the adult.

Domestic violence services are also provided by each local social services district, as required by the New York State Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 1987. OCFS issues regulations establishing standards for such services, which include both non-residential and residential domestic violence programs. The residential programs are licensed by OCFS and include shelters with ten beds or more, safe dwellings for victims and their children and safe home networks providing emergency services coordinated by a not-for-profit organization. OCFS also sets the per diem rate for residential domestic violence programs.

I. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTION

A. CHILD CARE

The availability of child care is tied to both the social and economic development of New York State. Quite often, the child care expenses for a family of four can exceed the cost of food, rent and other household expenses, resulting in the cost of quality child care becoming the single largest expense in the family's budget. The Committee on Children and Families has continued to stress the critical need for accessible, affordable, safe and quality child care. Parents must have reliable child care in order to maintain their employment, and young children need quality settings for appropriate educational and social development. This year, the Assembly fought to ensure that the State budget would preserve funding for quality child care while also making quality child care more accessible and safer for children of low- to moderate-income families. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government allocated funds through the CARES Act to be used exclusively for child care expenditures.

1. Legislative Initiatives

a. Reimbursement for childcare absences (A.577 Jaffee / S.3192 Kennedy; Reported, referred to Ways and Means)

Currently, local social services districts can opt to withhold a portion of subsidy reimbursement from a provider for days in which a child is absent from care. While state regulations allow up to 12 days in absences for each child in any one calendar month, almost half of these counties choose not to pay providers up to the allotted 12 absences or at all when children do not attend. This creates fiscal uncertainty for many providers, leading to difficulty with staff retention and optimal quality care.

This bill requires local social services districts to make payments to child care providers for at least 12 absences in a six-month period. It would also let the Office of Children and Family Services determine the maximum number of absences allowed for reimbursement, which would not be less than 24 absences in a six-month period, unless extenuating circumstances exist pursuant to regulation.

b. Requiring cordless window coverings in child day care centers and certain other facilities (A.168-B Rosenthal, L./ S.3186-A Kennedy; Passed Assembly)

Window blinds and coverings with easily accessible drawstrings create a serious safety hazard for young children who lack full control of their motor functions, especially when they are present in facilities that care for children.

This bill would establish new definitions relating to cordless window coverings for child day care centers, foster care agencies and other facilities caring for children. Any facility installing new or replacement window covers would be required to install cordless window coverings or window coverings with inaccessible operational and inner chords. Window coverings in place prior to the

effective date would have to meet the requirements of the Window Covering Manufacturer's Association (WCMA). An authorized agency may require replacement of window covers with cordless window coverings or window coverings with inaccessible operational and inner chords in the case of failure to comply with the (WCMA) standards.

2. Budget Initiatives

Child care subsidies provide low-income families with access to quality child care. The Assembly has found that child care assistance is most successful when a dedicated, stable funding source is provided from year to year. A total of \$832 million in child care subsidies were appropriated in the final budget, which maintains last year's appropriation. Additionally, increased federal funding was provided over a three-year period, starting in SFY 2018-2019, totaling \$288 million, to be allocated for the continuation of the State's efforts to comply with the 2014 re-authorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The Assembly successfully allocated at least \$10 million each fiscal year of such appropriation to supplement local funding for subsidized child care slots. Additionally, up to \$80 million is to be appropriated each fiscal year of such funds to comply with certain CCDBG re-authorization requirements. to be broken down as follows: \$17 million for background checks; \$15 million for infant care and quality efforts; \$31 million for inspections; \$12 million for training programs; and \$2 million for staffing system changes.

The Executive Budget proposed eliminating certain vital child care programs important to families struggling to maintain self-sufficiency. Facilitated enrollment programs, located throughout New York City, the Capital Region, Oneida, Onondaga and Monroe Counties, serve families up to 275% of the poverty level, offering child care subsidy opportunities for families whose income places them above the current subsidy levels. The Legislature was able to restore funding for these programs to last year's levels. The Legislature took further action to ensure that essential child care programs are preserved by restoring funding for child care centers at SUNY and CUNY with \$1.1 million and \$902,000, respectively.

The Legislature was also able to secure funding for the Advantage After-School Program in the amount of \$5 million. This program provides structured after-school activities in order to reduce negative behaviors and offer a safe environment for children.

