December 15, 2010

The Honorable Sheldon Silver  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

Each year the Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development Committee considers more than one hundred pieces of legislation. The scope of issues before the Committee is expansive, encompassing the stewardship of the State park system, the advancement of the arts, the promotion of tourism, the protection of athletes and the preservation of recreational activities for citizens and visitors alike. Our work serves to maintain New York State’s leadership in the preservation of historical assets and natural wonders as well as make New York attractive to residents, tourists and businesses.

The work of the Tourism Committee is a crucial element in the overall economic development strategy of the State.

Included among the broad array of initiatives considered in the 2010 legislative session was legislation that would create commissions to celebrate and memorialize the anniversaries of the War of 1812 and the Civil War, protect park visitors from concealed weapons, regulate mixed martial arts, provide transparency in auction listing, and create pilot creative arts zones in several Upstate communities.

The Tourism Committee was fully engaged in the 2010-2011 State fiscal year budget process in the struggle to fight back against the proposed cuts to the New York State Council on the Arts and the battle to keep all of our State Parks and Historic Sites open.

The Tourism Committee, in cooperation with the Environmental Conservation Committee, worked to successfully restore the proposed devastating cut to the Zoo, Botanical Garden, and Aquaria program. This essential program that serves the State’s families as well as the State’s schools was restored and fully funded during the budget process.

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Tourism Committee for the 2010 legislative session. Included herein are details of the Committee’s work on legislation, as well as the oversight responsibilities conducted throughout the year. Additionally, you will find the Committee’s legislative outlook for the 2011 legislative session. Our outlook for 2011 is challenging but allows us the opportunity to be creative, as well as innovative.
Again, I am pleased with this opportunity to expound upon the Committee’s successes. I look forward to working with my colleagues and constituents in the future. I would like to thank all of them for their diligence in the 2010 session, and also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Steve Englebright
Chairman
Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism,
Parks, Arts, and Sports Development
2010
ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Steve Englebright
Chairman

Committee Members

**Majority**
- Richard Brodsky
- Sam Hoyt
- John J. McEneny
- Margaret M. Markey
- Francine DelMonte
- Michael N. Gianaris
- Jonathan Bing
- Daniel J. O’Donnell
- Aileen M. Gunther
- Ginny Fields
- Robert Reilly
- Naomi Rivera
- Dennis H. Gabryszak
- Matthew Titone
- Linda B. Rosenthal

**Minority**
- Dean Murray
- Teresa R. Sayward
- Thomas F. O’Mara
- Annie Rabbitt
- Stephen Hawley

Staff

Ernest Amabile, Legislative Coordinator
Teri Kleinmann, Associate Counsel
James Larson, Program Analyst
Quinn Hubbell, Committee Assistant
Devin Lander, Committee Clerk
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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 and 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, the Economic Development Law and portions of the Executive, General Business Law and Unconsolidated Law. Entities under the jurisdiction of the Committee include the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Department of Economic Development Division of Tourism, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Olympic Regional Development Authority, the State Athletic Commission, and the Canal Corporation.

Legislation before the Committee emanates principally from legislators who are aware of the issues facing the tourism industry, tourism-related businesses, and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Department of State, and the Canal Corporation as part of the Thruway Authority.

During the 2010 Legislative Session, 90 bills were considered by the Tourism Committee. Of these, 29 were favorably reported, 7 passed the Assembly, and 2 were signed into law.
II. 2010 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. PROMOTING TOURISM WITHIN NEW YORK STATE

Placement of the “I ♥ NY” Logo
A. 8685 (Rivera, N)
Ordered 3rd Reading
This legislation would require that the “I ♥ NY” logo and the internet Web site address be displayed in an easily readable manner on all State vehicle license plates.

Authorizing the Creation of an Agri-Tourism Program
A. 9545 (Cook)
Passed Assembly
This legislation authorizes the Commissioner of Economic Development in cooperation with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to create a statewide program to promote and distribute regional guides to points of interest in these areas. With a booming consumer interest in agri-tourism such as farm stands, pick your own produce, and participatory farm activities, the State has the ability to capitalize on this growing market. By bringing tourists to New York State farms, the agricultural market will expand in a whole new direction, creating both jobs and revenue.
2. PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HISTORY IN NEW YORK STATE

Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Historic Buildings
A. 5513 (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means

This legislation establishes a revolving loan fund to be used for the purchase and installation of sprinkler systems in historic buildings. Each recipient of a loan granted will repay it from the money saved as the result of the reduction in fire insurance premiums due to the installation of a sprinkler system in the historic building. No loan made from this fund will bear any interest. It is the State’s responsibility to encourage fire safety, especially in efforts to protect valuable historic buildings and the communities they serve.

