

STATE OF NEW YORK

5265

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 1, 2023

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to direct the department of economic development to conduct a study regarding increasing public access to museums in New York state

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

1 Section 1. Study. The department of economic development, in conjunc-
2 tion with the empire state development corporation, the department of
3 education, the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation,
4 the department of environmental conservation, the department of state,
5 the New York city department of cultural affairs, the New York city
6 parks department, and the New York state council on the arts, is hereby
7 directed to conduct a comprehensive study on increasing public access to
8 museums in New York state. The museums that shall be identified in such
9 study shall include, but not be limited to the American Museum of
10 Natural History, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Academy of Music,
11 Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Museum of the City of New
12 York, New York Botanical Garden, New York Hall of Science, Staten Island
13 Museum, Staten Island Zoo, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Wave Hill, Bronx
14 Zoo, Central Park Zoo, New York Aquarium, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens
15 Florham Park Zoo. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

16 1. Taking a census of such museums as at the end of the fiscal year
17 2018, including information on the size, including but not limited to
18 total land area, square footage and number of buildings, rent actually
19 paid or the value of the rent forgiven, hours of operation, visitor
20 statistics, including attendance figures calculated using tickets
21 presented to cashiers and reported as complimentary, full fare or
22 discounted, and individuals exempted from paying fees such as students,
23 professors and teachers, military or persons with disabilities, and zip
24 codes of visitors.

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

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1 2. Identifying the 2018 dollar benefits, directly from taxpayer
2 dollars and city and state agencies' budgets, and indirectly from the
3 value of any form of free rent, including but not limited to unstated
4 amounts and amounts above \$1 paid per annum as provided for in laws or
5 agreements, real estate or other tax forgiveness.

6 3. Identifying the market value of each museum's 2018 investment and
7 restricted and unrestricted endowment portfolios.

8 4. Providing information, including but not limited to, the provisions
9 of controlling laws and contracts pertaining to such museums' initial or
10 amended incorporating purpose and obligation to provide free admission
11 and/or instruction, laws appropriating public funds for operating or
12 capital costs, as well as offering opinions to inform the legislature as
13 to whether such museums' policies and practices are in compliance with
14 controlling laws and contracts and how to increase public access to such
15 museums and the continued accessibility and availability to all New
16 Yorkers in consideration for their financial support of such museums,
17 and to craft a reporting system that ensures effective and answerable
18 oversight of such museums' compliance with statutes, codes, laws and
19 complying agreements.

20 § 2. Report. A report of the findings of such study, opinions, recom-
21 mendations, and any proposed legislation necessary to implement such
22 recommendations shall be filed with the governor, the temporary presi-
23 dent of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later than one
24 year after the effective date of this act.

25 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.