3. Federal CARES Act funding

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State received \$163 million in additional child care funding through the Federal CARES Act. Funding was allocated over three phases, each phase supporting different grants for child care providers and essential workers.

The first phase of allocations included \$20 million for CARES child care scholarships for essential workers whose income was under 300% of the federal poverty level. Funds were budgeted to support 5,000 children each week (20,000 children in total) for four weeks through May 2020. An estimated 4,300 youth were served per week by the final week of this program. Also included in phase one was \$10 million for providers that remained open to purchase necessary supplies and personal protective equipment. \$10 million in unused scholarship funds were rolled over into phase three for the same purpose.

The second phase of allocations included \$20 million for program re-opening and restructuring materials, activities and supplies to assist programs in purchasing necessary equipment to comply with social distancing guidelines. An additional \$45 million for program re-opening and expansion temporary operating assistance grants was also included in phase two. This funding assisted child care programs that closed due to COVID-19 in reopening by partially covering rent over a three-month period.

The third phase of allocations included \$20 million for CARES child care scholarships for essential workers whose income was under 300% of the federal poverty level. \$20 million was allocated for rental assistance for alternative sites for school-aged child care programs that were displaced from their regular location due to COVID-19 as well as transportation costs to the new sites. An additional \$20 million was allocated for program re-opening, restructuring materials, activities and supplies to assist programs in purchasing necessary equipment to comply with social distancing guidelines. \$28.6 million was allocated in phase three for program re-opening, expansion and temporary operating assistance grants. This funding assisted child care programs in reopening by partially covering rent over a three-month period.

B. JUVENILE JUSTICE/YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Committee has jurisdiction over issues facing families and youth at every stage in the juvenile justice process. Policies concerning preventive services, alternatives to detention and placement programs, treatment of youth in care and after-care supervision all fall under the Committee's purview. The Committee has continually emphasized the need for an integrated, community-based approach in order to prevent youth from being placed in State-operated facilities. For those who must be placed, the Committee traditionally supports a rehabilitative approach to treatment while in care, and intensive after-care services so that youth can effectively and safely integrate back into their communities.

1. Legislative Initiatives

a. Video recording of interrogations of juveniles (A.7970 Frontus/ S.6533 Montgomery; Chapter 299 of 2020)

False confessions that lead to wrongful convictions remains a major concern in New York State. In an attempt to address this issue, The New York State Justice Task Force, established by former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and chaired by Hon. Janet DiFiore, in January, 2012, issued "Recommendations Regarding Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations" which delineates the benefits of recording interrogations. Such benefits include: helping to identify false confessions; providing an objective and reliable record of what occurred during an interrogation; assisting the judge and jury in determining a statement's voluntariness and reliability; preventing disputes about how an officer conducted themselves or treated a suspect and serving as a useful training tool for police officers. However, the need to record interrogations becomes even more crucial when juveniles are involved to ensure that appropriate tactics are used when obtaining a confession from this especially vulnerable population.

This bill would require, when a juvenile delinquent is arrested and brought to an approved location for interrogation, to have such interrogation and the giving notice of rights and any waiver of those rights by the youth be video recorded. This bill would also require that when determining the appropriateness of questioning and length of time, that it should also be determined whether the video recording is in compliance with established guidelines. The recording must ensure that all participants are identifiable, that the speech is intelligible and that it complies with rules to be promulgated by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and the recording would be subject to discovery pursuant to Family Court Act § 331.2.

b. Execution of warrants in juvenile delinquency cases (A.7959A Darling/ No Same As; Passed Assembly)

This bill requires juveniles arrested pursuant to a warrant to be directly taken to family court or when the family court is not in session, before the most accessible magistrate designated by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The magistrates would determine whether the juveniles should be released or detained and set a date for the juvenile to appear in family court no later than the next day the family court is in session if the juvenile is detained and within ten court days if the juvenile is released.

2. Budget Initiatives

The Legislature was able to continue funding for critical youth programs, including an additional \$1.5 million in funding for Youth Development Programs (YDP). YDP are those programs formerly known as Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) and Special Delinquency Prevention Programs (SDPP). This restoration is in addition to a base amount of \$14.12 million.

The Legislature also approved \$45 million in funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). This funding will ensure that the program continues to provide paid employment to youth during the summer months.