Providing for the Continued Charitable Funding of the Natural Heritage Trust
A. 8791 (Engelbright)
Referred to Ways and Means

This legislation would allow the Natural Heritage Trusts to invest and reinvest the funds of the corporation consistent with the Prudent Investor Act as established in §11-2.3 of the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law and in accordance with §2925 of the Public Authorities Law. This legislation would also add the Chairperson of the Senate Cultural Affairs Committee, and the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development to the list of people entitled to receive a report on the operations, accomplishments, receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities of the Trust.

Creating the Heights Heritage Area
A. 9054 (Wright)
Passed Assembly

In order to better recognize the history and contribution of northern Manhattan, this legislation creates a Heritage Area in West Harlem from 122nd Street to the south, to 218th Street to the north, and from Highbridge Park and 10th Avenue to the East, to the river to the west.

French and Indian War Commemoration Commission
A. 10120-a (Englebright)
Passed Assembly

This legislation extends until 2014 the Temporary New York State French and Indian War Commemoration Commission. The recognition of New York State’s participation in this vital and important part of our nation’s history is not only important for the citizens of New York, but also for the economies of the North Country.
Allowing for “Resident Curators”
A. 11219-a (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means

This legislation allows the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to enter into a lease agreement with a “resident curator”: a private individual who invests funds to rehabilitate and maintain a State owned building, for a life term or a period of up to 40 years.
3. ENCOURAGING THE SAFE DEVELOPMENT OF OUTDOOR AND ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Allowing Mixed Martial Arts Events to be held in New York State
A. 2009-C (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation would allow professional combative sports, know as “mixed martial arts (MMA)” to be held in the State, sets forth the jurisdiction of the New York State Athletic Commission (the “Commission”) as it relates to MMA, and would develop a process for single-discipline martial arts organizations to be approved by the Commission.

Eliminating Price Controls on Health Club Contracts
A. 2052 (Morelle)
Referred to Codes
When regulation of health club contract pricing was originally introduced there may have been more concern over monopoly. However, in the 25 years that have passed since, health clubs have flourished and many competing entities have entered the market. The offerings of health clubs have also expanded. For some high-end health clubs the limitation of a contract charge of $3,600 per year does not cover the services they provide. By lifting this regulation health clubs of New York can expand their offerings to the consumer.

Regulating Boating Safety Certificates
A. 5889-C (Galef)
Ordered 3rd reading
This legislation would require any person born on or after January 1st, 1992 to hold a Boating Safety Certificate issued to him or her by the Commissioner, the United States Power Squadrons, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or other State Government in order to legally operate a mechanically propelled vessel on the navigable waters of the State. Alternately, if the operator is younger than eighteen years of age he or she must be accompanied by a person who is eighteen years of age or older and is either the holder of a Boating Safety Certificate or is not required to hold a certificate. And lastly, if the operator is eighteen years of age or older and does not hold a Boating Safety Certificate he or she must be accompanied by someone eighteen years of age or older who holds a Boating Safety Certificate.
4. NEW YORK’S STATE AND MUNICIPAL PARKS

Adopt-a-Park Program
A. 2895 (Schimminger)
Referred to Codes
This legislation creates an "adopt-a-park" program that will allow volunteers to cooperate in projects to maintain and beautify parks such as vandalism remediation, litter removal, developing and maintaining nature trails, planting and maintaining flower beds, and otherwise improving the park. This legislation is based on the "adopt-a-highway" program that was passed in 1985 and has been very successful in using volunteer services to beautify New York highways.

Protecting and Managing the State Park System
A. 3695-a (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation provides that the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation may promulgate rules and regulations establishing a land classification system for the preservation and use of all units within the State park system. It also requires the Commissioner to investigate possible additions to the State park system, and provides a list of all State Parks in statute. Although the unified State Parks system has been in existence since 1924, this legislation seeks to clarify and streamline the current system in statute.

