

STATE OF NEW YORK

7638

IN SENATE

January 5, 2022

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- 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, in relation to authorizing and directing the department of environmental conservation to conduct a study of the overall health of each watershed in the state

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

1 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a
2 new section 15-0518 to read as follows:

3 § 15-0518. Watershed study.

4 1. The department is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a study
5 of the overall health of each watershed in the state. Such study shall
6 include, but not be limited to the following attributes of each
7 watershed in the state:

8 a. hydrology;

9 b. landscape condition;

10 c. habitat condition;

11 d. geomorphology;

12 e. water quality;

13 f. biological condition, including but not limited to the biodiversity
14 of plants, animals and aquatic species; and

15 g. threats to or vulnerabilities of the watershed that impact the
16 attributes prescribed by this subdivision.

17 2. The department may consult with any state or local office, agency,
18 department or political subdivision of this state that has information
19 relevant to the completion of this study and report.

20 3. On or before December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-four and
21 triennial thereafter, the department shall deliver a report of the find-
22 ings of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision one of this section
23 and any recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the
24 senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate standing
25 committee on environmental conservation and the chair of the assembly
26 standing committee on environmental conservation.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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