

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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May 28, 2025

Start: 10:00 a.m.

Recess: 10:11 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés

Chris Banks

Tiffany Cabán

Chi A. Ossé

Lincoln Restler

Kevin C. Riley

Sandra Ung

1 COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on General Welfare. Today's day is May 28,
4 2025, being recorded by Danny Huang in the Council of
5 Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
7 to the New York City Council Committee on General
8 Welfare.

9 Please place your phone on silent or
10 vibrate mode.

11 Do not approach the dais.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: [GAVEL] Thank you, and
14 good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's
15 hearing of the Committee on General Welfare. My name
16 is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the
17 New York City Council and the Chair of the General
18 Welfare Committee.

19 Today we will be voting on Proposed
20 Introduction Number 1148-A, sponsored by Council
21 Member Cabán. This bill would require the Department
22 of Social Services to provide an application
23 confirmation notice and document receipts for
24 applications for cash assistance and SNAP. It would
25 also require DSS to submit a report related to the

resources required to provide these confirmation notices and receipts for other benefit applications. Over the last five years, the number of applications for cash assistance and SNAP have surged. Along this surge in applications has come a surge in denials of those applications. One of the most common causes of an application denial, according to DSS's own data, is a failure to provide verification due to missing paperwork or insufficient documentation. During the application process, applicants report being unable to see which documents have already been submitted and which are still required. They also report having no clear understanding of why they were denied and what documents they may need to resubmit or add to their application. This can result in an application being delayed and New Yorkers unable to access critical resources at the moment in which they are in the greatest need. Proposed Introduction 1148-A aims to bring transparency, accessibility, and further efficiency to the benefits application process by providing a clear confirmation of application submission and information about what documents have been submitted, what documents are still needed, and whether the documents are being denied due to

illegibility. These steps will help New Yorkers better navigate the often complex benefits application system and ensure all those eligible can access the support that they need.

At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my Colleagues who are here today, Council Members Cabán is on virtually, Avilés, Ossé, Restler, Ung, and Banks.

I would also like to thank the staff who worked to prepare this hearing and vote, Sahar Mozami (phonetic), Assistant Deputy Director; Penina Rosenberg, Senior Policy Analyst; Elisabeth Childers-Garcia, Finance Analyst; Julia Haramis, Unit Head; and finally, my Staff, Stephanie Herrera, Deputy Chief of Staff.

I would now like to call on Council Member Cabán to deliver statements on her bill. Is Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I'm here. Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Yes, we can hear you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Beautiful. Thank you so much, Chair. Today, I just am really proud that we're going to be voting on the Receipt Act.

It's a legislation that marks an important step towards greater transparency and accountability and trust in our city's public benefits system, and the Act ensures that applicants for key benefits like cash assistance, one-shot deals, and food stamps receive an application confirmation notice when they apply. And this notice will indicate whether the application is complete, and if not, what steps remain. It also requires that applicants receive a detailed receipt after submitting documents, including the date, type of documents, and the purpose of the submission. And this might seem like super minor procedural updates, but for those seeking vital support, it absolutely means the difference between clarity and confusion and between getting help and falling through the cracks. And, you know, I want to be really honest about this, too. Chronic underfunding and understaffing at agencies like DSS have left too many New Yorkers struggling to access these lifesaving services during their times of need, and so this Act is about restoring dignity to a system that's left many feeling powerless. So, I just want to thank, you know, the advocates, my Legislative Director, Jonah Birch, and my Director of

1 COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

6

2 Constituent Services, Melissa Correa, for their hard
3 work on this bill, and I want to thank the
4 Constituent Service Teams of every single Council
5 Member, you know, all of my Colleagues, because these
6 are the things that you fight for and deal with every
7 single day, and I'm just super appreciative. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you, Council
10 Member Cabán.

11 I would now like to turn it over to the
12 Clerk to do the roll call for this vote.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
14 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
15 vote Committee on General Welfare, Proposed
16 Introduction 1148-A. Chair Ayala.

17 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Congratulations to
18 Council Member Cabán, and I vote yes.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.
20 Cabán.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Avilés.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.
25 Congratulations, Council Member Cabán.

1 COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

7

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Congratulations,
6 Council Member Cabán. I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

8 Ung.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye, and
12 congratulations.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
14 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero with a
15 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
16 by the Committee.

17 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: All right. We're going
18 to leave it open for a second to wait for Council
19 Members Stevens and Riley.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Quiet in
21 the Chambers, please. Continuation roll call,
22 Committee on General Welfare, Proposed Introduction
23 1148-A. Council Member Riley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

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1 COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE 8

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is
3 now eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
4 and no abstentions. Madam Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. And with
6 that, this vote is closed. [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 July 10, 2025