

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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May 19, 2022
Start: 10:03
Recess: 10:10

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING - VIRTUAL ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Shaun Abreu,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Natansha M. Williams
Carmen N. De La Rosa
James F Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Christopher Marte

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2 SERGEANT BIONDO: Recording for the PC under way.

3 SERGEANT PEREZ: Recording to the Cloud is
4 rolling.

5 SERGEANT BIONDO: Thank you. Good morning,
6 everyone and welcome to today's New York City Council
7 vote for the Committee on State and Federal
8 Legislation. At this time, please turn on your
9 cameras for verification purposes. Thank you, all.
10 We are ready to begin, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright. Gaveling in. Good
12 morning, everyone. I am Shaun Abreu, Chair of the
13 Council's Committee on State and Federal Legislation.
14 Thank you for joining us for this morning's remote
15 vote. Today, we'll be voting on Resolution 121,
16 sponsored by my colleague, Council Member, Natasha
17 Williams. This Resolution calls on the New York
18 State Legislation to pass and for the Governor to
19 sign the Clean State Act. This act will
20 automatically seal convictions records for formally
21 incarcerated individuals who have completed their
22 sentence, are off-parole or probation and have not
23 incurred any new charges or convictions in the New
24 York State during the waiting period where the
25 convictions to be sealed is not a sex offense.

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2 In New York State, more than one in seven people
3 has a conviction record. A criminal record creates
4 serious hurdles for those who are trying to provide
5 for themselves and their families. For example,
6 background checks used during the hiring process can
7 often impede a person's ability to find a job after
8 they receive a conviction.

9 Similarly, a conviction record also impacts an
10 individual's ability to find stable housing as some
11 landlords are not willing to enter into a lease
12 agreement with a tenant that has a criminal
13 background, a practice that also contributes to
14 segregation within housing.

15 Housing insecurity is also associated with an
16 increased risk of re-offending, creating a cycle of
17 incarceration for many. If passed, the Clean Slate
18 Act could have a monumental impact on the successful
19 rebuilding of many New Yorkers' lives. Additionally,
20 we'll be voting on four state legislative Resolutions
21 also known as "Home Rules" in support of state
22 legislation in relation to New York City's employees'
23 retirement system also known as "NYCERS" and New York
24 City's Fire Department pension fund as 6980 would
25 amend the retirement and Social Security law, in

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2 relation to authorizing police and fire members of
3 the New York City Fire Department Pension Fund to
4 obtain credit for service as an E.M.T member. S6981B
5 would address a long-standing disparity by exempting
6 members of NYCERS and the Board of Educational or the
7 Education Retirement system, who makes specific
8 additional contributions but will not be in service
9 long enough to receive the benefits from making
10 additional member contributions, S6985B would provide
11 automotive members of NYCERS who begin their careers
12 later in life with the ability to receive a vested
13 retirement benefit.

14 Lastly, 6988B would provide uniform fire service
15 personnel the opportunity to retire with a full
16 pension after 25 years of service and would grant
17 them parity with other uniform service personnel who
18 performed essentials tasks. As Chair, I want to know
19 that the Committee has received letters of support
20 for each of these four SL laws... SLR'S from organized
21 labor. I'm proud and excited to have my name on
22 these legis... on these state legislative resolutions
23 as we work to give hardworking New Yorkers the
24 retirement benefits that they deserve.

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2 I like to thank Committee Staff Jaycee Kenapathi,
3 William Diori, and Hector Hadman. I also like to
4 thank my staff member, Jalisa Quigley. I'll now turn
5 it over to Council Member Williams for her statement.

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chair
7 uhm uh Abreu for holding this important hearing vote
8 on the Clean Slate Resolution. Uhm as you mentioned
9 in your statement, 80 percent of New Yorkers have
10 conviction... conviction records are Black and Latinx
11 and face lifelong discrimination in jobs, housing,
12 and education.

13 We are here today to raise our voices and demand
14 that New Yorkers have a fair chance not only to live
15 but to thrive. Clean Slate will be transformative
16 for so many New Yorkers who have been dispro...
17 disproportionately impacted by criminalization. It
18 still feels like six a.m. for me right now. Uhm
19 especially those who face barriers to employment due
20 to prior convictions or arrests that do not result in
21 a criminal charge or a conviction but still appear on
22 background checks or public... public record searches.

23 Clean Slate must be passed this year in Albany uh
24 (coughs) Excuse me. (coughs) With just weeks
25 remaining in this year's legislative session, we need

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2 our state lawmakers to prioritize this urgent
3 legislation. That is why I urge my colleagues to
4 vote Yes on Reso 121. I want to thank Speaker Adams'
5 Committee staff, Central Staff, and again, Council
6 Member Abreu for your leadership and also our public
7 advocate, Jumaane Williams, for uh requesting this
8 Resolution. Thank you so much.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: No, thank you, Council Member
10 Williams for your... for your leadership on... on this
11 issue. Uh Clerk, may you please take the roll?

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matthew DiStefano,
13 Committee Clerk, Committee on State and
14 Federal Legislation. Roll call vote on
15 Resolution 121 and the four Preconsidered
16 SLR's. All items are coupled. Chair Abreu?

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Uhm I vote yes on
20 all the Home Rules and No on Reso 121.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: De la Rosa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of five in the
4 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
5 abstentions the items have been adopted with
6 the exception of Resolution 121, which was
7 adopted by a vote of four in the
8 affirmative, one in the negative, and no
9 abstentions. And Chair, that is a full
10 committee, you may uh adjourn at your
11 convenience.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much and
13 I'm here to gavel out. Thank you all so
14 much. [GAVEL]

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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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 13, 2022