



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Cultural Affairs and Tourism

SENATOR JOSÉ M. SERRANO

Chair

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader

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Senator, 29th District

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NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



CHAIR OF THE MAJORITY

CHAIRMAN
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMITTEES
AGING
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
LIBRARIES
SOCIAL SERVICES
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
WOMEN'S ISSUES

December 2024

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation for the 2024 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2024 session, this committee met three times in session and reported twenty-two bills. The Committee also held a joint Arts Day forum in February of 2024 with the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'José M. Serrano'.

José M. Serrano
29th Senate District
Chair of NYS Senate Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION

Senator José M. Serrano
Chairperson

Committee Members

Cordell Cleare
Jeremy Cooney
Michelle Hinchey
Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Ranking Member

James Tedisco
Pamela Helming

Committee Staff

Andrew Postiglione,
Committee Director and Clerk

Michael S. Press,
Counsel to the Committee

Malik Dare,
Committee Finance Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the State system of parks and historic sites, arts development, tourism initiatives, and advancing recreational opportunity for New Yorkers.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, Sixty-five bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twenty-two were reported from the Committee. Fifteen were passed by the Senate, and thirteen passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of three committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report. The Committee also advanced nineteen nominations to positions on the New York State Council on the Arts, the State Board for Historic Preservation, as well as numerous regional commissions for parks and historic preservation.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held a joint Arts Day forum in February of 2024 with the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development that examined testimony and perspectives of various arts disciplines and practitioners from across the state on the role that arts and culture plays in community development, diversity and inclusion, and education.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2024:

- **S253A** (SERRANO) Pending Governor approval. This bill requires New York State to develop criteria and guidelines to establish State designated arts and cultural districts.
- **S722** (SERRANO) Chapter 340 of 2024. This bill authorizes the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to establish a resident curator program for the rehabilitation of certain state park buildings that have fallen into disuse.
- **S5423** (MARTINEZ) Chapter 60 of 2024. This bill prohibits the mandated use of credit cards at State Park facilities.
- **S5714A** (CLEARE) Passed Senate. This bill requires New York State arts and cultural initiatives to increase consideration for diversity, equity and inclusion, racial and social justice, and cultural preservation within various programmatic criteria.
- **S7296A** (HINCHEY) Pending Governor approval. This bill requires the New York State Council on the Arts to include members from each of the ten regions of the state to further ensure regional representation in New York State's arts programming.
- **S9241** (SERRANO/ORTT) Chapter 119 of 2024. This bill provides OPRHP with the authority to inspect and regulate vessel operations on certain non-navigable underground waterways.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES & NOMINATIONS

Arts Day Forum- The Senate and Assembly held a joint Arts Day Forum in February of 2024, where members from each house's respective committee on arts and cultural development heard testimony from arts advocates, entrepreneurs and educators, discussing the many roles that arts and culture play in our communities and how New York can continue supporting these endeavors.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00253A	SERRANO	Directs the council on the arts to establish criteria and guidelines for the establishment of state designated arts and cultural districts.	Delivered to Governor
S00722	SERRANO	Authorizes the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation to establish a resident curator program for the rehabilitation of state park buildings.	Substituted By A4285 - Chaptered 340
S04993C	MARTINEZ	Authorizes the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation to issue rules, regulations and programs necessary to allow the presence and behavior of dogs conducive to the characteristics of each state park; requires the installation of dog waste stations; requires dogs to be under the direct supervision and control at all times by the owner or custodian of such dogs; makes related provisions.	Substituted By A6244C - Vetoed Memorandum 77
S05423	MARTINEZ	Prohibits the mandated use of credit cards at state parks, recreational facilities or historic sites.	Substituted By A4853 - Chaptered 60
S07296A	HINCHEY	Requires the council on the arts to have members from each of the ten regions of the state; allows members appointed prior to the effective date to complete the natural end of their term before appointments shall be made in accordance with such requirement.	Substituted By A8978A - Delivered to Governor
S07721A	OBERACKER	Permits the town of Springfield to adopt and enforce regulations restricting docks, boathouses and moorings on Otsego lake within such town. Eff. Date 11/22/2024	Chaptered 507
S07807A	SERRANO	Requires the office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to establish standards for the closing of segments of trails on the Empire state trail, and provide notice of such closings to the public.	Vetoed Memorandum 103
S08336	BORRELLO	Permits the use of snowmobiles on the right-of-way of certain portions of state route nine hundred fifty-four-h within the village of Bemus Point in Chautauqua county. Eff. Date 09/27/2024	Chaptered 388
S08469A	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Adjusts the base pilotage tariffs at Sandy Hook, Sands Point and Execution Rocks for vessels over 1650 pilotage units.	Substituted By A8982A - Chaptered 128

