



*New York State Assembly*  
**2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

*committee on*  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

*Michele Titus*  
*Chair*



*Sheldon Silver*  
*Speaker*



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December 15, 2011

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

Dear Speaker Silver:

On behalf of the Assembly Committee on Social Services, I respectfully submit to you the Committee's 2011 Annual Report. This year, the Committee was again successful in securing passage of various measures that will assist low-income individuals and families to achieve greater economic stability, and restoring critical funding during the 2011 budget season for programs that provide innovative and efficient opportunities to escape poverty.

During the 2011 Session, the Committee reviewed 123 bills and investigated numerous issues affecting the lives of those at or near poverty throughout the State. The Committee reported several pieces of legislation aimed at improving the lives of senior citizens, children, the disabled, the working poor and those in receipt of public assistance (PA) or other forms of government funded assistance. Many of the legislative initiatives advanced by the Committee in Fiscal Year 2011-12 focused on the need to improve the current public assistance system in order to provide recipients with the necessary support to achieve self-sufficiency. These initiatives include: expanded educational opportunities, shifting employment focus to vocational and non-traditional jobs where possible, and continuing to allow certain resource exemptions that would otherwise require absolute destitution for assistance.

The State of New York faced an extremely difficult fiscal climate in the 2011 budget season and despite the efforts of all involved, significant cuts were made to social service programs. Although the State faced a multi-billion dollar shortfall, the Committee persevered during the budget season, securing funding for crucial programs such as: homeless prevention and intervention, the Displaced Homemakers Program, Welfare to Careers, and Summer Youth Employment. The Committee was also strongly opposed to and was successful in blocking the Executive budget proposal of full family sanctions which would withhold Public Assistance benefits from families where the head of household did not comply with certain employment requirements. This approach has proven ineffective in every state where it has been implemented and the Committee will not support initiatives that are counter-productive to the goal of self-sufficiency for the impoverished individuals and families of New York.

In the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Committee will continue to push for legislation that will decrease poverty and reduce dependence on state benefits by increasing the availability, quality, and accessibility of education programs for public assistance recipients. The Committee will also make efforts to advance legislation that provides enhanced support and protections to some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities and victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

The Committee will also continue focusing on legislation that combats the occurrence of homelessness, in addition to ensuring that the record number of children and adults facing homelessness has access to safe and permanent housing. The Committee will closely examine how to best utilize federal, state, and local funds to comprehensively address the issue of homelessness. The Committee is closely monitoring activity at the federal level regarding reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. TANF reauthorization will likely include programmatic changes that may require revisions in New York State's Social Services Law and we look forward to partnering with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that any new funding will be used in an effective and holistic manner.

The Committee members and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and leadership throughout the past session. We also look forward to working with you and all of our colleagues in the Assembly in the 2012 legislative session in order to protect and improve vital services that provide a path to self-sufficiency for some of the most vulnerable populations of our State.

Sincerely,

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

Michele Titus  
Chair  
Committee on Social Services

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Michele Titus  
Chair**

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Simonia Brown, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy  
Jennifer Marrero, Analyst  
Jillian Faison, Counsel  
Marjorie Pinchin, Executive Secretary

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Assembly Social Services Committee has jurisdiction over legislation affecting programs providing financial, medical and support services to indigent households in New York State. The work of the Committee also affects the aged, blind and disabled residing in the community and in residential care facilities. The statutory basis for these programs is contained in the State Social Services Law.

The Committee works closely with the Committees on Health, Children and Families, Aging, Labor and Housing and with the Task Force on the Homelessness and the Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy. The Committee also has legislative oversight responsibilities for programs administered by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

OTDA is responsible for supervising programs that provide assistance and support to eligible families and individuals in the state. Some of OTDA's functions include: providing temporary cash assistance; providing assistance in paying for food; providing heating assistance; overseeing New York State's child support enforcement program; determining certain aspects of eligibility for Social Security Disability benefits; supervising homeless housing and services programs; and providing assistance to certain immigrant populations.

