



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
James Skoufis

Investigations & Government Operations Committee Releases 'Report on Reports'

JAMES SKOUFIS December 29, 2021

| ISSUE: **INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

| COMMITTEE: **INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

REPORT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**CHAIR
SENATOR JAMES SKOUFIS**

Each legislative session, the New York State Legislature passes various bills directing State and local entities to conduct studies and issue corresponding reports on topics of public interest. As these studies touch upon necessity and properness, success and failure, general functionality, financial accounting, and other essential analysis of major public policy and/or programs, the Senate Standing Committee on Investigations & Government Operations ("Committee") is of the opinion that full and timely compliance with reporting requirements is vital to effective decision-making by the Legislature and implementation by the Executive.

This examination, as well as the findings and policy recommendations incorporated herein, is the conclusion of the Committee's review of state executive-level reporting. The Committee has identified the following findings:

- 41% of the studies – 26 of 63 – were never completed and/or submitted (the Committee received valid justification for five of the missing 26 reports);
- Missing publication dates make timeliness difficult or impossible to determine;
- Absent or vague references to authorizing statutes make it difficult to determine which report responds to which piece of legislation;
- The lack of a centralized submission mechanism or process by which reports are acknowledged as received leads to issues with accessibility and accountability; and
- A failure to display or post reports and studies on government websites makes it difficult for the public to access the information and findings within these reports.

The full report can be found [here](#).

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S1677

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- 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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Directs the department of state to study, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning studies directed by the legislature to be completed

January 14, 2021

In Senate Committee Rules

Sponsored by James Skoufis

Do you support this bill?