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

7632

I N S E N A T E

May 21, 2014

Introduced by Sen. O'BRIEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the public authorities law, and the state finance law, in relation to environmental restoration projects

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 56-0503 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 4 of part D of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is amended and a new subdivision 3 is added to read as follows:

(c) A provision that THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING A RESPONSIBLE PARTY BY SEARCHING LOCAL RECORDS, INCLUDING PROPERTY TAX ROLLS, OR DOCUMENT REVIEWS, AND if, in accordance with the required departmental approval of any settlement with a responsible party, any responsible party payments become available to the municipality, before, during or after the completion of an environmental restoration project, which were not included when the state share was calculated pursuant to this section, the state assistance share shall be recalculated, and the municipality shall pay to the state, for deposit into the environmental restoration project account of the hazardous waste remedial fund established under section ninety-seven-b of the state finance law, the difference between the original state assistance payment and the recalculated state share. Recalculation of the state share shall be done each time a payment from a responsible party is received by the municipality;

3. THE DEPARTMENT MAY UNDERTAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT ON BEHALF OF A MUNICIPALITY UPON REQUEST. IF THE DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKES THE PROJECT ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPALITY, THE STATE SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE AGREEMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE MUNICIPALITY TO PERIODICALLY PROVIDE ITS SHARE TO THE STATE FOR COSTS INCURRED DURING THE PROGRESS OF SUCH PROJECT. THE MUNICIPALITY'S SHARE SHALL BE THE SAME AS WOULD BE REQUIRED UNDER SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION. THE AGREEMENT SHALL INCLUDE ALL PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION AS APPROPRIATE. FOR PURPOSES OF PROJECTS SUBJECT TO AGREEMENTS UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION, ALL REFERENCES TO CONTRACTS IN THIS TITLE SHALL ALSO APPLY TO AGREEMENTS UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION AS APPROPRIATE.

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

LBD14924-01-4

S 2. Subdivision 4 of section 56-0505 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 5 of part D of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

4. After completion of such project, the municipality may use the property for public purposes or may dispose of it. If the municipality shall dispose of such property by sale to a responsible party, such party shall pay to such municipality, in addition to such other consideration, an amount of money constituting the amount of state assistance provided [to the municipality] under this title plus accrued interest and transaction costs and the municipality shall deposit that money into the environmental restoration project account of the hazardous waste remedial fund established under section ninety-seven-b of the state finance law.

S 3. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 56-0508 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 7 of part D of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, are amended to read as follows:

3. such temporary incidents of ownership by such taxing district shall also qualify it as being the owner of such property [for the purposes of obtaining] TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR funding from the state of New York for such environmental restoration investigation project under this article or for such funding from any source pursuant to any other state, federal, or local law, but such incidents of ownership shall not be sufficient to qualify it as the owner of such property for the purposes of holding it wholly or partially liable for any damages, past, present, or future from any release of any hazardous material, substance, or contaminant into the air, ground, or water, unless such release was caused by such taxing district.

4. within thirty days of the completion of the environmental restoration investigation project and the receipt by the taxing jurisdiction of the final report of such investigation, such taxing jurisdiction shall file such report with the court on notice to the court and all other parties of record, and the stay of the foreclosure shall be lifted (unless lifted earlier by a prior court order), and all incidents of temporary ownership of the taxing jurisdiction that was awarded such taxing district, except any right [to receive funding] for the environmental restoration investigation project TO BE FUNDED, shall cease to exist, and nothing in this subdivision shall preclude the taxing jurisdiction that conducted the environmental restoration investigation project or the taxing jurisdiction that commenced the foreclosure action, if it is a different taxing jurisdiction than the taxing jurisdiction which conducted the investigation, from withdrawing the parcel from foreclosure pursuant to section eleven hundred thirty-eight of the real property tax law.

S 4. Subdivision 6 of section 56-0502 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 2 of part D of chapter 577 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

6. "State assistance", for purposes of this title, shall mean in the case of a contract authorized by subdivision one of section 56-0503 of this title, payments made to a municipality to reimburse the municipality for the state share of the costs incurred by the municipality to undertake an environmental restoration project OR IN THE CASE OF AN AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION 56-0503 OF THIS TITLE, COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE TO UNDERTAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT BUT NOT REIMBURSED BY A MUNICIPALITY.

S 5. Section 56-0501 of the environmental conservation law, as added by chapter 413 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

S 56-0501. Allocation of moneys. 1. Of the moneys received by the state from the sale of bonds pursuant to the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996, two hundred million dollars ($200,000,000) shall be available for disbursements for environmental restoration projects.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS MAY BE FUNDED USING THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWELVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE-Q OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW.