S08895	CLEARE	Authorizes the department of economic development to give a preference to any tourist promotion agency that is promoting the sport of stickball.	Substituted By A860 - Delivered to Governor
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S09241	SERRANO	Provides that the inspector shall at least annually inspect any vessel operated on privately or publicly owned underground non-navigable waterways with no navigable inlet or outlet that carry passengers for compensation; makes technical corrections; makes related provisions. Eff. Date 09/12/2024Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	Chaptered 119
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S09250	SERRANO	Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions of law relating to the operation of personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft. Eff. Date 07/03/2024	Chaptered 191
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SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00252	SERRANO	Relates to the reporting of alienation of municipal parkland.	Passed the Senate
S00253A	SERRANO	Directs the council on the arts to establish criteria and guidelines for the establishment of state designated arts and cultural districts.	Delivered to Governor
S00261	SERRANO	Directs the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation to establish the state parks passport program allowing visitors to state parks and historic sites to log their visits to such sites in a passport book or electronic application.	Passed the Senate
S00722	SERRANO	Authorizes the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation to establish a resident curator program for the rehabilitation of state park buildings.	Substituted By A4285 - Chaptered 340
S00805	SERRANO	Requires the department of environmental conservation and the department of health to establish certain standards related to the cleaning of playground equipment after pesticide exposure.	Passed the Senate
S01458	SERRANO	Creates a legislative task force on outdoor environmental education and recreation that will benefit residents of New York state by fostering stewardship and conservation of the environment, and an appreciation of the importance of the wise use of natural resources as well as acknowledgment of the health benefits of time spent in nature.	Passed the Senate
S01608A	SERRANO	Encourages farmers' markets in state parks by posting related information, identifying opportunities and coordinating with other state agencies.	Passed the Senate

S04026	SCARCELLA- SPANTON	Exempts operators of law enforcement and fire department vessels from laws which regulate vessels on the navigable waters of the state while such operators are in the course of responding to emergencies.	Passed the Senate
S04378	WALCZYK	Relates to annual vehicular access for active duty service members; requires annual passes be issued to active duty service members and their immediate families at state parks or recreational facilities upon presentation of a military identification card.	Senate Rules
S04557	SKOUFIS	Permits municipalities within certain counties to apply for reimbursement from the state for law enforcement activities on waterways within their jurisdiction.	Passed the Senate
S04993C	MARTINEZ	Authorizes the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation to issue rules, regulations and programs necessary to allow the presence and behavior of dogs conducive to the characteristics of each state park; requires the installation of dog waste stations; requires dogs to be under the direct supervision and control at all times by the owner or custodian of such dogs; makes related provisions.	Substituted By A6244C - Vetoed Memorandum 77
S05423	MARTINEZ	Prohibits the mandated use of credit cards at state parks, recreational facilities or historic sites.	Substituted By A4853 - Chaptered 60
S05714A	CLEARE	Increases access to resources for culturally diverse arts and culture organizations that advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, racial and social justice, and cultural preservation.	Passed the Senate
S07296A	HINCHEY	Requires the council on the arts to have members from each of the ten regions of the state; allows members appointed prior to the effective date to complete the natural end of their term before appointments shall be made in accordance with such requirement.	Substituted By A8978A - Delivered to Governor

S07721A	OBERACKER	Permits the town of Springfield to adopt and enforce regulations restricting docks, boathouses and moorings on Otsego lake within such town. Eff. Date 11/22/2024	Chaptered 507
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S08469A	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Adjusts the base pilotage tariffs at Sandy Hook, Sands Point and Execution Rocks for vessels over 1650 pilotage units.	Substituted By A8982A - Chaptered 128
S08722A	BRESLIN	Requires the empire state plaza art commission to provide recommendations to the governor on renaming the agency buildings located at the empire state plaza; establishes considerations to include places, persons and matters of significance to the state that reflect state values; requires the governor to choose the new agency building names within 60 days after the commission's recommendation.	Passed the Senate
S08895	CLEARE	Authorizes the department of economic development to give a preference to any tourist promotion agency that is promoting the sport of stickball.	Substituted By A860 - Delivered to Governor
S09241	SERRANO	Provides that the inspector shall at least annually inspect any vessel operated on privately or publicly owned underground non-navigable waterways with no navigable inlet or outlet that carry passengers for compensation; makes technical corrections; makes related provisions. Eff. Date 09/12/2024Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	Chaptered 119

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