

STATE OF NEW YORK

6101

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 16, 2019

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

AN ACT to establish the New York state reforest and restore commission

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. A temporary state commission, to be known as the New York
2 state reforest and restore commission, hereafter referred to as the
3 commission, is hereby created to evaluate and make recommendations
4 concerning the reforestation and restoration of forests and ecological
5 habitats in the state of New York.

6 § 2. (a) The commission shall consist of seventeen members, to be
7 appointed as follows: nine members to be appointed by the governor;
8 three members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
9 three members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member
10 to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and one member to
11 be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The appointees
12 shall have demonstrated expertise in the areas of reforestation and
13 restoration of forests and ecological habitats. The governor shall
14 designate the chairperson of the commission. Vacancies in the membership
15 of the commission and among its officers shall be filled in the manner
16 provided for original appointments or designations.

17 (b) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for
18 their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses
19 incurred in the performance of their duties under this act. The commis-
20 sion may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem
21 necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compen-
22 sation within the amounts made available by appropriation therefor.

23 (c) The department of environmental conservation shall provide the
24 commission such facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the
25 commission to carry out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other
26 departments or agencies of the state or subdivisions thereof shall, at

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

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1 the request of the chairperson, provide the commission such facilities,
2 assistance, and data as will enable the commission to carry out its
3 powers and duties.

4 § 3. The commission shall evaluate and make recommendations on the
5 loss or degradation of forests and ecological habitats in the state of
6 New York and ways to mitigate and prevent future loss and degradation of
7 such forests and habitats.

8 § 4. (a) For the accomplishment of its purposes, the commission may
9 meet and hold public and/or private hearings within or without the
10 state, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant
11 to the legislative law. The commission is authorized and empowered to
12 undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem rele-
13 vant through its own personnel or in cooperation with or by agreement
14 with any other public or private agency.

15 (b) To the maximum extent feasible, the commission may request and
16 shall be entitled to receive and shall utilize and be provided with such
17 facilities, resources and data from any court in the state and from any
18 subdivision, department, board, bureau, commission, office, agency or
19 other instrumentality of the state or of any political subdivision ther-
20 eof as it deems necessary or desirable for the proper execution of its
21 powers and duties and to effectuate the purposes set forth in this act.

22 (c) The commission is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into
23 any agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary,
24 desirable or proper to carry out the purposes and objectives of this
25 act.

26 § 5. The commission shall make recommendations and a report of its
27 findings. The commission shall submit such recommendations and report
28 developed by it relating to issues involving the reforestation and
29 restoration of forests and ecological habitats in the state of New York,
30 including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem
31 necessary and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of
32 the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than December 1,
33 2020.

34 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.