



COMMITTEE ON
Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY



CARL E. HEASTIE, *Speaker*

DANIEL J. O'DONNELL, *Chair*



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts
and Sports Development

COMMITTEES
Codes
Education
Environmental Conservation

DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

December 15, 2019

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

On behalf of the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, I respectfully submit to you the Committee's 2019 annual report.

In the 2019 legislative session, our Committee took action on a number of substantive bills. One of the most important issues the Committee took on was the legislation to require individuals operating propelled vessels to take a boating safety course and educate these individuals on current New York State laws about boating.

As the Chair of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and the members of the Committee for their support of and contributions to this year's legislative and budget efforts. I also wish to express my gratitude to the State agencies for their assistance and cooperation and to the staff for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Committee, I want to thank you for your encouragement and support of our efforts throughout the 2019 Session. With your continued leadership, we look forward to a productive Legislative Session in 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel O'Donnell".

Daniel O'Donnell
Chair, Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON
TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

Daniel J. O'Donnell
Chairman

Committee Members

Majority

Dan Quart
Patricia Fahy
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
Jake Ashby
Dan Stec
Angelo Morinello
Michael Norris
Colin Schmitt

Staff

Aaron Suggs, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Teri Kleinmann, Associate Counsel
Yolanda Bostic-Williams, Principal Analyst
Benjamin Piccolo-Evans, Committee Assistant
Cheryl Myers, Committee Clerk
Dawn Fowler, Program and Counsel Secretary

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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 regulation of sporting events, ticket sellers and resellers, maintenance of the state park system and historic sites, aid for New York's arts community, regulation of waterways and highways for recreational use, and other important issues.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Committee met 4 times. 69 bills have been reported referred to the Committee. Of these, 10 were reported from the Committee, 4 passed the Assembly, 2 were signed into law, and 1 was vetoed.

II. 2019 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A.4853A (Jean-Pierre) **Chapter 147 of 2019**

Current law only requires boating classes to be taken by individuals born after May 1, 1996. The majority of boat owners are middle-aged adults who are not required to take any classes relating to boating. Tragically, Brianna Lieneck was 11 when she was killed in a boating collision off the coast of Long Island. Educating boaters on the boating laws of New York State will save lives. This law will require all individuals operating these powerful propelled vessels to take a boating safety course and educate these individuals on the current laws in New York State about boating safety.

A.6306-B (Rozić) **Passed Assembly**

The game of cricket was first played in England in the 14th century, and by the 18th century, cricket became a national phenomenon. People living all over the world, including from the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and South Asia, play cricket. There is a great deal of support and enthusiasm for the game amongst New Yorkers. This bill would establish the Empire State Cricket Task Force to promote the game of cricket in New York State.

A.6462 (Nolan) **Passed Assembly**

New York State History Month was created by the Legislature in 1977 to celebrate the State's unique culture and history. Recently, it has become clear that November is a problematic month for this celebration as many historical organizations, including most State historic sites, are closed in November and therefore cannot take part in the celebrations. This bill would amend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law to change New York State History Month from November to October. By observing New York State History Month in October, more people will have the opportunity to learn about the State's rich history.

A.7562-A (Englebright)

Passed Assembly

Nissequogue River State Park is located in the heart of the Kings Park community in the Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County. This site comprises 153 acres and is located on the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center. A variety of habitats including tidal and fresh water wetlands and hardwood forests provide habitat to a variety of shore birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The bill would require the establishment of a master plan to ensure sustainability, transparency, and protection for Nissequogue River State Park.

A.7675-A (Burke)

Passed Assembly

If The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) proposes to permanently close to the public any park, historic preservation site or other facility under its jurisdiction, the agency is currently not required to engage in any public process regarding the impact of the proposed closure on the public. This bill would require the OPRHP to conduct public hearings and submit reports thereon prior to the permanent closure of a park or historic site owned or operated by OPRHP.

A.7863 (Peoples-Stokes)

Passed Assembly

The Michigan Street African American Corridor is rich in African American History and the Michigan Street African-American Corridor Commission has a crucial part in facilitating education about the Corridor. This bill would extend the Commission until December 31, 2020, and reduce the number of Commissioners so that it may more effectively and efficiently spend any remaining grants and funds, and better prepare for the planned transition to a non-profit corporation to continue the mission of the Commission.

