

STATE OF NEW YORK

252

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2023

Introduced by Sens. SERRANO, HINCHEY, HOYLMAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to the reporting of alienation of municipal parkland

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

1 Section 1. The parks, recreation and historic preservation law is
2 amended by adding a new article 16 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 16

MUNICIPAL PARKLAND ALIENATION

Section 16.01 Definitions.

16.03 Parkland alienation reporting.

16.05 Parkland alienation enforcement.

§ 16.01 Definitions. When used in this article:

3 1. "Municipal parkland" shall mean real property or interests therein
4 that is owned by a municipality that provides public park, recreation,
5 or open space protection purposes. Municipal parkland includes: lands
6 that have been dedicated for such purposes by the municipality through a
7 formal resolution or similar action; lands that have been purchased or
8 accepted for such purposes; or lands that currently or historically have
9 been available to and used by the public for such purposes.

10 2. "Municipal parkland alienation" shall mean any action by a munici-
11 pality to sell, lease, discontinue, or change the use of municipal park-
12 land.

13 3. "Municipality" shall mean a county, town, city, or village. It
14 shall also mean a school district or other political subdivision in
15 instances where such entity has obtained state or federal grant funding
16 for the creation of municipal parkland.

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

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1 4. "Parkland alienation legislation" shall mean legislation introduced
2 in the state legislature authorizing a municipality to alienate parkland
3 under its jurisdiction.

4 § 16.03 Parkland alienation reporting. Any municipality that has
5 received alienation authorization through enactment of municipal park-
6 land alienation legislation shall submit a report to the office no later
7 than December thirty-first of the calendar year following the enactment
8 of the legislation. Such report shall be signed by the municipality's
9 chief executive officer and shall include:

10 1. A narrative description of the status of the parkland alienation
11 actions authorized and required in the legislation; and

12 2. (a) An attestation that the municipality has complied with all
13 conditions of the parkland alienation legislation, including the dedi-
14 cation of any required replacement parkland or, in the case of utility
15 easements, the dedication of funding for the acquisition of additional
16 parkland or capital improvements to existing parkland facilities; or

17 (b) In the event that any condition of the parkland alienation legis-
18 lation has not been fully complied with, the municipality shall provide
19 the office with an interim report detailing the status of its actions
20 and an explanation as to why certain conditions have not been met, along
21 with the anticipated date by which such conditions will be met. The
22 municipality shall continue to file interim reports annually until such
23 time as the conditions have been met and a final report is filed.
24 Unless a longer time period is specified in the legislation authorizing
25 the alienation, if the conditions of the alienation have not been met by
26 December thirty-first of the third calendar year following the enactment
27 of parkland alienation legislation, the municipality shall be subject to
28 enforcement pursuant to section 16.05 of this article.

29 § 16.05 Parkland alienation enforcement. An action for injunctive
30 relief as provided in this section against a municipality violating any
31 provision of this article may be brought by the attorney general upon
32 referral by the office or upon his or her own initiative. A munici-
33 pality may be enjoined from alienating parkland where it acts or has
34 acted in furtherance of parkland alienation without compliance with the
35 requirements of this article, including reporting requirements and park-
36 land alienation legislation requirements.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
38 ing the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately
39 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
40 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
41 authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.