Prohibiting concealed firearms in State and Local Parks, except where hunting is allowed
A.7183-B (Englebright)
Referred to Codes
This legislation would prohibit an unauthorized person to carry, or have in his or her possession, a concealed firearm in any Federal, State, or Municipal park, campground or other publicly dedicated recreation area. This legislation also exempts from this prohibition any park under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation during the spring or fall hunting seasons, any person employed by a private security firm which has contracted with the public agency having jurisdiction over the park, campground, or public recreation area, any person taking part in recreational hunting activities permitted on certain lands as determined by rule or regulation, and any privately owned residence within parks and campgrounds in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park.
Protecting State Park Natural Resources
A. 9073-a (Hoyt)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation prohibits the Office of State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation from entering into an agreement to lease or contract with a private party to log timber or convert any other natural resource in State Parks or Historic Sites.

Promoting State Parks
A. 10121 (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation requires the use of tourism promotion agency matching funds for the promotion of State parks and historic sites.

Creating a Three and Five Year Vehicular Pass to the State Parks
A. 10122-a (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation creates a three-year and five-year general access permit for all State Parks offered through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. These passes will be called the Three-year Empire Passport and the Five-year Empire Passport and include a decal or hang-tag to be placed in a vehicle as well as a wallet sized access permit.

Requiring a Hearing and Procedure When a Historic Site is Closed
A. 10179-a (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means
This legislation requires the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, in the case of the closing of a historic site, to produce a written outline of alternative actions to maintain the historic site, as well as an economic impact statement on the proposed closing of the site. This legislation also requires at least one public hearing on the proposed closing to allow for public comment.

Requiring a Hearing and Procedure When Public Land Closed
A. 10452 (DelMonte)
Passed Assembly
This legislation requires that prior to the closure of lands owned, held or administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation shall issue a draft report providing the justification and rationale for such closure. Also, the Commissioner is required to conduct one or more public hearings, including at least one in the impacted area of the proposed closure.
Requiring Legislative Authorization Prior to the Closing of a State Park
A. 10576-a (Englebright)
Referred to Ways and Means

This legislation requires an Informational Closure Report (PICR) to be published at least 120 days prior to the proposed date of closure of any state park, recreational facility, or historic site. This legislation also requires that a series of at least three public hearings be held within thirty days of publishing a PICR, and require the State Legislature to pass a resolution authorizing the closure or reduction of such a facility prior to any closure or reduction action taken by the Office.

Ensuring Continuing Standards at State Parks
A. 11013-a (Englebright)
Ordered 3rd Reading

This legislation authorizes and directs the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to operate and maintain at the same standards to which they were operated at the beginning of the fiscal year that ended March 31st, 2010.
5. ENHANCING CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Establishing a Pilot Program for Arts-Based Districts
A. 694-A (Hoyt)
Referred to Ways and Means

This legislation establishes an optional pilot program for the creation of arts-based districts in Buffalo, Troy, Rochester and Syracuse consisting mainly of residential and arts-related and service-related commercial uses to be organized as a business improvement district. Each district will have an Artist Home Ownership Program to assist artists in purchasing and rehabilitating a home within the district, be provided technical assistance through the “I Love New York” program to develop a tourism marketing plan, and be included in a grant program designed to assist in the development of districts.
6. PROTECTING NEW YORK CONSUMERS

Regulating the Re-sale of Tickets
A. 10769-a (Englebright)
Referred to Codes

In 2009 when the current regulation of ticket resale was set to sunset, the Department of State was commissioned to carry out a review of the current regulation. This legislation places regulation on the ticket resale industry based on those findings, including a sunset of these regulations in two years on May 15, 2012. The legislation prohibits an operator of a place of entertainment of more than six thousand seats, or such operator's agent who offers a subscription package, season ticket package, or single event ticket from restricting the resale of any ticket, or employing a form of paperless ticketing that is not readily transferable to another customer, unless a purchaser is given the option at the time of public sale to purchase some other form of ticket that is readily transferable, for which there may be a reasonable surcharge imposed by the operator’s agent.