The local Department of Social Services (DSS) or Human Resource Administration (HRA) in New York City provides temporary help to individuals and families with their economic and social services needs to assist them in reaching self-sufficiency. The Legislature has enacted the Social Services Law to allow the administration of basic temporary assistance and emergency support programs statewide. These programs are Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children, Emergency Assistance for Adults, and certain parts of the Supplemental Security Income Program.

- Family Assistance (FA) - FA is one of the federally funded temporary assistance (TA) programs for families. FA can only be provided to a family that includes a minor child living with a parent or caretaker relative, or to a pregnant woman. As a TANF-funded program, FA is subject to the State 60-month lifetime limit on assistance.
- Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 (The Welfare Reform Act (WRA) of 1997) established the Safety Net Assistance (SNA) program to provide assistance to individuals and families who are ineligible for Family Assistance (FA) or other federal temporary assistance programs, including Refugee Cash Assistance. The SNA program is comprised of cash and a non-cash component.
- Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children (EAF) - is a federally funded program which provides assistance to deal with crisis situations threatening a family with a child(ren) under the age of 18, or under 19 and attending full time secondary school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training. EAF is designed to meet needs resulting from a sudden occurrence or a set of circumstances that was unforeseen and beyond the applicant's control that demand immediate attention.
- Emergency Assistance for Adults- means grants of assistance to aged, blind or disabled individuals and couples who have been determined eligible for or are receiving Federal supplemental security income benefits or additional State payments and applied for such

assistance to meet emergency needs that cannot be met by the regular monthly benefits of SSI and additional State payments.

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program- was established by Congress in 1974 under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the program which provides a Federal flat grant to individuals and couples who are aged, blind and disabled. The flat grant is different for individuals and for couples and also varies according to living arrangement.

### Homeless Services

Local districts also have a responsibility to provide services and assistance in an effort to prevent homelessness, to meet the temporary housing and other immediate needs of eligible homeless persons, and to assist homeless persons in securing permanent housing. Eligible homeless persons are those persons who are both homeless and eligible for TA.

Local districts must screen all heads of household and all adult applicants and recipients of TA for alcoholism or substance abuse. The Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) credentialed drug and/or alcohol counselors must assess all adults and head of households identified through the application process to determine whether they are unable to work because of alcohol and/or substance abuse. All individuals who are determined unable to work because of alcohol and/or substance abuse must be referred to mandated treatment.

### Domestic Violence

The federal Wellstone-Murray Family Violence Option allows states to address the safety needs of domestic violence victims and their children within the state's TANF plan. The Family Violence Option includes procedures for screening for domestic violence, assessment, service referrals and temporary waivers of TA requirements which would place the victim at further risk.

### Food Stamp Program

The New York State Food Stamp Program, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can help put healthy food on the table of a family in need. SNAP issues monthly benefits that can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. Benefits are provided through an electronic benefit card, similar to a debit or credit card. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income, expenses and other factors. Recent changes to the Food Stamp Program have made it easier for many working households to apply and gain access to these critical nutritional supports.

Any person has the right to file an application for a type of temporary assistance or care which he/she believes will meet his needs with the local social services district at any time. Each applicant for services is required to meet all eligibility requirements in order to receive benefits. OTDA has created a website, [Mybenefits.com](http://Mybenefits.com), where individuals are able to learn about available benefits and the requirements to receive such benefits.

## II. SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION – 2011

### A. INCOME MAINTENANCE

#### 1. **Public Assistance (PA) Residency Restriction Repealer A.1854 (Wright)**

Social Services law allows New York to temporarily provide lower benefits to new residents. Specifically, it states that PA given to a person during his or her first 12 months as a State resident shall not exceed the higher of 50% of the amount otherwise payable or the standard of need to which such person was entitled in the State in which the person resided immediately before moving to New York.

New York, along with 15 other states, adopted such policies in response to federal welfare reform legislation of 1996. However, in 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the California law establishing such a two-tiered benefit provision violated a citizen's constitutional "right to travel." Furthermore, current practice in New York State is not reflective of the provisions of SSL §117(3). An individual, if otherwise eligible, may receive PA and care if such individual is a resident of New York State. As a general principle, an individual is considered a resident of New York if such person is living in the State and intends to remain permanently or indefinitely.