C. CHILD WELFARE

Child abuse and neglect continue to be a reality in the lives of many children in New York State. Victims of abuse and neglect can suffer long-term adverse social and psychological consequences. Therefore, it is imperative that children in these situations are protected and that families are able to receive appropriate services in order to prevent further trauma, thereby lessening the after-effects of abuse.

The foster care system provides temporary placement, care and services to children and families in crisis while promoting the goal of family reunification. In an effort to achieve family reunification and stability, federal and state laws have driven the development of preventive, protective and rehabilitative programs to provide needed services. Adequate care for these children and their families is critical, and it is imperative that a wide array of services is provided to support the reunification of stable and healthy families.

For many children who cannot be reunified with their families, adoption may be the final step in obtaining a permanent family environment. Such permanency is crucial to a child's development and greatly enhances successful outcomes into adulthood. The Committee has continuously stressed the need for effective and timely permanency planning, incentives for adoption and continued post-adoption support for families in need.

1. Legislative Initiatives

a. Reporting data on child welfare preventive services (A.10513 Hevesi/ S.8421-A Persaud; Chapter 329 of 2020)

This bill would establish annual reporting requirements for the Office of Children and Family Services to collect data on the utilization and effectiveness of child welfare preventive services throughout the state.

b. Foster care re-entry (A.10581-B Wright/ S.8834 Montgomery; Chapter 346 of 2020)

Currently, youth are afforded the opportunity to petition the family court requesting to re-enter foster care under certain circumstances. However, due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, access to family courts has been extremely limited, making it difficult for youth to be able to request to re-enter care.

This bill would allow a former foster care youth to re-enter the foster care system without having to file a motion with the family court during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The commissioner of the local social services department would be required to consider the same factors that the court is required to consider when determining the appropriateness of the former foster care youth reentering the foster care system. Any requirement to enroll in a vocational or education program when a former foster care youth re-enters the system would be required to be waived during the time of the state of emergency.

c. Foster care reporting and recruitment of foster parents (A.1436-C Epstein/ S.222-C Benjamin; Chapter 321 of 2020)

This bill would require the Office of Children and Family Services to submit quarterly reports to the Governor and Legislature with statistics and other information regarding services, placement and recruitment of foster parents to help guide decisions for the state's transition under the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act. (FFPSA).

d. Adding clergy to the list of mandated reporters (A.6662-B Wallace/ S.5711-B Hoylman; Passed Assembly and Senate)

Currently, clergy members are not included in the otherwise extensive list of professionals required to report suspected cases of child abuse.

This bill would add clergy members to the list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and maltreatment while still maintaining confessional privilege unless the person confessing or confiding waives such privilege.

2. Budget Initiatives

In 2018, the Federal Government passed the Family First Preventive Services Act (FFPSA) as part of a bipartisan budget agreement. Amongst other things, FFPSA aims to limit the amount of foster care placements in congregate care settings and instead focus on placing more children in a foster family home. Continued from last year's final budget was the Family First Transition Fund, which will assist local social services districts in preparing for compliance with FFPSA. This \$3 million dollar fund is available to local social districts for services to support, recruit and retain current and prospective foster families, including kinship caregivers. The Final Budget also included \$75 million in federal appropriations to assist the State in the implementation and ensuring compliance with the requirements of FFPSA.

Despite a difficult economic climate, the Legislature worked to preserve vital programs in the area of child welfare. Through the support of the Legislature, many of these programs received continued funding during the SFY 2020-2021, such as Child Advocacy Centers, Safe Harbor, Runaway and Homeless Youth programs and programs for kinship caregivers.

The Assembly was able to appropriate \$2 million in funding for the Safe Harbor program created under the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act in 2008. Under this groundbreaking law, the Legislature established that commercially sexually exploited children are crime victims, not criminals, and recognized that these children must be provided with critical services, including short-term emergency shelter to keep them off the streets, food, clothing, medical care, counseling and crisis intervention services, and long-term housing with specialized services such as case management, legal, mental health and substance and alcohol abuse services. The Safe Harbor program also contemplates the utilization of funding to train law enforcement to better identify sexually exploited children and obtain appropriate services for them.

The Legislature approved \$5 million for a pilot program which would establish a flexible funding model for New York's domestic violence service providers to ensure victims and their families receive the support they need immediately and without any conditions. The final language was modified to ensure the program would be cost-neutral to providers.

