

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243**

**DIGEST OF LAWS OF 2020 AND CHAPTER AMENDMENTS OF 2021  
RELATING TO PROGRAMS OF THE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**

**NOTICE**

**The purpose of this digest is to highlight provisions of the Laws of 2020 and Chapter Amendments of 2021 and to direct interested persons to the appropriate provisions of the law. This Digest is neither designed nor intended to be exhaustive or to be used as a substitute for the law itself nor is it intended to be considered as the Office's interpretation of these laws for the purposes of implementation.**

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**Public Assistance and SNAP**

**Chapter 108/2020 – Relates to Issuing a Moratorium on  
Utility Termination of Services During Periods of  
Pandemics and/or States of Emergency**

[S.8113-A/A.10521]

Prevents utility corporations or municipalities from terminating the services of residential customers who are enduring financial hardship because of COVID-19 during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

**Statutes involved:**

Public Service Law  
§ 32, amended  
§ 89-b, amended  
§ 89-l, amended  
§ 91, amended

**Effective date:** June 17, 2020

**Chapter 126/2020 – Relates to Issuing a Moratorium on Utility Termination of  
Services During Pandemics and/or States of Emergency**

[S.8428/A.10530]

A chapter amendment to Chapter 108 of the Laws of 2020, it amends the underlying chapter to: (1) allow, during the COVID-19 state of emergency, telephone corporations to not reconnect service if such service was disconnected due to reasons other than non-payment of a charge by a customer, and disconnect service at the request of the customer; (2) require that telephone corporations not terminate service to customers who defaulted on deferred payment agreements or owe arrears to the company for a period of 180 days after the state of emergency is lifted, when such customer has experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the emergency; and (3) add an expiration date.

**Statutes involved:**

Banking Law § 9-x, amended  
  
Civil Practice Law and Rules § 180.65, amended  
  
Public Service Law § 91, amended  
  
Chapter 108 of the Laws of 2020, amended  
  
Chapter 123 of the Laws of 2020, amended

Chapter 157 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** Varies by Part

**Chapter 297/2020 – Relates to a Report Regarding Summer Youth Employment Programs**

[S.1079/A.6393]

Requires the Department of Labor (DOL), in consultation with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the Education Department (SED), and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), to prepare a report studying various aspects of summer youth employment programs.

**Effective date:** November 27, 2020

**Chapter 28/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 297/2020**

[S.1300/A.973]

Amends Chapter 297 of the Laws of 2020 to refine the parameters for a report regarding the summer youth employment program; specifically, sets May 1, 2022 as the due date for the report and sets the lookback period for certain criteria to be included in such report, as covering the years from 2016 to 2021. Also amends so as to require the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), in consultation with the Education Department (SED), the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and DOL, to prepare and send the report as described therein.

**Statutes involved:** §§ 1–3 of Chapter 297 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** February 16, 2021, with § 1 effective retroactive to November 27, 2020

**Chapter 342/2020 – Authorizes the Use of SNAP Benefits to Purchase Online Groceries and Relates to SNAP Outreach Program**

[S.8247-A/A.10673]

Amends Social Services Law §§ 95 and 95-a to: (1) require OTDA to seek necessary federal approval needed to enter into an agreement with all retailers prepared to offer SNAP online purchasing programs and create a plan to maximize online purchasing options; (2) allow SNAP beneficiaries to use SNAP benefits to purchase groceries from eligible online grocery retailers and to have groceries delivered pursuant to federal laws and regulations; (3) amend the SNAP outreach program to include information about the delivery option; and (4) update statutory references from “food stamp program” to “SNAP.”

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law  
§ 95, amended  
§ 95-a, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020

**Chapter 15/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 342/2020**  
[S.878/A.1262]

Amends Chapter 342 of the Laws of 2020 to clarify the State’s relationship with the federal United States Department of Agriculture and to provide a sunset date of December 15, 2023.