By eliminating this provision, this bill would make it abundantly clear that new residents are entitled to the same benefits as other residents and would ensure that the constitutional rights of every citizen of the State are being preserved.

This bill was reported to the Ways & Means Committee.

#### 2. **Four Year College A.2471 (Wright/S.2323 Montgomery)**

In February 2008, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued final TANF regulations implementing the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. A number of important changes to the regulations support New York's intention to make education and training a major piece of our focus when assisting PA recipients with getting back into the workforce. In particular, HHS made two important changes in the final rules. First, certain amounts of time spent by a recipient in a Baccalaureate or advanced degree program can be counted towards a state's work participation rate. Secondly, for each hour of class time, up to one hour of unsupervised homework time required or advised by an educational program may count towards the work participation rate as well.

Public assistance recipients who are physically and mentally able to work are required to do so or participate in approved programming for 30 hours per week to meet their work participation requirement. This bill would allow attendance in a four-year post-secondary education program to count as work participation for purposes of an individual's public assistance employment requirement in accordance with recent Federal requirements. Currently, New York State Regulations allow for time spent doing homework to count



towards a person's work requirement. This bill would bring New York State into compliance with the final federal rules.

This bill passed the Assembly but was not acted upon by the Senate.

**3. Health Care Practitioners and Disability Determinations**  
**A.2957 (Wright/S.1326 Dilan)**

The federal government recognizes the importance of giving sufficient consideration to a treating physician's medical opinion, and follows this practice in SSI determination procedures, detailed in 20 CFR 416.927. This section of federal regulation outlines evaluating opinion evidence and is the model after which this bill was crafted. As the current law is written, there is limited, if any, consideration given to the treating health care practitioner's opinion when an individual applying for PA has work limitations, disabilities or health issues that have been identified by their treating health care practitioner. This bill would require local social services physicians who examine PA applicants or recipients for possible work limitations and/or exemptions due to a potential disability, to consider the recipient's/applicant's treating health care practitioner's diagnosis when making a determination.

This bill was reported and advanced to Third Calendar Reading 452 in the Assembly but was not acted upon by the Senate.

**4. Waiting Period for Safety Net Assistance (SNA)**  
**A.4840 (Wright)**

Under New York law, a person applying for SNA must wait 45 days to receive assistance. This provision actually penalizes people who take temporary, seasonal or short term employment because when those jobs end, applicants must wait 45 days after applying for SNA before receiving anything other than emergency assistance, which must be repaid. To achieve parity with the State's Family Assistance policy, this bill would require social services districts to accept or deny an application no later than 30 days after the date of the application.

This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

**5. Resource and Income Exemptions**  
**A.6331 (Titus/S.4498 Gallivan)**

Section 131-n of Social Services Law details the resources that are exempt and disregarded in calculating PA eligibility and benefit amount, this law extends these provisions for an additional two years.

This legislation ensures that families can retain some of their essential assets needed to achieve self-sufficiency while remaining eligible for PA by exempting the following assets for consideration in a family's financial eligibility for PA: up to \$2,000 (\$3,000 if someone in the household is 60 or older), a primary residence, and an automobile valued up to \$4,650 (or up to \$9,300 if it is needed to seek or retain employment). If the existing provision were not extended, the type and amount of exemptions will be left to regulatory

action by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance subject to the approval of the Division of the Budget.

This bill was signed into law; Chapter 163.

**6. Automobile Resource Exemptions  
A.7236 (Titus/S.410 Krueger)**

When an individual or household applies for public assistance, all property and resources must be accounted for in order to determine eligibility. Examples include savings accounts, investment property, housing, land, and vehicles. Current law provides a subjective two-tier system for determining the eligibility of an applicant if they own a vehicle. An individual may retain his or her vehicle if the vehicle is assessed at \$4,650. If the individual is using the vehicle to seek or maintain employment the vehicle may be valued up to \$9,300. This bill would remove the reference to the lower value, allowing all Public Assistance applicants to retain a vehicle worth \$9,300. This allows recipients, all of which are subject to work requirements or fall within a short term exception to possess a more dependable form of transportation to travel to work and child care centers, which in turn allows individuals to become more self-sufficient.