The Legislature also provided \$2 million for Child Advocacy Centers, which provide a comfortable setting for abused children to receive care and treatment. These centers are important places where multi-disciplinary teams of professionals, including doctors, mental health providers and law enforcement can gather information about a case. The child benefits because multiple interviews, which can be a source of additional trauma, are avoided.

The Legislature also continued funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs, improving the chances of stability and permanency options for these youth. Kinship care and navigator programs, which provide vital resources and services to grandparents and other family members caring for children, received \$950,000 and \$100,000 in funding respectively.

The enacted State Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget modified the Executive's proposal to eliminate the state reimbursement for residential Committee on Special Education placements made by school districts outside of New York City, and for students attending a state-operated school for the deaf or blind, to only authorize the elimination of state reimbursement for one year.

Also included in the final budget was language to make certain changes to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). Such changes include:

- raising the evidentiary standard required when indicating a future abuse or maltreatment report from some credible evidence to a fair preponderance of the evidence^[1];
- restricting access to SCR records of maltreatment for employment purposes eight years after an indication;
- conforming the evidentiary standard required when OCFS is requested to review a SCR report to coincide with case law and current practice from some credible evidence to a fair preponderance of the evidence;
- conforming the review process of an individual's fair hearing rights relating to the denial of employment based on an indicated SCR report to match those standards in current law;
- providing an individual with the opportunity to have their SCR record amended prior to notifying a potential employer as to whether an individual has an indicated SCR report; and
- creating an irrebuttable presumption there was not a fair preponderance of the evidence to prove alleged abuse or maltreatment was committed by an individual during a fair hearing process when, during an Article 10 proceeding in Family Court, a child protective service withdraws a petition with prejudice, the family court dismisses a petition or finds on the merits in favor of respondent.

2020 SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

Children and Families

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	4	0	4
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	6	0	6
Rules	1	0	1
Floor	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	0	11

COMMITTEE ACTION

Held For Consideration	8	0	8
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	3	0	3
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	94	4	98

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:

Social Services 1

TOTAL	1	0	1
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APPENDIX B

2020 BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Chapter #
A.1436C/ S.222C	Epstein/ Benjamin	Establishes reporting requirements for youth placed in foster care settings and the recruitment of foster parents.	321
A.7970/ S.6533	Frontus/ Montgomery	Relates to requiring the video recording of interrogations of juveniles in juvenile delinquency proceedings in family court.	299
A.10513/ S.8421A	Hevesi/ Persaud	Establishes reporting requirements to collect data on the utilization and effectiveness of child welfare preventive services.	329
A.10581B/ S.8834	Wright/ Montgomery	Relates to the placement of a former foster care youth during a certain state of emergency.	346

2020 BILLS PASSED

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Last Action
A.168B/ S.3186A	Rosenthal, L./ Kennedy	Establishes “Braden’s Law” by requiring cordless window coverings in certain facilities that care for children.	Referred to Senate Children and Families
A.6662B/ S. 5711B	Wallace/ Hoylman	Adds clergy members to the list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and maltreatment.	Referred to Senate Rules
A.7959A	Darling/ No Same As	Relates to the execution of warrants in juvenile delinquency cases when family courts are closed.	Referred to Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

2020 BILLS REPORTED

Bill #	Sponsor	Description	Last Action
A.577/ S.3192	Jaffee/ Kennedy	Relates to reimbursement for child care absences.	Reported, referred to Ways and Means
A.4329/ No Same As	Hevesi	Relates to increasing the value of rent subsidies to be included as a part of preventive services.	Reported, referred to Ways and Means
A.7581A/ S.5809-A	Jaffee/ Montgomery	Establishes a caseload standard for child protective services workers.	Reported, referred to Ways and Means
A.8997/ S.6951	Richardson/ Montgomery	Relates to notice of indicated reports of child maltreatment and changes of placement in child protective and voluntary foster care placement and review proceedings.	3 rd Reading
A.9773/ No Same As	Quart	Relates to criminal history background checks of certain foster youths.	Reported, referred to Rules
A.10428/ S.8332	Hevesi/ Persaud	Provides a statutory definition of the term "kinship caregiver."	3rd Reading
A.10565A/ No Same As	Perry	Relates to the investigation of and findings of educational neglect of a child during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Reported, referred to Rules