



2021 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON

INTERNET AND
TECHNOLOGY



**SENATOR
DIANE J. SAVINO**
CHAIR

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INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY
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THE SENATE
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December 31, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Internet and Technology for the 2021 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2021 session, this committee met three times and reported twelve bills.

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

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Diane J. Savino, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Honorable John W. Mannion

Honorable Kevin Parker

Honorable Jessica Ramos

Honorable Kevin Thomas

Honorable Peter Oberacker, *Ranking Member*

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 2021 Legislative Session, 46 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, twelve were reported from the Committee. Seven were passed by the Senate. Of those Three have been signed into law, three are on the Governor's desk for executive action and one was vetoed.

A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2021:

Cyberbullying:

Chapter 483 of the laws of 2021 – this law creates a task force of different stakeholders to determine the prevalence of cyberbullying, make recommendations on how to prevent cyberbullying, and identify ways the state can act as a resource and tool to assist adults and children who have been victims of bullying or children who have been such victims outside of the school setting.

Electronic Signature for Funeral Documents:

Chapter 222 of the laws of 2021 - the explosion in technological capability and associated internet capacity, electronic signatures are routinely used to execute all forms of legal and other transactional documents across many business sectors and for many societal purposes. Their use as having the same force and effect as a traditionally signed (“wet”) signature is recognized, authorized and validated by both Federal and State statutes.

However, when it was enacted in 2004, the NYS “Electronic Signatures and Records Act” excluded any document related to the disposition of an individual’s person from its provisions. This prohibited an electronic signature from being used on any document that is routinely used in funeral and cemetery services. The heightened difficulty in executing these documents - often involving next-of-kin located around the country - in a timely manner during the current Covid-19 pandemic has driven home the need for the use of electronic signatures.

Accreditation of Agencies Examining Latent Fingerprints:

Chapter 209 of the Laws of 2021 - Currently some laboratories that examine latent fingerprints are accredited while others are not. Accreditation ensures that laboratories follow documented quality management systems and adhere to standards of operation promulgated by the accrediting agency. Accreditation involves routine onsite surveillance visits, required training and proficiency testing. Fingerprint examiners are required to complete an established training program and be tested for competency and be subject to annual proficiency testing. Accreditation also ensures that documented quality management procedures are followed by each laboratory. An accredited laboratory must demonstrate compliance with nationally and internationally recognized standards. By requiring all forensic laboratories to obtain accreditation, New York will be able to ensure that forensic laboratories examining latent print evidence are adhering to equivalent standards.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, seven of the 46 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Internet and Technology passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed three, three are awaiting executive action and one was vetoed.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S623	Kaminsky	Establishes a task force to explore the effects of cyber-bullying in New York state and potential measures to address such effects	Chapter 483 of the Laws of 2021
S4716A	Hoylman	Requires the office of information technology services to advise all state agencies in the implementation of language translation technology	Delivered to the Governor
S4868	Kennedy	Creates the lymphedema and lymphatic diseases research grants program and creates the lymphatic disease research and education fund	Veto Message # 46
S6185A	Lanza	Relates to the definition of designated offender	Delivered to the Governor
S6521	Savino	Authorizes the use of electronic signatures on funeral and cemetery services documents	Chapter 222 of the Laws of 2021
S7019	Krueger	Relates to the notification of certain state agencies of a data breach or network security breach	Delivered to the Governor
S7098	Bailey	Relates to the accreditation of agencies examining latent fingerprints	Chapter 209 of the Laws of 2021

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S158A	Kaplan	Creates the mobile high-technology training facilities program	Reported to Finance
S623	Kaminsky	Establishes a task force to explore the effects of cyber-bullying in New York state and potential measures to address such effects	Chapter 483 of the Laws of 2021
S1347	Holyman	Relates to the establishment of a single computerized state DNA identification index and requires municipalities to expunge any DNA record stored in a municipal DNA identification index	Reported to Finance
S1800	Savino	Relates to the development and creation of distributed ledger technology and business entities that develop such technology	Passed Senate
S1801	Savino	Allows signatures secured through blockchain technology to be considered an electronic signature	Passed Senate
S2652	Savino	Relates to requiring governmental entities to implement multifactor authentication for local and remote network access	Reported to Finance
S3108	Parker	Relates to emerging technology industrial classifications for clean environment and energy technologies	Reported to Finance
S4716A	Hoylman	Requires the office of information technology services to advise all state agencies in the implementation of language translation technology	Delivered to the Governor
S4868	Kennedy	Creates the lymphedema and lymphatic diseases research grants program and creates the lymphatic disease research and education fund	Veto Message #46
S5793	Comrie	Establishes a task force to study quantum computing	Reported to the Calendar
S6185A	Lanza	Relates to the definition of designated offender	Delivered to the Governor
S6521	Savino	Authorizes the use of electronic signatures on funeral and cemetery services documents	Chapter 222 of the Laws of 2021



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