This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

**7. Increase the Residential Personal Needs Allowance  
A.7832 (Titus/S.2464 Libous)**

Persons who would be eligible for an increase in the residential personal needs allowance are primarily senior citizens that reside in skilled nursing facilities, some of whom depend solely on SSI for assistance with living expenses. This population is on a fixed income and is dependent on this allowance to pay for everything from their clothing, toiletries and laundry supplies to small luxuries, such as cable television, which costs half of their monthly allotment.

While SSI is a federal program, the personal need allowance comes from State funds. None of the SSI cost of living adjustments over the past 19 years have applied to this allowance. So, while nursing homes have received increased funds for the services they provide, the residents have received no adjustment in the funds available to them. This bill would increase the monthly personal expense account by \$100 for Medicaid recipients in residential.

This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

**8. Work Activity Exemption  
A.8101 (Titus/S.5586 Savino)**

This would modify the work requirements for single parent head of households receiving public assistance (PA) with a child under the age of 1, by allowing the single parent to be exempt from the PA work requirement for 12 months or until the child reaches their first birthday. This bill would expire on July 31, 2013 with the intent to allow opportunity for reexamination of the child care subsidy crisis and determination of the need for an extension of this provision. The exemption would protect non-TANF child care subsidies

from cuts and allow the working poor to remain in their jobs.

This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

## **B. EMPLOYMENT**

### **1. Sustainable Wage Jobs A.3298 (Millman/S.72 Montgomery)**

This bill would require local social service districts to give strong consideration to educational and training opportunities for sustainable wage jobs and nontraditional employment in their public assistance employment plans for a recipient if such recipient has already obtained their high school diploma or GED.

This bill was reported to the Ways and Means Committee.

## **C. HOUSING**

### **1. Adult and Enriched Housing Programs A.7827 (Titus/S.5339 Hannon)**

Two of the most significant non-residential services available for adults who are in need of temporary or short-term support but not residential care are adult day care and temporary residential placement (respite). These programs provide a variety of support services to assist caregivers in their efforts to prevent or delay the institutionalization of a family member. Both adult day care services and respite services are widely recognized as relieving the stress associated with the burden of caring for an elderly or impaired relative. This bill reauthorized both programs so that services may continue.

This bill was signed into law; Chapter 128.

## **D. OTHER LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

### **1. Awareness of Public Assistance Reimbursement A. 461 (Gibson)**

This legislation would require the local social services district to provide applicants for public assistance with oral and in written notice that the individual may be liable to reimburse the state for public assistance ineligibly received. This would require an acknowledgement by signature from the applicant on a form separate from all other public assistance related paperwork, and placed in the applicant's file. This legislation allows individuals to be fully aware of their commitment in any repayment process that might occur due to an overpayment or payment in error.

This bill passed the Assembly.

**2. Expansion of the Definition of Domestic Violence  
A.627 (Weinstein/S.4222 Saland)**

In Chapter 326 of 2008 the definition of family or household, found in Article 8 of the Family Court Act was expanded to include “intimate relationships” and ensured that the definition of a victim of domestic violence was not limited by age. When this was modified, conforming changes were not made to Section 459-a of the Social Services Law, which provides definitions that control the qualifications for services for domestic violence victims. This change is crucial to ensure that victims of domestic violence are not arbitrarily precluded from services based on incomplete definitions of family, household member, or victim of domestic violence.

This bill was signed into law; Chapter 11.

**3. Domestic Violence Shelter Stay  
A.2651 (Jacobs/S.973 Hassell-Thompson)**

This bill would increase the maximum length of stay at a residential program for victims of domestic violence to 180 days by allowing for a second 45 day extension. The bill aims to provide victims of domestic violence with additional time to find permanent housing if necessary.

