

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

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March 25, 2026

Start: 10:10 a.m.

Recess: 10:13 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Harvey D. Epstein, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol

Joann Ariola

Chris Banks

Carmen N. De La Rosa

Kamillah M. Hanks

Shekar Krishnan

Chi A. Ossé

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check on the Committee on Consumer and Worker  
4 Protection recorded by Simone Eno (phonetic) in  
5 Hearing Room 1 on March 25, 2026.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome  
7 to the New York City Council vote on the Committee on  
8 Consumer and Worker Protection.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronics and do not approach the dais.

11 Thank you.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Good morning. I'm  
14 Harvey Epstein, the Chair of Consumer and Worker  
15 Protections. Thanks for joining us today for a vote  
16 on Intro. 177-A. I want to thank my Colleagues for  
17 being here, Council Members Aldebol, Ariola,  
18 Krishnan, Banks, Hanks, and Ossé who's on Zoom.

19 This bill creates a program to provide  
20 individuals counseling related to federal and state  
21 student loan forgiveness and repayment programs. As  
we all know in 2025, about 14 percent of adults in  
New York City have student loan debt, averaging about  
41,000 a year. About 11 percent of those folks are

delinquent, and the highest delinquency rate in the borough is in the Bronx. It can really have a crippling effect on individuals, and this bill really allows DCWP to have a program and make sure that we provide adequate counseling and support for New Yorkers.

And also joining us is Council Member De La Rosa.

And so, if there's any comments or questions on the bill?

All right. Then let's go to immediate vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, on Proposed Introduction 177-A.

Chair Epstein.

CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.  
De La Rosa.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you.

Banks.

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aldebol.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the  
negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted  
by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Thank you everyone.  
Committee is adjourned. [GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 30, 2026