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law § 95, amended  
§ 4 of Chapter 342 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** Retroactive to December 15, 2020

**Chapter 352/2020 – Enacts the “Excess Food Act”**  
[S.4176-A/A.4398-A]

Requires supermarkets to make excess food available to qualifying entities, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit organizations which provide food for free to needy persons, including, but not limited to, food pantries, food banks, soup-kitchens or community based organizations.

**Statutes involved:**

Environmental Conservation Law  
Article 27  
Title 30, §§ 27-3001 – 27-3005, added

**Effective date:** June 21, 2021

**Chapter 63/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 352/2020**  
[S.901/A.963]

Amends Chapter 352 of the Laws of 2020 to render it consistent with the “Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Act” passed as part of the 2019 State budget, and sunsetting supermarket-specific provisions when the 2019 law goes into effect on December 1, 2021.

**Statutes involved:**

Environmental Conservation Law  
Article 27, Title 30, repealed  
§ 27-2201, amended  
§ 27-2218, added

§ 2 of Chapter 352 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** February 16, 2021, with certain sections taking effect on December 23, 2020

**Administration**

**Chapter 23/2020 – Relates to the Issuance of EOs Necessary to Respond to a State  
Disaster Emergency**  
[S.7919/A.9953]

Permits the Governor to issue, by EO, any directive necessary to respond to a state disaster emergency.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law  
§ 20, amended  
§ 29-a, amended

**Effective date:** March 3, 2020

**Chapter 71/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 23/2020**  
[S.5357/A.5967]

Amends Chapter 23 of the Laws of 2020 by curtailing certain Executive powers by the State Legislature in response to a state disaster emergency. Among other things, provides that: (1) the State Legislature may terminate, by concurrent resolution, a state disaster emergency issued under § 28 of the Executive Law; and (2) limits the Governor's authority to issue directives responding to a state disaster emergency.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law §28, amended  
§ 4 of Chapter 23 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** March 7, 2021

**Chapter 168/2020 – Requires Public Employers to Adopt a Plan for Operations in the Event of a Declared Public Health Emergency Involving a Communicable Disease**

[S.8617-B/A.10832]

Requires that such plan for operations shall include identification of essential positions, needed personal protective equipment, staggering work shifts and providing necessary technology for telecommuting.

**Statutes involved:**

Education Law § 2801-a, amended

Labor Law

§ 27-a, amended

§ 27-c, added

**Effective date:** September 7, 2020, provided that certain requirements shall be established and functional within 30 days of the effective date.

**Chapter 30/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 168/2020**

[S.1295/A.980]

Amends Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020 to: (1) remove “contractors” from the scope of the legislation; and (2) clarify the timeline for public employers to publish and finalize their plans for operations in the event of a declared state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease.

**Statutes involved:**

Education Law § 2801-a, amended

Labor Law

§ 27-a, amended

§ 27-c, amended

Section 4 of Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020

**Effective date:** February 16, 2021

**Chapter 344/2020 – Relates to Designated Early Voting**

[S.8782/A.8610-B]

Requires that the municipality with the highest population in each county based on the latest federal decennial census shall have at least one polling place designated for early voting, and, to the extent practicable, shall be situated along public transportation routes.

**Statutes involved:**

Election Law § 8-600, amended

**Effective date:** January 1, 2021

**Chapter 74/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 344/2020**

[S.1310/A.1394]

Amends Chapter 344 of the Laws of 2020 to provide that the county seat of Washington County may be designated as an early polling site for the purposes of Election Law § 8-600(2)(a).

**Statutes involved:**

Election Law § 8-600, amended

§ 1 of Chapter 344 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** January 1, 2021

**Chapter 350/2020 – Enacts the “New York Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2020”**

[S.8806/A.8280-C]

Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process integrated within designated agency applications for services or assistance from such agencies, including, but not limited to, OTDA.

