

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  
VOTE\*

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Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Start: 10:07 a.m.

Recess: 10:21 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: *Hon. Deputy Speaker Ayala, Chair*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Chris Banks  
Tiffany Cabán  
Chi A. Ossé  
Lincoln Restler  
Kevin C. Riley  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung

Other Council Members Attending: Schulman

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

A P P E A R A N C E S

**(NONE)**

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2 SERGEANT CUZNER: This is a microphone check for  
3 the Committee on General Welfare, located in the  
4 Committee Room, recorded on March 26, 2025 by Pat  
5 Cuzner, check, check, check, check, check, check,  
6 check, check, check, check.

7 (PAUSE)

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to  
9 the New York City Council Hearing Vote on the  
10 Committee on General Welfare. At this time please  
11 silence all electronics and do not approach the dais.  
12 I repeat, please do not approach the dais. Thank you  
13 for your cooperation.

14 Chair, you may begin.

15 DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

16 Thank you, good morning, everyone, and welcome to  
17 today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the  
18 Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the  
19 Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

20 Today our committee will be voting on two pieces  
21 of legislation:

22 Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A, sponsored by  
23 Council Member Schulman, would expand eligibility for  
24 services provided by... (BACKGROUND NOISE)

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: (INAUDIBLE)

(PAUSE)

(GAVEL SOUND)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

Today our committee will be voting on two pieces of legislation:

Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A, sponsored by Council Member Schulman, would expand eligibility for services provided by the HIV/AIDS Services Administration or HASA to include any person living with HIV infection.

Proposed Resolution Number 175-A, sponsored by Council Member Ossé, calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.442/A.3355, which would amend the Social Services Law to mandate each local department of social service link persons living with HIV with benefits and services and provide that persons living with HIV who are receiving housing assistance shall not be required to pay more than 30% of household income towards shelter costs.

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2 According to the New York City Department of  
3 Health and Mental Hygiene, in 2023, over 1,600 people  
4 were newly diagnosed with HIV, of which 40% lived in  
5 high or very high poverty zip codes.

6 As of December 31, 2023, there were a total of  
7 over 134,000 thousand New York City residents living  
8 with HIV, and over 70% of these New Yorkers live in  
9 medium, high, or very high poverty.

10 HASA provides critical assistance to New Yorkers  
11 living with HIV, including access to rental  
12 assistance, home care services, help to complete  
13 benefits applications, and mental health, and  
14 substance misuse and treatment referrals.

15 These important pieces of legislation will help  
16 protect New Yorkers with HIV by codifying access to  
17 these vital supports in City and State Law.

18 At this time, I would like to acknowledge my  
19 colleagues who are here, Council Member Riley,  
20 Council Member Cabán, Council Member Avilés, Council  
21 Member Ossé, Council Member Stevens, Council Member  
22 Ung, and Council Member Banks.

23 I would also like to thank the committee staff  
24 who worked to prepare this hearing today, and this  
25 hearing and vote, Sahar Moazami, Assistant Deputy

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2 Director; Penina Rosenberg, Policy Analyst; Elisabeth  
3 Childers-Garcia, Finance Analyst; and finally, my  
4 staff, Elsie Encarnacion my Chief of Staff.

5 I would now like to turn if over to Council  
6 Member Schulman to deliver a statement on her bill.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Chair Ayala.

8 Good morning, everyone, I'm Council Member Lynn  
9 Schulman, Chair of the Health Committee and the proud  
10 sponsor of Introduction 1194-A.

11 Today, the Council is taking a historic step to  
12 ensure that every New Yorker living with HIV has  
13 access to the vital support and services they need.  
14 By expanding eligibility for the HIV/AIDS Services  
15 Administration, also known as HASA, we are breaking  
16 down outdated barriers and aligning our policies with  
17 reality of modern HIV care, because early  
18 intervention and comprehensive support save lives.

19 For too long, many people living with HIV have  
20 been denied the housing, nutrition, and case  
21 management services that can make the difference  
22 between stability and crisis. This legislation is  
23 about dignity, equity, and our ongoing commitment to  
24 ending the HIV epidemic in New York.

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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

I want to thank Speaker Adrienne Adams for her leadership, General Welfare Chair, Diana Ayala, my colleagues in the Council, for their support, and the tireless advocates who have fought for this change.

Together, we are making New York City a place where no one is left behind. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Thank you, Council Member Schulman.

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

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call for the Committee on General Welfare, items are coupled.

Chair Ayala?

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Ung?

CHAIR MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 8 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by the Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Okay, we are going to hold it open for Council Member Restler who is on his way. Everybody else, you can...

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on General Welfare, Proposed Introduction Number 1194-A and Preconsidered Resolution 175-A, Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote is now 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, Madam Chair, that is a full committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: Thank you, and with that, this vote is closed. (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

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 April 1, 2025