Protecting Consumers of Tickets
A. 11108 (Englebright)
Passed Assembly

This legislation extends the current regulation regarding ticket re-sale for one year. This legislation also includes new protections for consumers among them prohibiting the use of automated ticket purchasing software which robs consumers of the chance to purchase tickets on the primary market. This legislation prohibits venue operators and their agents from employing paperless ticketing systems that do not allow consumers to transfer their tickets independent of the operator or operator's agent, unless the operator offers the consumer a choice of purchasing independently transferable tickets in another form. Additionally, operators would be prohibited from charging higher prices based on the form of ticket a consumer selects, and would be allowed to assess only reasonable surcharges on other than paperless forms of tickets.

Ticket Re-sale Regulation
A. 11536-a (Englebright)
Chapter 151

This legislation adds ticket office to the buffer zone wherein ticket re-sale is prohibited surrounding places of entertainment and makes the buffer zone permanent. This legislation also prohibits the use of paperless tickets unless the paperless ticket is transferable by a means independent of the operator or operator’s agent or through a will call window or ticket exchange service offered by the operator or the operator’s agent, as long as use of the will call or ticket exchange is not mandated. However, this legislation clarifies that nothing shall prohibit an operator of a place of entertainment, or such operator's agent from restricting the resale of any tickets that are offered as a part of a targeted promotion, at a discounted price, for free, or to specific individuals or groups of
individuals because of their status as, or membership in, a specific community or group. Lastly, these regulations will sunset in one year on May 15, 2011.

Exemptions for Written Contracts in Auctions
A. 11541 (Brodsky)
Ordered 3rd Reading

This legislation exempts from the requirement for a written contract any property for auction valued less than $100,000 in a county of 45,000 or less. This legislation also exempts auctions of vehicles or highway tools, machinery or equipment conducted by or on behalf of the federal government, or the State, its agencies, bureaus, boards, commissions and authorities, or any political subdivision of the State, or the agencies and authorities of any such subdivision.
III. HEARINGS/ROUND TABLES

Throughout the 2010 legislative session, the dire state of the economy faced legislators and the Committee to overcome new challenges; among them, a reduced budget for most agencies.

On December 13th the Assembly Standing Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, in conjunction with the Assembly Standing Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation held a budgetary oversight hearing to examine the effects of the State Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget. In attendance were Dennis Mullen: President and CEO of Empire State Development Corporation, Andy Beer: Acting Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Heather Hitchens: Director of New York State Council on the Arts. Witnesses also included representatives from the many different fields that benefit from these agencies.
IV. OUTLOOK FOR 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The financial crisis that has wreaked havoc on the state and national economies continued in 2010 and brings with it the prospects of another austere budget as the state moves forward into the 2011-2012 state fiscal year. In light of this situation, however, the Committee will continue to strive to meet the needs of the citizens of the state; their need for recreation, the arts, the preservation of natural spaces and protection of natural resources, and the need to preserve and share the history of this great state.

The 2011 legislative session will bring the opportunity for the Committee to work and partner with the Senate committee on Tourism, as well as take an active part in several inter-agency collaborations to help the state maximize tourism, parks, and arts spending and communication.

The overwhelming success of the Film Production Tax Credit has been evidenced by a number of productions deciding to film in New York. This credit brings in millions in additional spending, substantial tax revenue, and keeps New York and New Yorkers working, while offsetting the costs of maintaining the credit. It is the intention of the Committee to advocate for the expansion of the credit, as well as a new additional post production tax credit.

This year the Committee will also undertake legislation that will protect and preserve all State park land, recognizing its unique biodiversity and importance to habitat preservation, as well as the natural history, and heritage of our State. The Committee will also be working to help focus the mission of the Agency in creating and maintaining safe parks and recreational areas for all citizens of the state and identifying additional funding sources for the support of our State Parks, Historic Sites, and the programs of the agency. The role of public-private partnerships, and the experience of states nation wide with these partnerships, will be further explored by the Committee in the coming year.

Another issue that will warrant both public hearings and legislation during the 2011 legislative session is the secondary ticket resale market. Examination of the impact of current secondary ticket resale statute and its effect on consumers, the economy, and business will all be addressed.

