

New Jersey Law Revision Commission

July 2025

e-bulletin

Mid-year Update on the Work of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission

Welcome

This e-bulletin is provided to supplement the [2024 Annual Report](#) of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission, which was released in January of 2025 pursuant to the Commission's statutory mandate.

Clicking on any link in this e-bulletin will enable you to view the referenced document.

For additional information or to view other projects on which the Commission is currently working, please visit www.njlrc.org or contact Executive Director Barbara Rivera at bbr@njlrc.org.

Final Reports

Final Reports released this year through July 31, 2025:

- [Gendered Terms Related to Married Individuals in New Jersey Statutes - Use of "Maiden Name" in New Jersey Statutes - Use of the Term](#)
- [New Jersey First Act: Residency Requirement](#)
- [New Jersey Safe Housing Act's Application to Non-physical Harm](#)
- [Retroactive Modification of Child Support in N.J.S. 2A:17-56.23a: Exceptions for Emancipation and Adult Adoption](#)
- [Self-Defense Statute \(N.J.S. 2C:3-4\) – Scope of the Term "Dwelling"](#)
- [Title 18A and Title 26: Updating Terms Related to Epinephrine Administration and Nurses](#)

Tentative Reports

In addition to the Final Reports released so far this year, the following Tentative Reports were released for comments through July 31, 2025:

- [Standard of Proof for Alcohol Test Refusal Offenses in N.J.S. 39:4-50.4a](#)
- [Title 18A: Special Education - Incorrect References in Statute](#)

Work In Progress

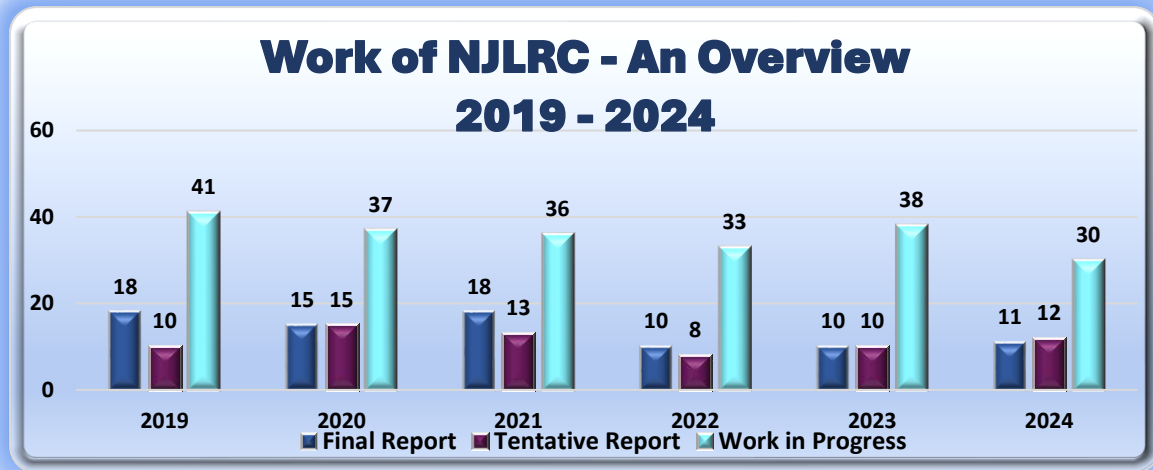
Commission work continues on a number of other projects that are not yet at the Tentative Report stage. Any projects that will be considered by the Commission can be found on the agendas for the monthly meetings, and detailed summaries are provided in the [Minutes](#) of those meetings. The project documents and the relevant Minutes are available on the [Current Projects](#) page of the Commission's website.

New projects approved for work by the Commission between January 2025 and July 31, 2025, include:

- [Employment Preference for New Jersey Residents on Public Works in N.J.S. 34:9-2](#)
- [Megan's Law 15-Year Offense-Free Requirement in N.J.S. 2C:7-2\(f\) As Applied to Juvenile Adjudications](#)
- ["Prearranged Ride" and "Rider" in the Transportation Network Company Safety and Regulatory Act - Definitions of](#)
- [Tort Claims Act Proper Service of Notice of Claim](#)
- [Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act - 2022](#)
- [Uniform Restrictive Employment Agreement Act - 2021](#)

- [Uniform Telehealth Act - 2022](#)

An overview of the work of the Commission in recent years, broken down by category, is shown below.



