

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON
TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

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Chairman

Committee Members

Majority

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Steven Otis
Didi Barrett
Carrie Woerner
Jaime Williams
Robert Carroll
Billy Jones
Nathalia Fernandez
Pat Burke
Karen McMahan
Charles Fall
Mathylde Frontus

Minority

Chris Tague, Ranking
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Jake Ashby
Dan Stec
Angelo Morinello
Michael Norris
Colin Schmitt

Staff

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Benjamin Piccolo-Evans, Analyst
Kathryn Kilichowsky, Committee Assistant
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I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND ACTIVITY

The Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development is responsible for reviewing and initiating legislation that affects tourism, state parks, historic sites, and arts groups in New York State. The Committee's statutory purview includes: the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, the Canal Law, the Navigation Law, the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law and portions of the Economic Development Law, Executive Law, General Business Law, and Unconsolidated Law. Entities under the jurisdiction of the Committee include the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Division of Tourism, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Olympic Regional Development Authority, and the State Athletic Commission.

Legislation before the Committee addresses issues facing the tourism industry such as the promotion of sporting events, maintenance of the state park system and historic sites, aid for New York's arts community, and assistance to cultural institutions

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Committee met three times. Seventy-seven bills have been referred to the Committee. Of these, five were reported from the Committee, two passed the Assembly, one was signed into law, and four were held for consideration.

II. 2020 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A.8740 (O'Donnell)

Reported from Committee

This bill would establish a commission to choose a new name for Robert Moses State Park that reflects the history of Long Island. Robert Moses helped construct the Jones Beach State Park and served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Many believe that, in his role as Commissioner, he did not do much to advance or protect access to playgrounds, pools, and parks for New Yorkers of color. According to Moses' biographer, Robert Caro, during the construction of the Jones Beach State Park, Moses ordered the overpasses of the connecting parkway to be built low so as to prevent buses from passing under, thus cutting off access to the beach to those reliant on public transportation, including those of limited means. The renaming of the Park would be appropriate given the unfortunate and painful history surrounding its construction.

A.8873 (O'Donnell)

Chapter 241 of 2020

This bill would establish a historic business preservation registry within the office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, that would include historic businesses that have operated for at least fifty years and that have contributed to their communities' history. Many of our state's small businesses have helped shape the history, heritage, and identity of the communities that they serve. From the delicatessens that have fed immigrant communities in the Lower East Side for over a century, to the inns in the Hudson Valley that predate the Revolutionary War, many of our businesses serve as important educational resources and invaluable living symbols of our community pride and identity. However, many small businesses, including many historic businesses, are struggling to stay open in the face of rising costs as well as increasing competition from e-commerce. A historic business registry will allow our state to recognize and honor historic businesses from across the state, while providing educational and promotional assistance to businesses in the registry to ensure their continued viability and success.

A.9695 (Fahy)

Reported from Committee

New York State has more museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquaria than any other state, many of which are among the leading art, history, science, and natural history institutions in the world. As many as 60 million visitors, including over 6 million school children, visit New York's museums and institutions each year, the economic impact of which is well into the billions of dollars statewide. However, many of our tourist and educational destinations are struggling financially to keep their doors open and provide the services students and adult learners need. Since 2008, school districts statewide have been forced to cut their budgets and many have unfortunately cut transportation budgets once used to transport students to their local and regional museums and institutions. The purpose of this bill is to establish a grant program that would provide funding to museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquaria in order to conduct educational programming.

A.9823 (Rozić)

Passed the Assembly

This bill would include the game of cricket in the purview of the New York State Athletic Commission (NYSAC). Cricket has come a long way since the 19th century. Today, billions of people that live across continents and regions ranging from the Caribbean, to Europe, to Africa and South Asia play cricket. In North America, cricket is gaining popularity, thanks to the huge influx of immigrants from these regions. New York State takes pride in its diversity and New York City is the world's most cosmopolitan city, both of which makes for an ideal place for a game such as cricket to thrive. There is a great deal of support and enthusiasm for the game amongst New Yorkers who seek to expand the game, which goes hand in hand with the internationalism of the state. New York serves as a cultural hub for many regions of the world; cricket will be yet another addition to that multicultural New York.

IV. OUTLOOK FOR 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Committee looks forward to the 2021 legislative session. The tourism industry is one of the major employers in New York State and the arts continue to grow in popularity throughout the state. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to this crucial sector of the economy and the Committee stands ready to help in the rebuilding process. Additionally, the Committee, in partnership with our colleagues, seeks to creatively and effectively utilize our assets to continue the expansion of these two important industries throughout the State.

The Committee will continue to advocate strongly for increased support for the tourism industry to help it recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic along with increasing support for state parks and historic sites to continue their important work. In addition, maintaining accessibility to all of the State's natural and cultural resources remains a top priority for the Committee.

**APPENDIX A:
SUMMARY OF ALL BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM,
PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

2020 SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

Tourism ,Parks, Arts and Sports Development

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 3

ASSEMBLY	SENATE	TOTAL
BILLS	BILLS	BILLS

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:

Codes	0	0	0
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	3	0	3
Rules	0	0	0
Floor	2	0	2
TOTAL	5	0	5

COMMITTEE ACTION

Held For Consideration	4	0	4
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	1	0	1
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	67	5	72

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:

TOTAL	0	0	0
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APPENDIX B:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2020 Bills Reported From Committee

Assembly Bill #	Senate Bill #	Last Action	Description
A.8740	No Same As	07/15/2020 Referred to Ways & Means	Establishes a commission to rename the Robert Moses State Park to reflect the history of Long Island.
A.9636	S.7556-A	02/12/2020 Referred to Ways & Means	Relates to extending provisions for charging a fee for admission to the New York Botanical Garden until 2030.
A.9695	S.6819	02/12/2020 Referred to Ways & Means	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, or that provide educational services to students from such communities.
A.9823	S.7764-A	07/21/2020 Referred to Rules	Relates to including the promotion and expansion of cricket in the state of New York to the jurisdiction of the state athletic commission.

APPENDIX C:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2020 Bills Chaptered

Assembly Bill #	Senate Bill #	Chapter #	Description
A.8873-A	S.7274-B	10/07/2020 Signed into Law Ch. 241 of 2020	Establishes a historic business preservation registry to serve as an educational and promotional tool to recognize historic community-serving businesses as valuable cultural assets.

APPENDIX D:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2020 Bills Vetoed

None to Report