

Annual Report 2023

# New York State Senate Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

## 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  
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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 2023

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 2023 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2023 Session, this Committee met three times in Session and reported 20 bills. The Committee also advanced eight nominations to the State Board for Historic Preservation as well as regional commissions for parks and historic preservation.

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

Sincerely,

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

José M. Serrano  
29th Senate District



**2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

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

**Senator José M. Serrano, Chairperson**

**Senator Mark Walczyk, Ranking Member**

*Committee Members*

Senator Cordell Cleare

Senator James N. Tedisco

Senator Jeremy A. Cooney

Senator Michelle Hinchey

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

*Committee Staff*

Andrew Postiglione, Committee Director and Clerk

Michael S. Press, Counsel to the Committee

Tyler Del Giudice, 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 2023 Legislative Session, fifty-eight bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twenty were reported from the Committee, twenty were passed by the Senate, and six passed in both houses. This work was conducted through three committee meetings. A list of all bills reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## **COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

The Senate Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation held three meetings during the 2023 legislative session. Additionally, Committee members met with the arts, parks and tourism community to continue funding important programs in the 2024 Enacted Budget, including historic New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) support and Parks capital investments.

The committee reported multiple bills that would help preserve open spaces, foster historic preservation, and advance outdoor recreational opportunities for New Yorkers. S.809A, sponsored by Senator Serrano, formalizes penalties for illegal dumping and littering in State Parks. S.5345, by Senator Hinchey, increases the number of nominations that can be made to the Historic Business Preservation Registry. S.6124, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton updates boating safety standards for recreational vessels.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, six of the fifty-eight bills referred to the Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation passed both houses of the Legislature.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S.809A	Serrano	Prohibits littering and dumping on state park lands	Signed Chapter 640
S.3011	Liu	Authorizes the commissioner of transportation to conduct a study pertaining to a proposed expansion of the Long Island Motor Parkway trail	Veto Memo 74
S.3309A	Skoufis	Permits Gold Star families to use any of the public campsites, parks and other public places of recreation in this state free of charge	Signed Chapter 616
S.5345	Hinchey	Increases the available number of nominations for the historic business preservation registry per year	Signed Chapter 146
S.5670	Gallivan	Relates to the use of snowmobiles in the town of Concord, county of Erie	Signed Chapter 518
S.6124	Scarcella-Spanton	Relates to equipment to be carried on certain vessels	Signed Chapter 511

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

### *Legislation*

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S.252	Serrano	Relates to the reporting of alienation of municipal parkland	Passed Senate Only
S.253A	Serrano	Relates to developing criteria and guidelines for state designated arts and cultural districts	Passed Senate Only
S.254	Serrano	Relates to the development and posting of a senior trail guide	Third Reading Calendar
S.261	Serrano	Directs the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation to establish the state parks passport program	Passed Senate Only
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	Passed Senate Only
S.805	Serrano	Relates to the cleaning of playground equipment after pesticide exposure	Passed Senate Only
S.809A	Serrano	Prohibits littering and dumping on state park lands	Signed Chapter 640
S.1032	Jackson	Moves the Amistad Commission from the department of state to the state education department	Passed Senate Only
S.1124	Cooney	Directs the department of economic development to conduct a study of public and private museums in the state	Passed Senate Only
S.1458	Serrano	Creates a legislative task force on outdoor environmental education and recreation	Passed Senate Only
S.1608	Serrano	Relates to permitting farmers markets in state and local parks	Passed Senate Only
S.3011	Liu	Authorizes the commissioner of transportation to conduct a study pertaining to a proposed expansion of the Long Island Motor Parkway trail	Veto Memo 74

S.4026	Scarcella-Spanton	Exempts operators of law enforcement and fire department vessels from laws which regulate vessels on the navigable waters of the state while responding to emergencies	Passed Senate Only
S.4378	Walczyk	Relates to annual vehicular access for active duty service members	Third Reading Calendar
S.4557	Skoufis	Relates to state reimbursement for local enforcement of navigation laws on waterways within local jurisdiction	Passed Senate Only
S.5345	Hinchey	Increases the available number of nominations for the historic business preservation registry per year	Signed Chapter 146
S.5670	Gallivan	Relates to the use of snowmobiles in the town of Concord, county of Erie	Signed Chapter 518
S.5714A	Cleare	Relates to increasing 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 Senate Only
S.5956A	Chu	Creates the Checkout NY pass	Third Reading Calendar
S.6124	Scarcella-Spanton	Relates to equipment to be carried on certain vessels	Signed Chapter 511

### ***Nominations***

The Committee also advanced 8 nominations for gubernatorial appointments to fill vacancies on the State Board for Historic Preservation as well as regional commissions for parks and historic preservation.











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Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation**