

1599--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 3, 2009

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Introduced by Sens. VALESKY, BONACIC -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to intervenor funds for proceedings relating to siting of major utility transmission facilities; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to intervenor accounts

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 122 of the public service law is amended by adding  
2     a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:  
3     5. (A) FOR EVERY APPLICATION DEEMED COMPLETE BY THE COMMISSION AFTER  
4     THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, EACH APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOM-  
5     PANIED BY A FEE IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO: FOR ELECTRIC MAJOR UTILITY TRANS-  
6     MISSION FACILITIES OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE KILOVOLTS OR MORE EXTEND-  
7     ING A DISTANCE OF OVER ONE HUNDRED MILES, FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND  
8     DOLLARS; FOR ELECTRIC MAJOR UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OF ONE  
9     HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE KILOVOLTS OR MORE EXTENDING A DISTANCE OF OVER FIFTY  
10    MILES TO ONE HUNDRED MILES, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS; FOR  
11    ELECTRIC MAJOR UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, REQUIRING A NEW RIGHT OF  
12    WAY AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE KILOVOLTS OR MORE EXTENDING A DISTANCE  
13    OF TEN MILES TO FIFTY MILES, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS; FOR ELECTRIC  
14    MAJOR UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES UTILIZING AN EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY  
15    AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE KILOVOLTS OR MORE EXTENDING A DISTANCE OF  
16    TEN MILES TO FIFTY MILES, FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. ALL SUCH FEES SHALL  
17    BE DEPOSITED IN THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
18    NINETY-SEVEN-TT OF THE STATE FINANCE LAW, TO BE DISBURSED AT THE COMMIS-  
19    SION'S DIRECTION, TO DEFRAY EXPENSES INCURRED BY MUNICIPAL AND OTHER  
20    PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING (EXCEPT A MUNICIPALITY WHICH IS THE APPLICANT)  
21    FOR EXPERT WITNESS, CONSULTANT, ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL FEES, PROVIDED,

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

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1 HOWEVER, SUCH EXPENSES SHALL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW. IF AT  
2 ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE FILING OF THE APPLICATION, THE APPLICATION IS  
3 AMENDED IN A MANNER THAT WARRANTS SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL SCRUTINY, THE  
4 COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL INTERVENOR FEE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO  
5 EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE COMMISSION SHALL  
6 PROVIDE FOR TRANSCRIPTS, THE REPRODUCTION AND SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS, AND  
7 THE PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES, FOR MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL  
8 PARTIES, IN ALL APPROPRIATE LANGUAGES. ANY MONEYS REMAINING IN THE  
9 INTERVENOR ACCOUNT AFTER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OVER AN APPLICA-  
10 TION HAS CEASED SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

11 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE  
12 COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE BY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF  
13 THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT AND FOR DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE ACCOUNT, WHICH  
14 RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THIS  
15 SECTION TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO MUNICIPAL PARTIES AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE  
16 AMOUNT OF THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT AND FOR USES SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (A)  
17 OF THIS SUBDIVISION. IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE OTHER  
18 PARTIES UP TO ONE-HALF OF THE AMOUNT OF THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT,  
19 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSURE THAT THE PURPOSES  
20 FOR WHICH MONEYS IN THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT WILL BE EXPENDED WILL  
21 CONTRIBUTE TO AN INFORMED DECISION AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SITE  
22 AND FACILITY AND ARE MADE AVAILABLE ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS IN A MANNER  
23 WHICH FACILITATES BROAD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

24 S 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-tt to  
25 read as follows:

26 S 97-TT. INTERVENOR ACCOUNT. 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE  
27 JOINT CUSTODY OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION  
28 AND FINANCE AN ACCOUNT TO BE KNOWN AS THE INTERVENOR ACCOUNT.

29 2. SUCH ACCOUNT SHALL CONSIST OF ALL REVENUES RECEIVED FROM SITING  
30 APPLICATION FEES FOR ELECTRIC MAJOR UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES  
31 PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW.

32 3. MONEYS OF THE ACCOUNT, FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE,  
33 MAY BE EXPENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED  
34 TWENTY-TWO OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW. MONEYS SHALL BE PAID OUT OF THE  
35 ACCOUNT ON THE AUDIT AND WARRANT OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER ON VOUCHERS  
36 CERTIFIED OR APPROVED BY THE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

37 S 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part  
38 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to  
39 be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the  
40 remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause,  
41 sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the  
42 controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

43 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that nothing in  
44 this act shall be construed to limit any administrative authority, with  
45 respect to matters included in this act, which existed prior to the  
46 effective date of this act.