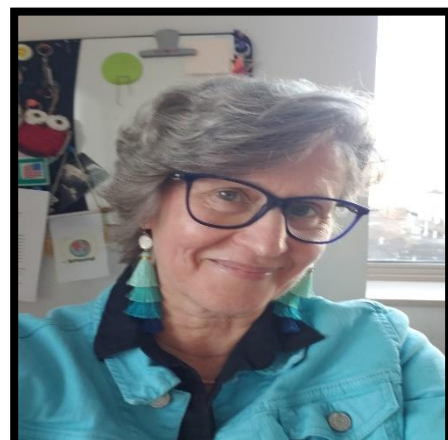
News

We are pleased to warmly welcome Barbara Rivera as the new Executive Director of the NJLRC. Barbara has served the Commission with distinction as counsel, and we are confident she will continue her excellent work in this new role.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our former Executive Director, Laura Tharney, for her dedicated leadership and her many valuable contributions over the course of nearly twenty-four years with the Commission.



Barbara Rivera



Laura C. Tharney

We are also delighted to welcome Candy Ley Velazquez as our new Counsel and Moira Phan as our 2025 Legislative Fellow. We look forward to their contributions to the work of the Commission.



Candy Ley Velazquez



Moira Phan

A recently published article written by Commission Staff and featured in the Seton Hall Journal of Legislation and Public Policy:

- Whitney G. Schlimbach & Carol Disla-Roa, From Factory Floors to Courtroom Doors: The New Jersey Law Revision Commission Review of an Exception and a Defense to the Exclusive Remedy of the New Jersey Workers' Compensation Act, 49 *SETON HALL LEGIS. J.* Vol. 49: Iss. 3 Article 6 (2025). [Article](#)
- Additional articles by Commission Staff members can be found on the [Articles and Presentations](#) page of the Commission's website.

Bills

Bills introduced so far this session, based on the work of the Commission, include:

- [S879](#) Expands the definition of a victim of domestic violence
- [S2852](#) Concerns eligibility for unemployment benefits (when offer of employment rescinded)
- [S2887](#) Provides certain workers with maximum workers' compensation benefits regardless of outside employment
- [S3404](#) Eliminates salary reference for retired members of PERS returning to employment in teaching staff positions
- [S3405](#) Concerns assessment of farmland for property tax purposes
- [A653](#) - Establishes time periods for adverse possession of certain property

- [A1490](#) - Concerns motor vehicles overtaking certain pedestrians and persons operating bicycles and personal conveyances
- [A1875](#) Consolidates and makes technical updates to certain definitions used in Title 26 of the Revised Statutes
- [A2770](#) Requires municipality to return to the taxpayer the property taxes paid in error due to the assessor's or the owner's mistake
- [A2771](#) Provides certain volunteers and other workers with maximum compensation benefit for workers' compensation claim regardless of outside employment
- [A2772](#) - Concerns eligibility for unemployment benefits
- [A3239](#) Expands the definition of victim of domestic violence
- [A4462](#) Eliminates salary reference for retired members of PERS returning to employment in teaching staff positions
- [A4465](#) Concerns assessment of farmland for property tax purposes
- [A4467](#) Codifies and expands “rescue doctrine” to permit recovery of damages by certain rescuers
- [A4468](#) Replaces certain fixed interest rate awards in eminent domain cases with interest rates based on just compensation awards
- [A4470](#) – Amends rent receivership statute to provide that the court shall appoint a receiver under certain conditions; establishes a mandatory appointment requirement
- [A4472](#) Allows written palimony agreements to be entered into without advice of counsel
- [A4473](#) Eliminates statute of limitations on income tax assessments that arise out of erroneous refunds induced by fraud
- [A4507](#)) Changes term “inmate” to “incarcerated person”

Thank You

The NJLRC would like to thank the sponsors and co-sponsors of bills based on the work of the Commission, and other Legislators who assisted with the progress of the bills, for their willingness to bring these important issues to the attention of their colleagues in the Legislature:

Senator Carmen F. Amato
 Senator Renee C. Burgess
 Senator Anthony M. Bucco
 Senator John J. Burzichelli
 Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.
 Senator Linda R. Greenstein
 Senator Gordon M. Johnson
 Senator Joseph A. Lagana

Senator Paul D. Moriarty
 Senator Raj Mukherji
 Senator Vincent J. Polistina
 Senator Holly T. Schepisi
 Senator Troy Singleton
 Senator Brian Stack
 Senator Douglas J. Steinhard

Assemblyman John Allen
 Assemblyman Reginald W. Atkins
 Assemblyman Robert Auth
 Assemblyman John V. Azzariti Jr.
 Assemblywoman Rosaura Bagolie
 Assemblyman David Bailey
 Assemblyman Christian E. Barranco
 Assemblyman Brian Bergen

Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese
 Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter
 Assemblyman Robert D. Clifton
 Assemblyman Herb Jr. Conaway
 Assemblyman Christopher P. DePhillips
 Assemblywoman Margie Donlon
 Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis
 Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn
 Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia

Assemblywoman Victoria A. Flynn
Assemblyman Roy Freiman
Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald
Assemblywoman Shama A. Haider
Assemblyman Dan Hutchison
Assemblyman Michael Inganamort
Assemblyman Melinda Kane
Assemblyman Robert J. Karabinchak
Assemblywoman Andrea Katz
Assemblyman Sean T. Kean
Assemblyman James J. Kennedy
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez
Assemblyman Julio Marengo
Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin
Assemblywoman Barbara McCann Stamato
Assemblyman Gregory P. McGuckin
Assemblyman Cody D. Miller
Assemblyman William F. Moen
Assemblywoman Carmen Theresa Morales
Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz
Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy
Assemblywoman Ellen J. Park
Assemblywoman Luanne M. Peterpaul

Assemblyman Erik Peterson
Assemblywoman Annette Quijano
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
Assemblyman Gabriel Rodriguez
Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf
Assemblyman William B. Sampson
Assemblyman Alex Sauickie
Assemblyman Gary S. Schaer
Assemblyman Alexander Schnell
Assemblywoman Heather Simmons
Assemblyman Erik K. Simonsen
Assemblyman William W. Spearman
Assemblywoman Shanique Speight
Assemblyman Sterley S. Stanley
Assemblywoman Lisa Swain
Assemblywoman Claire S. Swift
Assemblywoman Tennille R. McCoy
Assemblyman Gregory E. Myhre
Assemblyman Chris Tully
Assemblyman Michael Venezia
Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli
Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly
Assemblyman Jay Webber

Finally, we conclude this e-bulletin with a tribute to John M. Cannel on the following pages.

John was the first Executive Director of the Commission, and he passed away unexpectedly in June 2025 after serving the State of New Jersey for many years.

In Memoriam



John M. Cannel, 1942 - 2025

The Commissioners and Staff of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission were saddened to hear of the passing of John M. Cannel in June 2025.

John was the first Executive Director of the Commission. He served in that position from the time the Commission began work in 1987 until his retirement in 2012. After his retirement, he continued his association with the Commission in a volunteer capacity for a decade, in a position created for him with the title of “Reviser of Statutes.”

Born and raised in New Jersey, John received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers, The State University, before attending the London School of Economics and then graduating from Yale Law School. Immediately after completing law school, John returned to New Jersey and began a career that encompassed nearly 55 years of service to the State. Starting in 1968, John spent almost 20 years with New Jersey’s Office of the Public Defender. He participated in the drafting of the New Jersey Parole Act (1979) and the Public Advocate Act (1974).

As Executive Director of the Commission, John worked on, and oversaw the work of Commission Staff on, a substantial number of projects focusing on diverse legal topics. Bills based on many of these projects were enacted by the Legislature and significantly changed New Jersey’s law.

John’s extensive record of public service was not limited to his employment with the State. He served as a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Implementation of the Criminal Code (1978 to 1979), a member of New Jersey Criminal Disposition Commission (1979 to 1986), and a member of New Jersey Supreme Court Committees on Criminal Practice (for more than 40 years beginning in 1972) and Evidence (1981 to 2007). Additionally, John served for over a decade as a Commissioner in the New Jersey Delegation of the Uniform Law Commission. He also taught as

an adjunct faculty member at Seton Hall Law School in 1973 and 1974, and at the Rutgers Law School – Newark from 1989 to 1994, in 2007, and then from 2011 through 2025.

John was the author of the well-known publication *New Jersey Criminal Code Annotated* (Gann Law Books) and the co-author of *Leases of Personal Property: A Project for Consumer Protection*, 28 Harvard Journal on Legislation 115 (1991) and of *Children in Need of Services: Toward A More Coherent Approach to Protecting New Jersey's Children and Families*, 40 Seton Hall Legis. J. 1 (2016).

In addition to his career in the law, John was a man of many interests. He was well-read in non-legal subjects, a music lover, a world traveler who could prepare detailed itineraries for countries around the globe at a moment's notice when asked by friends and colleagues, and an excellent cook (renowned for his gumbo) who fed the bodies and souls of those around him.

The Commission extends our sympathies to John's family, his friends, and to those in the legal profession and beyond who recall John's unique talent, and his love for and many contributions to the law.

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