This bill passed the Assembly.

**4. Health Care Proxy Notification  
A.4899A (Rosenthal/S.4830A)**

Individuals deserve to have their health care wishes honored, yet a large majority of New York residents do not have a health care proxy for times when they cannot express their health care preferences. This would require that any person applying for Medical Assistance be provided a Health Care Proxy form, if desired, by the local social service district.

This bill passed both houses and has been delivered to the Governor.

**5. Suspension of Driving Privileges  
A.7829 (Titus/S.4071 Fuschillo)**

Local social services districts in conjunction with the Department of Motor Vehicles are authorized to suspend the driver’s license of an individual that is delinquent in child support payments. This legislation extends this provision until June 30, 2013.

This bill was signed into law; Chapter 194.

### III. SFY 2011-12 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

#### A. Overview of the TANF Block Grant

The nation's welfare system was dramatically reformed with the enactment of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). The federal law adopted a "work first" approach, eliminated the entitlement to cash assistance, and imposed time limits, work requirements and sanctions on recipients. The cornerstone of the law was the creation of the TANF block grant, which provides \$16.5 billion to states to fund their cash assistance and welfare-to-work programs.

New York received \$2.443 billion for the Family Assistance program through the federal TANF block grant. The 2011-12 State budget included approximately \$680 million to support benefit payments to low-income New Yorkers.

#### B. TANF Programs

New York's TANF program has developed into the State's most critical system of support and assistance for children and families who struggle to make ends meet. In New York, programs including wage supplements, tax credits, job training and skill development, case management and counseling, child care and transportation were developed to assist families in need during the transition from poverty to self-sufficiency through work. For several years, New York has been authorized to utilize TANF funds not only for families eligible for federal assistance through the FA program, but also for families whose income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The 2011-12 budget included a Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) to provide local districts with a block grant. In order for a program to receive funding out of the TANF surplus, it must meet one of the four TANF purposes:

1. Provide assistance to needy families;
2. End the dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
3. Prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Below is a breakdown of State spending of the TANF dollars for the SFY 2011-12:

#### **CHILD CARE INVESTMENTS**

The child care subsidy program provided by local social service districts enables an income eligible parent or caretaker to work or engage in other approved activities. Child care subsidies help parent(s)/caretaker(s) to pay some or all of the cost of child care services. A \$392 million block grant was included in the budget to provide subsidies to parents.

#### **EMPLOYMENT/TRANSITIONAL INITIATIVES**

Transportation:

*Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA):* This program provides a monthly bus pass to allow eligible individuals, from seven member counties to travel to and from work, or to participate in work related activities. In Wayne County, funds are used to support the

transportation costs of individuals who use the WATS Demand Response Bus Services or TANF work participation activities. Funds are also used to extend the WATS service hours to accommodate employees at Kraft. RGRTA was awarded \$241,000 in the budget.

*Domestic Violence Screening:* involves identifying persons who are currently victims of domestic violence and offering temporary waivers from the public assistance (PA) program requirements where compliance with such requirements would place the victim and/or victim's children at greater risk of harm or make it more difficult for them to escape from abuse. \$1.4 million was budgeted to provide these services.

*Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):* The purpose of the TANF SYEP is to provide eligible youth with a quality employment and educational experience during the summer months. For many youth, this is their first introduction to the world of work. Valuable lessons which center on employment, including work ethic, appropriate workplace behavior, interaction with co-workers and supervisors, receiving a paycheck and money management are learned. \$15.5 million was restored to fund the employment program.

*Wage Subsidy Program:* Employers are reimbursed for wages and related benefits that the employer paid to the participant during the subsidy period. Using wage subsidies as a hiring incentive, non-profit agencies work with employers to develop positions for individuals who have been unable to find employment through conventional means. This program was allocated \$5.4 million to provide subsidies.

## **SERVICES AND HEALTH INITIATIVES**

*Refugee Program:* This New York State funded program received \$299,000 to supplement mainstream refugee services during the first 60 months of eligibility to fill in the gaps not covered by other programs, and to extend services beyond the time limits imposed by other programs.