III. HEARINGS & ROUNDTABLES

New York's artistic and cultural sector has generated billions of dollars to the State economy and employs thousands of people across the State. This ranks New York second among all states in arts and cultural value added to the economy and in arts and cultural employment. On a regional basis, the arts have a profound impact on the economy.

On December 12, 2019, the Committee in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, held a hearing to further examine the enacted 2019/2020 budget as it relates to the funding of arts and cultural institutions. New York is home to many world-class artistic venues and cultural organizations that continue to need support in order to create employment, sustain jobs, and strengthen our State's economy.

The testimony focused on the economic impact and the essential role this sector has on businesses, local communities and the State. The Committees heard testimony on the application process for capital funding and what the conditions are for obtaining capital funding for art and cultural organizations. The Committees also heard testimony regarding capital funding needs of cultural institutions.

IV. OUTLOOK FOR 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Committee looks forward to the 2020 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. 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 funding for the arts and tourism organizations along with increasing funding for state parks and historic sites. In addition, increasing 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**

2019 SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON

_____ Tourism _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 4

ASSEMBLY SENATE TOTAL
BILLS BILLS BILLS

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:

Codes	2	0	2
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	7	0	7
Rules	0	0	0
Floor	1	0	1
TOTAL	10	0	10

COMMITTEE ACTION

Held For Consideration	0	0	0
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	1	0	1
REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	59	10	69

BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:

Codes

TOTAL	1	0	1
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APPENDIX B:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2019 Bills Reported From Committee

Assembly Bill #	Senate Bill #	Last Action	Description
A.3251	S.6764	06/19/2019 Referred to Ways & Means	To protect and enhance the resources of the Natural Heritage Trust
A.4691	S.1640	06/12/2019 Referred to Codes	To require marine carbon monoxide detectors on certain types of boats
A.4853-A	S.5685	08/06/2019 Signed into Law Chapter.147	To require individuals to take a boating safety course in order to operate a mechanically-propelled vessel on the navigable waters
A.5949	S.4449	06/14/2019 Returned to Senate	To give the New York Botanical Garden authorization to charge an admission fee
A.6306B	S.3807B	06/17/2019 Returned to Senate	To promote the game of cricket in New York
A.6462	S.5369	06/11/2019 Passed Senate and Returned to Assembly	To change New York State History Month from November to October
A.6752	S.4355	08/29/2019 Signed into Law Chapter. 206	This is a chapter amendment that makes changes to provisions of Chapter 354 of the Laws of 2018 to require an assessment of state parks, including trails, to determine where it is appropriate to install Lyme and tick-borne disease warning signs at all State-managed parks

A.7562A	S.2854B	06/18/2019 Passed Assembly and Returned to Senate	To statutorily designate certain state-owned land as the Nissequogue River State Park and to guide future expansion of new and enhanced park facilities by developing, adopting, and implementing a master plan for the Nissequogue River State Park
A.7675A	S.183-B	06/19/2019 Passed Assembly and Returned to Senate	To require the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to conduct public hearings and submit reports thereon prior to the permanent closure of a park or historic site owned or operated by OPRHP
A.7863	S.6015	06/17/2019 Passed Assembly and Returned to Senate	To extend the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission and to alter the composition of the Commission

APPENDIX C:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2019 Bills Chaptered

Assembly Bill #	Senate Bill #	Chapter #	Description
A.4853-A	S.5685	08/06/2019 Signed into Law Chapter.147	To require individuals to take a boating safety course in order to operate a mechanically propelled vessel on the navigable waters
A.6752	S.4355	08/29/2019 Signed into Law Chapter. 206	This is a chapter amendment that makes changes to provisions of Chapter 354 of the Laws of 2018 to require an assessment of state parks, including trails, to determine where it is appropriate to install Lyme and tick-borne disease warning signs at all State-managed parks

APPENDIX D:

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2019 Bills Vetoed

A.5949	S.4449	06/14/2019 Returned to Senate	To give the New York Botanical Garden authorization to charge an admission fee
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