

New York State Assembly

Annual Report

2024

Committee on
Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development



Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Daniel O' Donnell, Chair



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR:
Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts
and Sports Development

COMMITTEES:
Codes
Education
Environmental Conservation

DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

December 15, 2024

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, I am pleased to submit to you the Committee's 2024 Annual Report. The following report is a summary of significant actions taken during the 2024 Legislative Session which demonstrates the Committee's ongoing commitment to advancing legislation that strengthens and supports tourism, state parks, historic sites, and arts organizations in New York State.

In the 2024 legislative session, our Committee acted on numerous substantive bills. Some important issues the Committee took on was legislation that rehabilitates buildings in State parks and legislation that creates and defines special cultural districts throughout our state.

As the Chair of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and the members of the Committee for their support of and contribution to this year's legislative and budget efforts. I also wish to express my gratitude to the State agencies for their assistance and cooperation and to the staff for their dedication and hard work.

On behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support during the 2024 Legislative Session. Under your leadership, Mr. Speaker, this Committee looks forward to meeting the challenges of the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session and we promise to continue to support these very important industries in our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel O'Donnell".

Daniel O'Donnell
Chair, Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT**

Daniel J. O'Donnell, Chair

· MEMBERS ·

Majority

Didi Barrett
Patrick Burke
Robert C. Carroll
William Conrad
Charles D. Fall
Edward Gibbs
Billy Jones
Jonathan Rivera
MaryJane Shimsky
Sarahana Shrestha
Gina L. Sillitti
Carrie Woerner
John Zaccaro, Jr.
Stefani Zinerman

Minority

Joe Angelino
Jeff Gallahan
Scott Gray
Angelo J. Morinello
Matthew Simpson
Chris Tague

· COMMITTEE STAFF ·

Patrick Totaro, *Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy*
Morgan Weber, *Associate Counsel*
Cheryl Myers, *Committee Clerk*
Skyler O. Heller, *Program and Counsel Analyst*

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I.INTRODUCTION

Each legislative session the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development (“the Committee”) examines legislation that affects tourism, state parks, historic sites, and arts organizations in the State of New York. The purview of the Committee includes the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, the Canal Law, the Navigation Law, the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law and portions of the Economic Development Law, Executive Law, General Business Law, and Unconsolidated Law. Entities under the jurisdiction of the Committee include the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Division of Tourism, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Olympic Regional Development Authority, and the State Athletic Commission.

Legislation before the Committee addresses issues facing the tourism industry such as the regulation of sporting events, maintenance of the state park system and historic sites, aid for New York’s arts community, assistance to cultural institutions, safety and access of watercraft, maintenance of state trails and other important issues.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Committee held 5 committee meetings. 80 bills were referred to the Committee. As of the date of this report, 15 bills were reported from the Committee, 11 passed the Assembly, 9 were chaptered, and 3 were vetoed.

II. 2024 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. East Harlem Cultural District

A.717-A (Gibbs) / S.3565-A (Cleare) – Chapter 677 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would empower the Council on the Arts to designate East Harlem "El Barrio" as a region of cultural significance, designate other regions of cultural significance around the state, and provide support to designated regions.

2. Economic Development of Stickball

A.860-A (Gibbs) / S.8895 (Cleare) – Chapter 678 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would empower the Department of Economic Development to promote the game of stickball within New York State and authorizes the department of economic development to give a preference to any tourist promotion agency that is promoting the sport of stickball.

3. State Designated Arts and Cultural Districts

A.2563-A (Gunther) / S. 253-A (Serrano) – Vetoed

This bill would require the Council of the Arts to develop guidelines for state designated arts and cultural districts, which would be designated as such upon application and approval if such a proposed district meets one of several criteria for economic development and positive community impact.

4. Resident Curator Program

A.4285 (O'Donnell) / S.722 (Serrano) – Chapter 340 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would authorize the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to lease vacant and at-risk structures in State Parks and State Historic Sites to private persons, encourage investment of private resources to rehabilitate and maintain such structures thereby addressing the deterioration of residential buildings for which the agency has no public use and lacks state funding or staff resources to maintain.

5. Prohibits the Mandated Use of Credit Cards at State Parks

A.4853 (Ramos) / S.5423 (Martinez) – Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would prohibit the mandated use of credit cards as a means of payments to use certain facilities at a state park, recreational facility, or historical site.

6. Farmers Markets in State Park

A.4905-B (O'Donnell) / S.1608-A (Serrano) – Referred to Ways and Means

This bill would encourage and promote farmers markets in state parks when such farmers markets do not harm the natural environment.

7. Dogs in State Parks**A.6244-C (Stern) / S.4993-C (Martinez) – Vetoed**

This bill would authorize the admittance of dogs into state parks and grants the parks commissioner authority to adopt any rules, regulations and programs deemed necessary for dog access.

8. Standards for Closing Trails on the Empire State Trail.**A.8274-A (Fahy) / S.7807-A (Serrano) - Vetoed**

This bill would direct the office of parks, recreation and historical preservation to coordinate with an owner of a portions of the Empire State Trail that is temporally closed to establish a signed detour and to post notice on the offices website.

9. Design Standards and Applications for Greenway Trails**A.8301-B (Fahy) / S. 7806-B (Serrano) – referred to Ways and Means**

This bill would direct the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation to require that any Greenway trail established or modified under its jurisdiction conform with design standards promulgated by the office.

10. Prohibits Littering in State Parks (Chapter Amendment)**A.8527 (O'Donnell) / S.8041 (Serrano) – Chapter 37 of the Laws of 2024**

This bill would make technical changes to Chapter 640 of the law of 2023 in order to effectuate the intent of the law by adding "littering" wherever the word "dumping" is used to avoid any distinction between the two terms in this section.