As always, the Committee will continue to work with arts and cultural groups to secure additional legislative success. We remain interested in initiatives to help localities capitalize on the local arts and cultural fabric making up their communities. We look forward to meeting with the industry and continuing to review their proposals and suggestions.

I am excited about the opportunities facing the Committee in the upcoming session. I look forward to working alongside the members of the Committee in efforts to ensure that the needs of our broad constituency are adequately addressed -- I look forward to that challenge.
## APPENDIX A:
Summary of All Bills Referred to Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL ACTION</th>
<th>ASSEMBLY BILLS</th>
<th>SENATE BILLS</th>
<th>TOTAL BILLS</th>
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<td>BILLS HAVING ENACTING CLAUSES STRICKEN</td>
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<td>MOTIONS TO DISCHARGE LOST</td>
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<td>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD</td>
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# APPENDIX B

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, PARKS, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2010 Bills Considered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly Bill #</th>
<th>Senate Bill #</th>
<th>Last Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. 694-a Hoyt</td>
<td>S. 3496-a VALESKY</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Creates a pilot program for arts-based districts in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Troy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 2009-c Englebright</td>
<td>S. 2165-b PARKER</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Authorizes and regulates Mixed Martial Arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 2052 Morelle</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Referred to Codes</td>
<td>Eliminates price controls on health care club contracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 2895 Schimminger</td>
<td>S. 7928 STACHOWSKI</td>
<td>Referred to Codes</td>
<td>Creates the adopt-a-park program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 3695-a Englebright</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Codifies the State Park and Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 5513 Englebright</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Creates loans for the installation of sprinkler systems in historic buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 5889-e Galef</td>
<td>S. 5752-d KLEIN</td>
<td>Ordered 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Allows for the adoption of requirements for boating safety certificates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 6156-b Ramos</td>
<td>S. 5502-b JOHNSON, O.</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Requires the transfer of certain lands to the Oak Brush Plain State Preserve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 7183-c Englebright</td>
<td>S. 4753-b SERRANO</td>
<td>Referred to Codes</td>
<td>Prohibits the possession of concealed firearms in national parks and national wildlife refuge systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 8685-b Rivera, N.</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Ordered 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Requires the New York State tourism website to be displayed on the license plate of all State vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 8791 Engelbright</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Ordered 3rd Reading</td>
<td>Requires the Natural Heritage Trust to invest its funds pursuant to the prudent investor act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 9054 Wright</td>
<td>S. 6151 SCHNEIDERMAN</td>
<td>Passed Assembly</td>
<td>Re-authorizes the formation of the Heights Heritage Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. 9073-a Hoyt</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Referred to Ways and Means</td>
<td>Prevents commercial harvest of natural resources from State Parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Sponsor's Bill</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>A. 9545</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>No Same As</td>
<td>Passed Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 10027-b</td>
<td>Brodsky</td>
<td>S. 6990-b</td>
<td>Vetoed Memo. 6778</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 10120-a</td>
<td>Engelbright</td>
<td>S. 7150-a</td>
<td>Passed Assembly</td>
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<td>A. 10121</td>
<td>Engelbright</td>
<td>S. 7163</td>
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<td>A. 10122-a</td>
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<td>S. 7352-a</td>
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<td>A. 10452</td>
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<td>A. 10769-b</td>
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<td>A. 11013-a</td>
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<td>S. 7776-a</td>
<td>Ordered 3rd Reading</td>
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<td>A. 11536-a</td>
<td>Engelbright</td>
<td>S. 8340</td>
<td>Chapter 151</td>
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<td>A. 11541</td>
<td>Brodsky</td>
<td>S. 8333</td>
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APPENDIX C:
List of Laws Enacted During the 2010 Legislative Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ASSEMBLY BILL #</th>
<th>SENATE BILL #</th>
<th>FINAL ACTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 26</td>
<td>A. 7803 McEneny</td>
<td>S. 3351-a SERRANO</td>
<td>Chapter 26</td>
<td>Reduces membership of the Saratoga-Capital District State Park Recreation, and Historic Preservation Commission from 14 members to 9.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 151</td>
<td>A. 11536-a Englebright</td>
<td>S. 8340 RULES</td>
<td>Chapter 151</td>
<td>Relates to the regulation of the resale of tickets to places of entertainment.</td>
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