



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM



**Senator José M. Serrano**  
**Chair**



**JOSÉ M. SERRANO**

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  
EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION

December 2020

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 2020 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2020 session, this committee met twice in session and reported twelve bills. The Committee also approved four nominations during the 2020 session.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held a virtual roundtable on October 21 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on New York's arts and tourism economy.

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  
29<sup>th</sup> Senate District

**2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

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

**Senator José M. Serrano, Chairperson**

**Senator Pamela A. Helming, Ranking Member**

*Committee Members*

Senator Brad Hoylman  
Senator Rachel May  
Senator Jessica Ramos  
Senator James Sanders

Senator Elizabeth Little

*Committee Staff*

Andrew Postiglione, Committee Director and Clerk  
Robert Habermann, Counsel to the Committee  
Jessica Fowler, Senior Finance Analyst to the Committee

## **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 opportunities for New Yorkers.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, fifty-nine bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twelve were reported from the Committee, seven were passed by the Senate, and one passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of two committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, one of the fifty-nine bills referred to the Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation passed both houses of the Legislature. This bill was signed into law by the Governor.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S.7274B	Serrano	Relates to establishing a historic business preservation registry	Signed Chapter 241

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

### *Legislation*

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S.180	Serrano	Relates to the reporting of alienation of municipal parkland.	Passed Senate Only
S.1111	Amedore	Establishes a geoparks task force to survey and formulate a plan for identifying sites for a system of geoparks, and a management and development strategy for such parks.	Reported from Committee
S.1558A	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.2494	Serrano	Prohibits littering on state park lands.	Passed Senate Only
S.3012	Gaughran	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 Senate Only
S.3082	Carlucci	Directs the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation to fund and conduct the empire state games on an annual basis.	Reported from Committee
S.5822A	Metzger	Permits farmers markets in state and local parks.	Passed Senate Only
S.6445	Jackson	Relates to the Amistad Commission	Passed Senate Only
S.6819	Serrano	Relates to the provision of financial assistance to museums, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and other cultural institutions located in low-income urban, suburban or rural communities	Reported from Committee
S.7274B	Serrano	Relates to establishing a historic business preservation registry	Signed Chapter 241
S.7556A	Biaggi	Relating to extending provisions for charging a fee for admission to the	Reported from Committee

		New York Botanical Garden	
S.7765	Serrano	Relates to the development and posting of a senior trail guide	Passed Senate Only

***Public Meetings***

The Cultural Affairs Committee held a Virtual Roundtable on October 21 to assess the Covid-19 Pandemic’s impact on the arts and related economic activity. Committee members heard from experts and stakeholders who discussed the first-hand and industry impacts incurred throughout the pandemic, access to aid programs, the arts’ role in broader economic recovery, and recommendations for legislative actions.

***Nominations***

The Committee also advanced the following nominations as Members of the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

Kelly Cummings

State Senator Elizabeth Little

Diane Muro

Elinor Tatum











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