



2020 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON

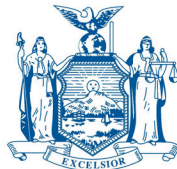
INTERNET AND
TECHNOLOGY



**SENATOR
DIANE J. SAVINO**
CHAIR

CHAIR
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE MEMBER
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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December 31, 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 Internet and Technology 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 once in session and reported three bills. The Committee also held a Joint Roundtable on the Role of Technology in Domestic Violence with the Committee on Women's Issues this past year.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Diane J. Savino", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Diane J. Savino
Senator – 23rd District
Chair – NYS Standing Committee on
Internet and Technology

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY**

Senator Diane J. Savino, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Honorable Anna M. Kaplan	Honorable James Skoufis
Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy	Honorable Christopher L. Jacobs (through 6/24/2020)
Honorable Kevin S. Parker	Honorable George M. Borello

COMMITTEE STAFF

Barbara M. O'Neill, Committee Director
Adriana Babino, Senior Cyber Security Advisor
Richard Mulvaney, Counsel
Mobeen Bhatti, Policy Advisor

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Internet and Technology has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning State Technology Law, Economic Development Law, Executive Law and General Business Law including but not limited to the internet, technology, computers, email, cybersecurity, forensics, DNA databases and the NYS Broadband Office

During the 2020 Legislative Session, 34 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, three were reported from the Committee. Two were passed by the Senate, and none passed in both houses. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held a Joint virtual roundtable meeting with the Committee on Women's Issue. Topics of this roundtable was the Role of Technology in Domestic Violence.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2020:

S. 4142 sponsored by Senator Savino –

This bill amends the Electronic Signature and Records Act of the State Technology law to define and permit a signature secured through blockchain technology to be accepted as an electronic signature; a record or contract secured through blockchain technology to be accepted as an electronic record; and provides for smart contracts and their enforceability. Additionally the bill defines the following terms:

- “blockchain technology” is defined as a distributed ledger technology that uses a distributed, decentralized, shared and replicated ledger.
- “smart contract” s defined as an event-driven program that runs on a distributed, shared and replicated ledger.

S.6037A by Senator Savino –

This bill would amend the Economic Development Law to add “digital ledger technology” into the definitions of businesses engaged in “financial services data centers or financial services customer back office operations” and “software development” within the Excelsior Jobs Program. For the purposes of this bill “distributed ledger technology” means a mathematically secured, chronological, and decentralized consensus ledger or database, whether maintained via Internet interaction, peer-to-peer network, or otherwise use to authenticate, record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers or databases.

Additionally, this bill would require, during the application and approval process that the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development strive for broad regional geographic representation within the program. The Commissioner would also be directed to promote diverse ownership and workforces of participating businesses through outreach to businesses owned by people with disabilities, minority- and women-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S2869	Kaplan	Creates the mobile high-technology training facilities program, allowing the Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (d.b.a. NYSTAR) to provide matching grants for the design, development and outfit of mobile training facilities.	Reported to Finance Committee
S4142	Savino	Amends the Electronic Signature and Records Act of the State Technology law to define and permit signatures secured through blockchain technology to be considered an electronic signature	Passed Senate/ No Assembly Action
S6037	Savino	This bill would incorporate digital ledger technology into the definition and eligibility of businesses engaged in “financial services data centers or financial services customer back office operations” and “software development” in the Excelsior Jobs Program.	Passed Senate/ No Assembly Action
S8448D	Thomas	The purpose of this bill is to create ethical guidelines for entities using technology to track, screen, monitor, contact trace, mitigate or respond to the COVID-19 health emergency.	Discharged and Committed to Health Committee/ Passed Senate



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