**Statutes involved:**

Election Law

Article 5

Title 9, §§ 5-900 – 5-906, added

§ 5-308, added

§ 9-209, amended

**Effective date:** January 1, 2023

**Chapter 37/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 350/2020**

[S.2076/A.2574]

Amends Chapter 350 of the Laws of 2020 to: (1) move the date by which agencies specified in the legislation must begin providing automatic voter registration (AVR) services to January 1, 2024, provided that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would begin doing so on or before January 1, 2023; (2) add the State University of New

York as a specified agency, on or before January 1, 2025; and (3) make technical changes, including: adding clarifying language notifying voters of the effect of a decision not to enroll in a political party; adding provisions assuring that the Board of Elections (BOE) is properly notified of the registration information; and adding clarifying language indicating that the office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services Vocational Rehabilitation agency is to be a participating designated agency.

**Statutes involved:**

Election Law Article 5, Title 9, § 5-308, amended

§§ 2–3 of Chapter 350 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** January 1, 2023

**Domestic Violence Victims**

**Chapter 37/2020 – Relates to Hospital Domestic Violence Procedures**

[S.7192/A.9134]

A chapter amendment to Chapter 733 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by: (1) requiring hospital domestic violence training programs be given to nursing, medical, social work, security, and other clinical personnel working in service units; and (2) clarifying that domestic violence and victim assistance organizations are responsible for coordinating services to victims.

**Statutes involved:**

Public Health Law § 2805-z, amended

§ 2 of Chapter 733 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** April 17, 2020, provided that §1 takes effect on January 1, 2020

**Chapter 71/2020 – Relates to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Education for Persons Engaged in the Practice of Nail Specialty, Waxing, Natural Hair Styling, Esthetics and Cosmetology**

[S.7169/A.8975]

A chapter amendment to Chapter 715 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by allowing the Department of State to consult with multiple advocacy groups recognized by the federal Department of Justice or the federal Department of Health and Human Services to assist with programming in relation to domestic violence and sexual awareness.

**Statutes involved:**

General Business Law § 408-b, amended

Chapter 715 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** June 17, 2020

**Chapter 204/2020 – Relates to Domestic Violence-Related Activity of the NYS Office  
for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)**

[S.6665/A.8023]

Adds a new member (HCR) to the OPDV advisory council and repeals § 576 of the Executive Law, which provided for a project that is no longer funded.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law

§ 575, amended

§ 576, repealed

**Effective date:** October 7, 2020

**Chapter 322/2020 – Exempts Certain Interested Parties or People from Civil Arrest  
in Connection with Locations of Their Court Proceedings**

[S.425-A/A.2176-A]

Exempts certain interested parties or people, such as victims of domestic violence, from civil arrest while going to, remaining at, or returning from the place of such court proceeding.

**Statutes involved:**

Civil Rights Law § 28, added

Judiciary Law

§ 4-a, added

§ 212, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020

## LGBT Services

### Chapter 14/2020 – Relates to Requiring that All Single-Occupancy Bathrooms in State-Owned or State-Operated Buildings be Designated as Gender Neutral

[S.6937/A.8974]

A chapter amendment to Chapter 729 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by amending the Public Buildings Law to require that all single-occupancy bathrooms in state-owned or State-operated buildings be designated as gender neutral.

#### **Statutes involved:**

Public Buildings Law § 145, amended

Chapter 729 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** March 19, 2020

### Chapter 70/2020 – Expands Eligibility for Crime Victims' Compensation

[S.7168/A.8959]

Chapter amendment to Chapter 690 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by making several technical changes to ensure that domestic partners become fully eligible to receive compensation from the Office of Victim Services.

#### **Statutes involved:**

Executive Law

§ 621, amended

§ 624(1-a), repealed

§ 626, amended

§ 626(4), repealed

§ 631, amended

Section 4 of Chapter 690 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** December 20, 2019

### Chapter 353/2020 – Relates to Single-Occupancy Bathroom Facilities

[S.6479-A/A.5240-A]

Designates all single-occupancy bathrooms in public places and schools as gender neutral.

**Statutes involved:**

Civil Rights Law §79-p, added

Education Law

§ 355, amended

§ 409-m, added

§ 6206, amended

§ 6306, amended

**Effective date:** March 23, 2021

**MWBEs**

**Chapter 338/2020 – Requires the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Economic Development to Publicize Certain Information Related to Programs for Small Business Enterprises and MWBEs**

[S.4429/A.4921]

Requires the Department of Economic Development to post certain information on its website so individuals can, among other things, search for featured programs for small business enterprises and MWBEs.

