STATE OF NEW YORK

1062

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. SERRANO, BAILEY, CLEARE, COMRIE, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, MAY, PARKER, PERSAUD, RAMOS, ROLISON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law and the economic development law, in relation to creating the arts and cultural district

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 section 3.17 to read as follows:

§ 3.17. Arts and cultural districts. 1. For the purposes of this section, "arts and cultural districts" means geographic areas of a city, town or village with a concentration of arts or cultural facilities located within its boundaries. Two or more local governments may jointly apply for a designated district where the proposed geographic area of such district shall extend across commonly held jurisdictional boundaries.

2. The council, in cooperation with the department of economic development and any other state department, office, division or agency the council deems necessary, shall develop criteria and guidelines for state designated arts and cultural districts. Criteria developed by the council, in cooperation with the department of economic development and any other state department, office, division or agency the council deems necessary, to designate a district shall, to the extent practicable, include, but not be limited to, determinations that such district: (a) attracts artists, arts educators, or cultural enterprises to the community, (b) encourages enterprise and job development due to the concentration of artistic or cultural activity, a major arts or cultural institution or facility, arts and entertainment businesses, an area with

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

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arts and cultural activities, arts education, or artistic or cultural production, (c) attracts a sufficient amount of tourism, (d) enhances local property values and fosters local cultural development, (e) engages in the promotional, preservation, and educational aspects of the arts and culture of the community and contribute to the public through interpretive, educational, or recreational uses; or (f) satisfies additional criteria as determined by the council that will further the purposes of this section. The council, in cooperation with the department of economic development and any other state department, office, division or agency the council deems necessary, shall also develop guidelines that provide assistance to a city, town, or village, or multiple local governments applying jointly in developing an application for district certification. For any state designated arts and cultural district, the department of economic development, in cooperation with the council and any other state department, office, division or agency the department deems necessary, shall provide state supported assistance to the district in its activities, including but not limited to technical assistance in applying for federal and non-profit grants, marketing expertise, identification of other state resources that may assist a district's activities or programs that could be created or expanded within state agencies to assist districts.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.