

1016

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. ROBACH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to creating the crime of environmental damage of property

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

1     Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 145.24 to  
2     read as follows:  
3     S 145.24 ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF PROPERTY.  
4     1. A PERSON IS GUILTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF PROPERTY WHEN, IN THE  
5     COURSE OF THE COMMISSION OF ANOTHER FELONY ACT, HE OR SHE INTENTIONALLY  
6     OR RECKLESSLY CAUSES ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT ALTERS, CONTAMINATES, OR  
7     DESTROYS THE QUALITY OF WATER, SOIL, OR AIR, AND SUCH DAMAGE NECESSI-  
8     TATES REMEDIATION COSTS IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.  
9     2. IT SHALL BE AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO THE CRIME OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
10    DAMAGE OF PROPERTY THAT THE DEFENDANT WAS ACTING UNDER A REASONABLE  
11    BELIEF THAT HE OR SHE HAD A RIGHT TO ALTER, CONTAMINATE OR DESTROY DUE  
12    TO LICENSE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF SAID PROPERTY, OR THAT THE UNDERLYING ACT  
13    WAS NOT A VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER.  
14    ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF PROPERTY IS A CLASS C FELONY. ANY SENTENCE  
15    IMPOSED PURSUANT TO A CONVICTION UNDER THIS SECTION IS TO BE SERVED  
16    CONSECUTIVE TO ANY SENTENCE IMPOSED FOR THE UNDERLYING FELONY.  
17    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD03934-02-3