**Statutes involved:**

Economic Development Law § 100, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020

**Non-Discrimination Based Upon Protected Class Status**

**Chapter 41/2020 – Relates to Fair, Non-Biased Compensation**

[S.6935/A.8973]

Chapter amendment to Chapter 743 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by: (1) removing the private right of action created; and (2) providing that pay differentials based on collective bargaining agreements will not constitute a violation of § 115 of the Civil Service Law.

**Statutes involved:**

Civil Service Law § 115, amended

Chapter 743 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** December 26, 2019

**Chapter 46/2020 – Relates to Equal Pay for Similar Work Protections for Protected Classes**

[S.6942/A.8971]

Chapter amendment to Chapter 741 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by removing the requirement that positions that are of a substantially similar title be allocated to the same salary grade.

**Statutes involved:**

Civil Service Law § 118, amended

Chapter 741 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** December 26, 2019

**Shelter**

**Chapter 42/2020 – Relates to the Preparation and Submission of a Report Regarding Homeless Persons who are Veterans in the State of New York**

[S.6938/A.8969]

Chapter amendment to Chapter 487 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by limiting the total number of reports to five reports, one every three years starting in 2020, from data that is reasonably accessible.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law § 353, amended

Section 2 of Chapter 487 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** February 9, 2020

**Chapter 83/2020 – Relates to Rights of Residents of Adult Care Facilities**

[S.7190/A.9521]

Chapter amendment to Chapter 646 of the Laws of 2019, it amends the underlying chapter by removing language that would have unintentionally limited an adult care facility resident's rights to choose his or her own health care provider subject to limitations from the resident's third-party payor coverage.

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law § 461-d, amended

Chapter 646 of the Laws of 2019, amended

**Effective date:** January 12, 2020

**Chapter 148/2020 – Authorizes the Use of Opioid Antagonists by Public Accommodations for Opioid Overdose Prevention**

[S.8259/A.7812-A]

Expands the list of entities authorized to possess, distribute, and administer an opioid antagonist to reverse an opioid-related overdose to include public accommodations such as inns, hotels and motels, among others.

**Statutes involved:**

Public Health Law § 3309, amended

**Effective date:** August 24, 2020

**Chapter 331/2020 – Relates to a Report of Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population During a State Disaster Emergency**

[S.8643-A/A.10566-A]

Requires a report related to the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population during the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to the number of confirmed infected individuals, the number of hospitalizations, and the number of deaths.

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law § 17, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020 (applies retroactively to March 7, 2020)

**Chapter 12/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 331/2020**

[S.873/A.1258]

Amends Chapter 331 of the Laws of 2020 by: (1) clarifying the types of shelters for reporting purposes; (2) inserting clarifying language regarding residential domestic violence and runaway and homeless youth programs; and (3) adding language related to the duration of the required reporting.

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law § 17, amended

§ 1 of Chapter 331 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020 (applies retroactively to March 7, 2020)

**Chapter 333/2020 – Relates to Violations of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code**  
[S.1714/A.3343]

Provides that that a civil penalty can be imposed on building owners who knowingly violated any provisions of the Uniform Code or any lawful order obtained thereunder which impedes a person's egress from such building during a fire or other emergency evacuation.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law § 382, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020

**Chapter 47/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 333/2020**  
[S.881/A.964]

Amends Chapter 333 of the Laws of 2020 to add that in addition to a building owner being liable for certain violations or obstructions, any architect, contractor, subcontractor, construction superintendent or agent thereof who has knowledge of a violation will also be liable, if they had an opportunity to inspect or repair the property with the tenant's permission.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law § 382, amended

§ 1 of Chapter 333 of the Laws of 2020, amended

**Effective date:** December 15, 2020

**Chapter 383/2020 – Relates to Conducting a Public Hearing in the Community in which the Siting of a Homeless Shelter has been Proposed**  
[S.7215-A/A.7820-A]

Requires the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to conduct a community hearing, to be held in the community in which a proposed homeless shelter is to be located.

