



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt On Passage of Senate Bill Related To Safety Of Lockport Cave And Boat Tour

ROBERT G. ORTT May 29, 2024

| ISSUE: **PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY**



Albany, NY – Today, the New York State Senate unanimously passed [Senate Bill S.9241](#), relating to the duty to inspect vessels operated on non-navigable underground waters. This important legislation resulted from the tragic incident at the Lockport Cave and Boat Tour that sadly took the life of a Niagara Falls man and injured nearly a dozen others last year. In the course of the investigation, it was determined no local, county or state agency was tasked with overseeing these types of attractions.

“With the passage of this bill, it is now clear that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic preservation will oversee these types of businesses and inspect these vessels to ensure patrons can safely enjoy the unique attractions New York has to offer, ” **said Senator Ortt.** “[Senate Bill S.9241](#), which I co-sponsor, is in alignment to the bill that I originally introduced immediately after the incident occurred. Over the course of this past year, I have had many conversations with the Executive's office and my colleagues across the aisle, using no uncertain terms that ensuring proper oversight at the Lockport Cave and similar sites was among my top priorities this session so that an incident like this can be prevented in the future.”

This bill in the Assembly, which is co-sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Norris, has passed both the Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development and Codes Committees and is on the Assembly Ways and Means Agenda for tomorrow’s meeting.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S9241

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly

- Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Relates to duty to inspect vessels operated on non-navigable underground waters

May 07, 2024

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Jose M. Serrano](#)

Do you support this bill?