## **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

*Bridge Program:* The Bridge Program which was allocated \$299,000, operates in conjunction with the State University of New York's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development, and provides local social services districts with employment preparation services specifically designed to provide Family Assistance (FA) and other TANF eligible families with the skills and supports necessary to obtain employment.

*Displaced Homemakers:* The Displaced Homemaker Program has operated throughout New York State since the 1970s. It provides a continuum of support services for individuals who are primary caretakers in the home and who have experienced a loss of income due to separation, divorce, disability or death of an income-providing family member, or the individual has received federal or State assistance and is no longer eligible for this assistance. This program received \$959,000.

*Supplemental Homeless Intervention Program (SHIP):* The SHIP Program was allocated \$601,000 to assist households that are homeless or at-risk of being homeless with housing access, eviction prevention and aftercare services.

*ACCESS – Welfare to Careers:* Metropolitan College's Welfare-to-Careers Consortium Program represents a unique collaboration among three major higher educational institutions in New York City (Metropolitan College, Medgar Evers College and Pace University). The Consortium affords participants the opportunity to earn their two-year degree or a baccalaureate degree, thereby

greatly increasing their chances of gaining permanent, full-time employment at a sustainable salary level. \$149,000 was allocated for the ACCESS program.

*Emergency Homeless Program:* Provides assistance to organizations in local social service districts with a population in excess of two million. This program received \$75,000 to help to meet the emergency needs of homeless individuals and families and those at risk of becoming homeless who are eligible for TANF benefits and whose incomes do not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

*Disability Advocacy Program:* This program provides for the legal representation of individuals whose federal disability benefits have been denied or may be discontinued and received \$289,000 in this year's budget.

*Supportive Housing for Families and Young Adults (SHFYA):* The SHFYA Program provides comprehensive support services designed to stabilize, enhance employability, and/or enhance self-sufficiency for those residents (eligible families and young adults between the ages of 18 and 25) in supported housing who are formerly homeless, at risk of homelessness, and/or have exceeded or risk exceeding the TANF time limits. SHFYA received \$1.5 million in the budget.

#### **FLEXIBLE FUND FOR FAMILY SERVICES (FFFS)**

The FFFS encompasses a number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs administered by local departments of social services which are funded with the Federal TANF Services Block Grant. Total allocation for FFFS is \$964 million.

APPENDIX A

**2011 SUMMARY OF ACTION ON BILLS REFERRED TO  
THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

<b><u>Final Action</u></b>	<b><u>Assembly Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Senate Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Total Bills</u></b>
Bills Reported With or Without Amendment			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee	5	0	5
To Ways and Means	8	0	8
To Codes	2	0	2
To Rules	1	0	1
TOTAL	16	0	16
Bills Having Committee Reference Changed			
To Children and Families Committee	1	0	0
To Codes Committee	1	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0
Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled			
Substituted	-	0	0
Recalled	-	0	0
TOTAL	-	0	0
Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee	3	0	3
Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee	104	0	104
Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken	14	0	14
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	123	0	123
Total Number of Committee Meetings Held	5		



