

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
Ron Kim, Chair



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ON
Aging



Ron Kim
Assemblyman 40th District

136-20 38th Ave.
Suite 10A
Flushing, NY 11354

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Aging

COMMITTEES
Education
Corporations, Authorities and Commissions,
Governmental Operations
Housing

December 15, 2023

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 2023 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. The work accomplished during the 2023 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 hearings on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and social adult day care programs. The Legislature also passed important legislation related to naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs), social isolation and loneliness, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Kim
Chair, Committee on Aging

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Ron Kim, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

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Inez E. Dickens
Steve Stern
Karines Reyes
Simcha Eichenstein
Charles Fall
Sarah Clark
Jenifer Rajkumar
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Stefani Zinerman
Zohran K. Mamdani
Yudelka Tapia
Edward Gibbs
Nikki Lucas
William C. Conrad III
George A. Alvarez
Christopher W. Eachus
John Zaccaro Jr.
Sarachana Shrestha
Sam Berger

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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
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 2023 legislative session, 60 bills were referred to the Assembly Committee on Aging. The following report details the major budgetary and legislative activities and accomplishments of the Assembly Committee on Aging during the 2023 Legislative Session.

II. STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Article VII

The Legislature accepted the Executive proposal to decrease the income threshold to be eligible for the private pay protocol program from 400 percent of the federal poverty line to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, allowing area agencies on aging to serve more individuals and reduce waiting lists for services.

A. BUDGET SUMMARY CHART

In the 2023-24 enacted state budget, the Legislature provided General Fund support for the following programs:

Program	Total
Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP)	\$84,798,000
Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program	\$37,682,638
Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) Program	\$35,648,296
Local Grants for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	\$6,190,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)	\$4,027,500
Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs)	\$4,027,500
Programs to Combat Social Isolation	\$2,900,000
Holocaust Survivors Initiative	\$2,430,000
Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP)	\$1,767,000
Grants for Transportation Operating Expenses for the Elderly	\$1,121,000
Grants for Providers of Social Model Adult Day Services	\$1,072,000
Grants for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP)	\$1,000,000
State Master Plan on Aging	\$1,000,000
NORC/NNORC Nursing Services	\$1,000,000
Elderly Abuse and Outreach Program	\$745,000
State Aid Grants to Providers of Respite Services	\$656,000
Lifespan Elder Abuse Prevention Program – Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams	\$500,000
State Master Plan on Aging	\$500,000
Congregate Services Initiative	\$403,000
Caregiver Resource Centers	\$353,000
Association on Aging in New York State	\$250,000
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$216,500
Older Adults Technology Services Center (OATS)	\$200,000
Matching Federally funded Model Projects and/or Demonstration Grant Programs	\$175,000
Livable New York Initiative	\$122,500
New York State Adult Day Services Association, Inc.	\$122,500
EAC/Nassau Senior Respite Program	\$118,500

Foster Grandparents Program	\$98,000
New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Care Program	\$86,000
Home Aides of Central New York, Inc. Senior Respite Program	\$71,000
New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc. – Patients’ Rights Hotline and Advocacy Project	\$31,500

III. COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM

A.630, Carroll; Chapter 21 of the Laws of 2023: This law is an amendment to Chapter 800 of the Laws of 2022 to ensure its effective implementation.

B. EMPLOYMENT

A.6324, Stirpe; Veto Message No. 73: This bill would establish an Office of Older Adult Workforce Development within the State Office for the Aging to address the needs of older adults in the workplace.

C. LONG-TERM CARE

A.372-A, Bronson; Chapter 682 of the Laws of 2023: This law establishes a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and people living with HIV long-term care facility residents' bill of rights.

A.7199, Wallace; Chapter 303 of the Laws of 2023: This law extends certain provisions of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for two years until December 31, 2025.

D. NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES (NORC)

A.5520, Kim; Chapter 661 of the Laws of 2023: This law authorizes and directs the State Office for the Aging to conduct a study on the number of older adults residing in NORCs or neighborhood NORCs who are suffering from social isolation and loneliness. It also requires the State Office for the Aging to report on the number of residents who are suffering from social isolation and loneliness and the services provided to these residents as part of their five-year report to the Governor and Legislature on the effectiveness of NORCs.

A.5915, Kim; Chapter 586 of the Laws of 2023: This law expands the definition of a neighborhood NORC to include apartment buildings and housing complexes that exceed six stories and provides that, if a NORC is no longer funded, SOFA must provide information on nearby services that are available to the older adults living in that NORC.

E. OTHER

A.629, Bronson; Chapter 74 of the Laws of 2023: This law is an amendment to Chapter 573 of the Laws of 2022 to clarify provisions related to the term "greatest social need" for purposes of administering the federal Older Americans Act.

A.7218, Kim; Passed Both Houses: This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to provide a status report no later than 60 days upon receipt of a complaint from an ombudsman and requires DOH to provide additional reports to such ombudsman every 60 days thereafter until the issue is resolved. The bill also requires ombudsmen to receive training in cultural competency and diversity and provides for an outreach program to recruit additional ombudsmen.

F. PROPERTY TAX AND RENT EXEMPTIONS

A.2353, Fall; Chapter 85 of the Laws of 2023: This law is an amendment to Chapter 686 of the Laws of 2022 to clarify certain provisions of law and to allow Battery Park City Authority's master ground lease to be extended in perpetuity.

IV. HEARINGS

A. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

March 2, 2023

10:00 AM

Albany, NY

The Assembly Standing Committee on Aging conducted a hearing on home-based long-term care services. The purpose of this hearing was to review and examine the state of New York State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, specifically as it relates to residential health care facilities. The Committee sought testimony on the status of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the current challenges ombudsmen are facing.

The Committee received testimony from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, AARP New York, Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Long-Term Care Community Coalition, LiveOn NY, Voices for Seniors, the Albany County Legislature, Center for Elder Law & Justice, and various advocates.

B. Social Adult Day Care Programs

September 26, 2023

10:00 AM

New York, NY

The Assembly Standing Committee on Aging conducted a hearing on social adult day care programs. The purpose of this hearing was to gather testimony on the current oversight of social adult day care programs and ways to improve such programs for participants, their caregivers, and providers. In addition, the Committee sought to examine ways to enhance oversight of such programs including, but not limited to, pathways to accreditation.

The Committee received testimony from the New York State Adult Day Services Association, AARP, the Asian American Adult Daycare Association, Hana Adult Day Care, Evergreen Adult Daycare in NY, Inc., and the New York Golden Eagle Senior Corporation.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2024

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

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

Aging

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 3

2023 SUMMARY SHEET

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

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:

Codes	1	0	1
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	6	0	6
Rules	3	0	3
Floor	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	0	10

COMMITTEE ACTION

Held For Consideration	0	0	0
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	1	0	1
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	39	11	50

1

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:

Housing

TOTAL	1	0	1
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