S 6. Subdivision 1 of section 1285-q of the public authorities law, as added by section 6 of part I of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

1. Subject to chapter fifty-nine of the laws of two thousand, but notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, in order to assist the corporation in undertaking the administration and the financing of hazardous waste site remediation projects for payment of the state's share of the costs of the remediation of hazardous waste sites, in accordance with title thirteen of article twenty-seven of the environmental conservation law and section ninety-seven-b of the state finance law, and for payment of state costs associated with the remediation of offsite contamination at significant threat sites as provided in section 27-1411 of the environmental conservation law, AND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS PURSUANT TO TITLE FIVE OF ARTICLE FIFTY-SIX OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, pursuant to capital appropriations made to the department of environmental conservation, the director of the division of budget and the corporation are each authorized to enter into one or more service contracts, none of which shall exceed twenty years in duration, upon such terms and conditions as the director and the corporation may agree, so as to annually provide to the corporation in the aggregate, a sum not to exceed the annual debt service payments and related expenses required for any bonds and notes authorized pursuant to section twelve hundred ninety of this title. Any service contract entered into pursuant to this section shall provide that the obligation of the state to fund or to pay the amounts therein provided for shall not constitute a debt of the state within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory provision and shall be deemed executory only to the extent of moneys available for such purposes, subject to annual appropriation by the legislature. Any such service contract or any payments made or to be made thereunder may be assigned and pledged by the corporation as security for its bonds and notes, as authorized pursuant to section twelve hundred ninety of this title.

S 7. Subdivision 3 of section 1285-q of the public authorities law, as added by section 6 of part I of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3. The maximum amount of bonds that may be issued for the purpose of financing hazardous waste site remediation projects AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS authorized by this section shall not exceed one billion two hundred million dollars and shall not exceed one hundred twenty million dollars for appropriations enacted for any state fiscal year, provided that the bonds not issued for such appropriations may be issued pursuant to reappropriation in subsequent fiscal years. No bonds shall be issued for the repayment of any new appropriation enacted after March thirty-first, two thousand thirteen for hazardous waste site remediation projects authorized by this section. Amounts authorized to be issued by this section shall be exclusive of bonds issued to fund any debt service reserve funds, pay costs of issuance of such bonds, and bonds or notes issued to refund or otherwise repay bonds or notes previously issued. Such bonds and notes of the corporation shall not be a

debt of the state, and the state shall not be liable thereon, nor shall they be payable out of any funds other than those appropriated by this state to the corporation for debt service and related expenses pursuant to any service contracts executed pursuant to subdivision one of this section, and such bonds and notes shall contain on the face thereof a statement to such effect.

S 8. Subdivision 2 and paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section 97-b of the state finance law, as amended by section 4 of part I of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, are amended to read as follows:

2. Such fund shall consist of all of the following:

(a) moneys appropriated for transfer to the fund's site investigation and construction account; (b) all fines and other sums accumulated in the fund prior to April first, nineteen hundred eighty-eight pursuant to section 71-2725 of the environmental conservation law for deposit in the fund's site investigation and construction account; (c) all moneys collected or received by the department of taxation and finance pursuant to section 27-0923 of the environmental conservation law for deposit in the fund's industry fee transfer account; (d) all moneys paid into the fund pursuant to section 72-0201 of the environmental conservation law which shall be deposited in the fund's industry fee transfer account; (e) all moneys paid into the fund pursuant to section one hundred eighty-six of the navigation law which shall be deposited in the fund's industry fee transfer account; (f) [all moneys paid into the fund by municipalities for repayment of landfill closure loans made pursuant to title five of article fifty-two of the environmental conservation law for deposit in the fund's site investigation and construction account; (g)] all monies recovered under sections 56-0503, 56-0505 and 56-0507 of the environmental conservation law into the fund's environmental restoration project account; [(h) all] (G) fees paid into the fund pursuant to section [72-0403] 72-0402 of the environmental conservation law which shall be deposited in the fund's industry fee transfer account; [(i)] (H) payments received for all state costs incurred in negotiating and overseeing the implementation of brownfield site cleanup agreements pursuant to title fourteen OF ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN of the environmental conservation law shall be deposited in the hazardous waste remediation oversight and assistance account; and [(j)] (I) other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source for deposit in the fund's site investigation and construction account.

(f) to undertake such remedial measures as the department of environmental conservation may determine necessary due to environmental conditions related to the property subject to an agreement [to provide state assistance] OR CONTRACT under title five of article fifty-six of the environmental conservation law [that were unknown to such department at the time of its approval of such agreement which indicates that conditions on such property are not sufficiently protective of human health for its reasonably anticipated uses or due to information received, in whole or in part, after such department's approval of such agreement's final engineering report and certification], which indicates that such agreement's remedial activities are not sufficiently protective of human health for such property's reasonably anticipated uses; and, [respecting the monies in the environmental restoration project account in excess of ten million dollars,] shall provide state assistance under title five of article fifty-six of the environmental conservation law;

S 9. This act shall take effect immediately.