**Statutes involved:**

New York City Administrative Code § 21-324, added

**Effective date:** December 31, 2021

**Chapter 68/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 383/2020**

[S.2556/A.3022]

Amends Chapter 383 of the Laws of 2020 to require: (1) that there be a public information session, instead of a public hearing, that allows for public comment and that gives the public an opportunity to raise questions and concerns to the agency about the homeless shelter and its location; (2) that DHS post the notice of the information session on the agency's website; and (3) that notification be provided to federal, state, and local elected officials annually during the first quarter of each calendar year and that elected officials be able to provide their suggestions for potential locations for homeless shelters.

**Statutes involved:**

New York City Administrative Code § 21-324, amended

§ 1 of Chapter 383 of the Laws of 2020

**Effective date:** December 31, 2021

**Tenant Protections**

**Chapter 125/2020 – Enacts the “Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020”**

[S.8419/A.10522]

Provides rental assistance vouchers to landlords on behalf of tenants who experienced an increase in rent burden because of a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic through HCR. Expires July 31, 2021.

**Effective date:** June 17, 2020

**Chapter 127/2020 – Prohibits Certain Evictions During the COVID-19 Emergency**

[S.8192-B/A.10290-B]

Provides that no court shall issue a warrant of eviction or judgment of possession against a residential tenant or other lawful occupant that has suffered a financial hardship during the COVID-19 covered period for the non-payment of rent that accrues or becomes due during the COVID-19 covered period.

**Effective date:** June 30, 2020

**Chapter 137/2020 – Relates to Clarifying that Reasonable Accommodation to Enable a Person with a Disability to Use and Enjoy a Dwelling Includes the Use of an Animal to Alleviate the Symptoms or Effects of a Disability**

[S.6172/A.7331]

Amends the Human Rights Law (Executive Law Article 15), which covers publicly-assisted housing, to clarify that a reasonable accommodation to enable a person with a disability to use and enjoy a dwelling includes the use of an animal to alleviate the symptoms or effects of a disability.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law § 296, amended

**Effective date:** August 11, 2020

**Chapter 311/2020 – Requires the Disclosure of Disabled Tenants' Rights to Reasonable Accommodations**

[S.6220-A/A.8149-A]

Amends the Human Rights Law (Executive Law Article 15) to require that tenants in publicly-assisted housing shall be notified of their rights to request reasonable modifications and accommodations if they have a disability.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law § 296, amended

**Effective date:** March 2, 2021

**Chapter 82/2021 – Chapter Amendment to Chapter 311/2020**

[S.867/A.1918]

Amends Chapter 311/2020 by: (1) switching the section of the Human Rights Law under which the text appears; and (2) repealing the requirement to conspicuously post notice of disabled tenants' rights on all vacant listings.

**Statutes involved:**

Executive Law  
§ 170-d, added  
§ 296(2-b), repealed  
§ 296(18-a), repealed

**Effective date:** March 2, 2021

**Chapter 381/2020 – Enacts the “COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020”**

[S.9114/A.11181]

Prevents the eviction of residential tenants with financial or health-related hardships until May 1, 2021. Specifically, Part “A” of the chapter law: (1) stays residential eviction proceedings for 60 days for implementation purposes; (2) allows residential tenants suffering a financial or health-related hardship to file a hardship declaration, under penalty of perjury, with their landlord or a court that will prevent the filing of any eviction or stay any eviction proceeding in progress at the time of filing until May 1, 2021; and (3) allows landlords to evict objectionable tenants and tenants who do not submit a declaration of hardship.

**Effective date:** December 28, 2020

**Trafficking Victims**

**Chapter 257/2020 – Relates to a Report on the Services Provided to Human Trafficking Survivors**

[S.8743/A.8645]

Requires the Commissioners of OTDA and the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to submit a report annually regarding detailed information of services provided to survivors of human trafficking.

**Statutes involved:**

Social Services Law § 17, amended

**Effective date:** May 10, 2021