11. Use of Snowmobiles within the Village of Bemus Point in Chautauqua County**A.8575 (Goodell) / S.8336 (Borrello) – Chapter 388 of the Laws of 2024**

This bill would Permit the use of snowmobiles on the right-of-way of certain public highways within the village of Bemus Point in Chautauqua County.

12. NYSCA Board Appointees Regions Requirement**A.8978-A (Woerner) / S.7296-A (Hinchey) – Chapter 629 of the Laws of 2024**

This bill would require the council on the arts to have members from each of the ten regions of the state.

13. Composting in State Parks

A.9344-A (O'Donnell) - Reported to Ways and Means

This bill would permit composting facilities at state parks.

14. Extends Certain Provisions Relating to the Operation of Certain Watercraft

A.10333 (Jones) / S. 9250 (Serrano) – Chapter 191 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would establish an expiration of provisions of Navigation Law authorizing the operation of certain leased personal watercraft without a boating safety certificate. The expiration would be January 1, 2027

15. Inspection of Vessels Operated on Non-Navigable Underground Waters

A.10399 (O'Donnell) / S.9241 (Serrano) – Chapter 119 of the Laws of 2024

This bill would apply provisions of the Navigation Law to vessels operated in underground non-navigable waterways with no navigable inlet or outlet (aka "caves"); allowing the suspension of an issued certificate of inspection if operation poses an imminent threat to public safety; and establishing a penalty for operating with-out a current certificate of inspection.

III. STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 ENACTED BUDGET

Each year during budget negotiations the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development strongly advocates for proposals that support arts and tourism organizations along with state parks and historic sites. The Committee also works closely with the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means to secure funding for various programs and initiatives to improve these industries in New York State.

This year, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-25 Enacted Budget included increased funding for the Council on the Arts and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation.

1. New York State Council on the Arts

The Enacted Budget for the Council on the Arts included two different funding increases:

a. State Operations

The Enacted Budget provided \$6.0 million in additional support for New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) State operations, a \$700,000 increase from 2023-2024

b. Aid to Localities

The Enacted Budget provided an additional \$89 million in arts grants to be distributed through Regional Arts and Cultural Councils, including:

- \$40 million for additional grantmaking;
- \$1 million for stabilization grants for small and midsized entities;
- \$4 million for grants to regional arts and cultural councils
- \$1 million Executive initiative for Cultivating Havens for the Arts Through Regional Murals (CHARM)
- \$500k for the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center

2. Arts and Cultural Improvement Program

The Enacted budget provided \$80 million dollars in capital, a \$60 million increase from 2023-2024

3. Empire State Development

The enacted budget provided \$8.1 million in state operations funding for marketing and advertising as well as 3.45 million in aid to localities for marketing and advertising

4. Urban Development Corporation

The enacted budget provides aid to locality funding through the Urban Development Corporation, these programs include:

- \$45 million START-UP/GLOBAL-NY
- \$7 million for Market NY (along with \$8 million in Capital)
- \$5 million Joint-add for Alive Downtowns venues

IV. OUTLOOK FOR 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Committee looks forward to the 2025 legislative session. As one of the major employers, New York state's tourism industry increases economic activity and job growth within the state as well as drives the demand for services and products. Interest in the arts continue to grow in popularity throughout the state. The Committee, in partnership with our colleagues, will continue to find ways to utilize our assets creatively and effectively to expand these two important industries throughout our State

The Committee will continue to advocate strongly for increased funding for the arts and tourism organizations along with increased funding for state parks and historic sites. In addition, increasing accessibility to all the State's natural land cultural resources remains a top priority for the Committee.

APPENDIX A

2024 SUMMARY SHEET

Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

Total Number of Committee Meetings Held: 5

	Bills
Bills Reported Favorable To:	
Codes	0
Judiciary	0
Ways and Means	7
Rules	3
Floor	5
TOTAL	15
Committee Action	
Held for Consideration	2
Defeated	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	0
Remaining in Committee	63
Bills Reference Changed To:	
Government Operations	0
Local Governments	0
Ways and Means	0
TOTAL	0

APPENDIX B
CHAPTER LAWS OF 2024

CHAPTER NUMBER	ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
37	A.8527 (O'Donnell)	S.8041 (Serrano)	Relates to prohibiting littering on state park lands
60	A.4853 (Ramos)	S.5423 (Martinez)	Prohibits the mandated use of credit cards at state parks, recreational facilities or historic sites.
119	A. 10399 (O'Donnell)	S.9241 (Serrano)	Relates to duty to inspect vessels operated on non-navigable underground waters
191	A.10333 (Jones)	S.9250 (Serrano)	Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions of law relating to the operation of personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft
340	A.4285 (O'Donnell)	S.722 (Serrano)	Authorizes the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation to establish a resident curator program for the rehabilitation of state park buildings
388	A.8575 (Goodell)	S.8366 (Borrello)	Permits the use of snowmobiles on the right-of-way of certain public highways within the village of Bemus Point in Chautauqua county
629	A.8978-A (Woerner)	S.7296-A (Hinchey)	This bill would require the council on the arts to have members from each of the ten regions of the state.
677	A.717-A (Gibbs)	S3565-A (Cleare)	This bill would empower the Council on the Arts to designate East Harlem "El Barrio" as a region of cultural significance.

678	A.860 (Gibbs)	S.8895 (Cleare)	This bill would empower the Department of Economic Development to promote the game of stickball
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APPENDIX C

VEOTED IN 2024

ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
A.6244-C (Stern)	S.4993-C (Martinez)	Authorizes the presence of dogs in state parks.