# STATE OF NEW YORK

6295

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

# IN ASSEMBLY

March 3, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. R. CARROLL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to the establishment of regional arts, cultural affairs, and parks accessibility grants

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

Section 1. The arts and cultural affairs law is amended by adding a new article 6 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 6**

**REGIONAL ARTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND PARKS ACCESSIBILITY GRANTS**

**Section 6.01. Definitions.**

**6.03. Establishment of arts, cultural affairs, and parks regions.**

**6.05. Regional arts, cultural affairs, and parks competitive accessibility grants.**

**§ 6.01. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:**

**1. "Regions" shall mean the arts, cultural affairs, and parks regions established in section 6.03 of this article.**

**2. "Regional councils" shall mean the councils which issue grants under section 6.05 of this article.**

**3. "Accessibility programs" shall mean programs which: (a) bring facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; or (b) improving the ability for disabled persons to use an organization's facilities.**

**§ 6.03. Establishment of arts, cultural affairs, and parks regions. Ten arts, cultural affairs, and parks regions shall be established within the state, one for each of the following regions:**

**1. Long Island (which consists of Suffolk and Nassau counties);**

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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2. the city of New York (which consists of Bronx, New York, Queens, Kings, and Richmond counties);

3. the Mid-Hudson region (which consists of Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, and Rockland counties);

4. the Southern tier (which consists of Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Chemung, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, and Delaware counties);

5. the Capital region (which consists of Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany, Columbia, and Greene counties);

6. the Mohawk valley (which consists of Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie counties);

7. the North country (which consists of Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton, and Essex counties);

8. the Central region (which consists of Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, and Cortland counties);

9. the Finger Lakes region (which consists of Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, and Yates counties); and

10. the Western region (which consists of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties).

§ 6.05. Regional arts, cultural affairs, and parks competitive accessibility grants. 1. The governor shall, in each region, establish a council which shall issue competitive accessibility grants within the region. Six members of each regional council shall be local experts and stakeholders from arts and cultural affairs organizations and parks organizations within the region. One member of each regional council shall be an expert in accessibility. Each regional council shall have seven total members appointed to such council. Five members of each regional council shall be appointed by the governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor, one member of each regional council shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly and serve at the pleasure of the assembly, and one member of each regional council shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate and serve at the pleasure of the senate. All members of the regional councils shall be subject to the provisions of section seventy-three-a of the public officers law.

2. The regional councils shall, with approval from the governor, issue competitive accessibility grants to arts and cultural affairs organizations and parks organizations within their region for capital projects such that:

(a) in the city of New York region, an equal amount of grant money is issued to organizations with operating budgets of ten million dollars or more as is issued to organizations with operating budgets of less than ten million dollars; and

(b) in all other regions, an equal amount of grant money is issued to organizations with operating budgets of five million dollars or more as is issued to organizations with operating budgets of less than five million dollars.

3. The regional councils shall issue competitive accessibility grants for implementing the accessibility programs at the organization. Such grants shall be issued based on criteria established by the governor for such purpose.

4. No regional council shall issue a competitive accessibility grant to an organization which has received a competitive accessibility grant under this article within the prior three years.

5. No regional council shall issue competitive accessibility grants totaling more than fifty percent of such council's competitive accessibility grant money issued in a calendar year to parks organizations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.