S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

552

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to creating the Empire State Fishing Trail program

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

Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new article 5-F to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5-F

EMPIRE STATE FISHING TRAIL PROGRAM

SECTION 181-F. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

181-G. DEFINITION.

181-H. GENERAL FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.

S 181-F. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. NEW YORK STATE IS HOME TO MANY WATER RESOURCES INCLUDING HUNDREDS OF MILES OF ATLANTIC OCEAN COASTLINE, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS, THOUSANDS OF LAKES AND PONDS, AND MILLIONS OF ACRES OF WETLANDS. THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES ARE VAST AND UNIQUE RANGING FROM SALT WATER TO FRESH WATER. THE STATE HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS OUTSTANDING FISHERIES AND HAS BEEN RATED NUMBER ONE FOR BASS FISHING IN THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION, ANGLERS SPEND MORE THAN 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS ON FISHING TRIPS, EQUIPMENT AND LICENSES, WHICH SUPPORT IN EXCESS OF SEVENTEEN THOUSAND JOBS THROUGHOUT NEW YORK. FISHING TOURNAMENTS HAVE RISEN IN POPULARITY AND THIS STATE HAS REGULARLY BEEN THE HOST TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS WHICH BRING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. AS SUCH, THE STATE HAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ATTRACT MORE FISHING TOURNAMENTS, ANGLERS, VISITORS AND FISHING RELATED BUSINESSES.

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

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S 181-G. DEFINITION. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, "FISHING TRAIL" SHALL MEAN A SERIES OF FISHERIES IN THE STATE IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER, WHICH MAY BE LINKED BY GEOGRAPHY, QUALITY AND/OR EVENTS.

S 181-H. GENERAL FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, THE COMMISSIONER OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR ENTITY, SHALL EXPAND UPON THE EXISTING FISHING PROMOTION PROGRAM BY DEVELOPING A COORDINATED EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE STATE'S FISHING OPPORTUNITIES, IMPROVE FISHING FACILITIES, WATER QUALITY AND ATTRACT PROFESSIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENTS AT LOCATIONS ALONG THE TRAIL, AND ENSURE THAT TOP-LEVEL FISHING TOURNAMENTS ARE SECURED AT FISHERIES ALONG THE FISHING TRAIL.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.