APPENDIX B

**FINAL ACTION ON BILLS REPORTED BY THE  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

<b>ASSEMBLY BILL # SPONSOR</b>	<b>SENATE BILL # SPONSOR</b>	<b>FINAL ACTION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
A.461 Gibson		Passed the Assembly	Requires the local districts to provide written information to the client regarding their responsibility to reimburse public assistance in certain instances.
A.1854 Wright		Referred to Ways and Means	Eliminates the statutory authority that permits local social services districts to require PA recipients to execute a mortgage in favor of the county in the amount of assistance received as a condition of eligibility.
A.2471 Wright	S.2323 Montgomery	Passed Assembly	Allows PA recipients to participate in post secondary education and to credit that time towards mandated work requirements, in accordance with federal law.
A.2651 Jacobs	S.973 Hassell- Thompson	Passed Assembly	Allows for a second 45 day extension, if needed, in a domestic violence shelter. Currently, the stay is 90 days with one 45 day extension, if needed.
A.2957 Wright	S.1326 Dilan	Third Calendar Reading	Requires that in instances where a certified DSS practitioner is evaluating an applicant, the opinion of the applicant's treating physician be considered in the determination, and that any denial must include a written explanation that presents evidence to support the certified practitioner's differing opinion.
A.3298 Millman	S.72 Montgomery	Third Calendar Reading	Requires local social service districts to give strong consideration to educational and training opportunities for sustainable wage jobs and nontraditional employment in their public assistance employment programs, for a person that has already obtained their high school diploma or GED.
A. 4840 Wright		Referred to Ways & Means	Requires a local social services district to accept or deny an application for public assistance no later than 30 days, rather than 45 days, after the date of the application.
A.4899A Rosenthal	S.4830A Gallivan	Delivered to Governor	Requires that any person applying for Medical Assistance be provided a Health Care Proxy form, if requested, by the local social service district.
A.7236 Titus	S.410 Krueger	Referred to Ways and Means	Removes the current two-tier automobile resource limit and authorized a local to disregard up to \$9300 for the value of a car when determining a person's PA eligibility.

<b>ASSEMBLY BILL # SPONSOR</b>	<b>SENATE BILL # SPONSOR</b>	<b>FINAL ACTION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
A.7832 Titus	S.2464 Libous	Referred to Ways and Means	Increases the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients in residential health care facilities.
A.8087 Titus	S.4828 Gallivan	Third Calendar Reading 197	Allows local social services districts to submit evidence for any fair hearing in an electronic format. This bill would also allow local social services districts to continue using a paper format and would allow an individual who requested a fair hearing to be provided a paper copy of evidence by request.
A.8101 Titus	S.5586 Savino	Referred to Ways & Means	Modifies the work requirements for single parent head of households receiving public assistance (PA) with a child under the age of 1.

APPENDIX C

LAWS ENACTED DURING THE 2011 SESSION

CHAPTER	ASSEMBLY BILL # SPONSOR	SENATE BILL # SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION
Chapter 11	A.627 Weinstein	S.4222 Saland	Adds new definitions to "Victim of Domestic Violence" and "Family or household member" to conform with changes previously made to the Family Court Law section 812.
Chapter 108	A.7822 Titus	S.5339 Hannon	Continues the adult day care and enriched housing programs.
Chapter 163	A.6331 Titus	S.4498 Gallivan	Provides for the extension of current exemptions of income and resources to qualify for public assistance programs.
Chapter 194	A.7829 Titus	S.4071 Fuschillo	Expands the current provisions for income and resources that are exempt when determining eligibility for public assistance programs.

## APPENDIX D

### **2012 COMMITTEE GOALS**

It is the Committee's main goal and focus to advance legislation in the coming 2012-2013 session that will improve outcomes from the public benefit system in the state of New York by improving access, quality, and program accountability for recipients of such benefits.

The Committee will continue to fight for the implementation of final ten percent increase to the public assistance grant. The State has been successful in implementing the first two phases of an aggregate 30 percent increase. Implementation of the final phase will help thousands of public assistance recipients by offering an increase to their monthly cash grant to adjust for inflation and to mitigate the impact of New York's high cost of living.

Each year it becomes more and more difficult for New Yorkers of all income levels to access adequate, safe and affordable housing. Homelessness has reached an all time high in New York State. More than 41,000 people are residing in the New York City shelter system; 16,000 of those people are children. The Committee will continue to work to expand access to housing resources for low-income individuals and those in need of supportive housing. The Committee stands firm in its commitment to ensuring that homeless individuals and families find adequate and affordable housing.

Finally, increasing employment opportunities for low-income families and individuals remains a top priority for the Committee. The Committee will be examining existing jobs programs and looking at the development of new and innovative initiatives to increase employment opportunities. The Committee is also looking forward to addressing the dire unemployment rate among minorities, specifically males, that is hindering the progress of our communities. The Committee is energized to take on the most pressing issues for those low-income individuals and families of the state of New York.