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

3054

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. BARCLAY, KOLB, TOWNSEND -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CROUCH, SALADINO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT creating a temporary state commission on tourism in central New York to study and prepare a sound business plan to develop a state-of-the-art transportation system to link community assets; making an appropriation therefor; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. A temporary state commission on tourism in central New York is hereby created to examine, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning the development of a state-of-the-art transportation system to link community assets. Such commission shall include in its study the feasibility of the development of a light rail system to connect Syracuse Hancock International Airport, the William F. Walsh Transportation Center, Syracuse University, DestiNY USA, ONCenter, and downtown Syracuse, in order to bring greater economic success to these areas and their surrounding communities.

S 2. 1. The commission shall consist of the following fifteen members:

(a) the commissioner or his or her designated representative from the departments of transportation, economic development, environmental conservation, agriculture and markets and of the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation;

(b) the chairperson or his or her designated representative of the New York state thruway authority, the tourism advisory council, the upstate New York tourism council and the downstate New York tourism council;

(c) a representative of travel and vacation related business and a representative of an organization of automobile users and owners appointed by the governor;

(d) a representative of Syracuse University;

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

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(e) a representative of the Greater Syracuse chamber of commerce;
(f) a representative of the Onondaga county executive branch; and
(g) a representative of the office of the mayor of the city of Syracuse.

2. The chairman of the commission shall be the commissioner of transportation. The members of the task force may elect a vice chairman, secretary or such other officers as it may deem necessary for such terms as its members shall determine.

3. Members of the commission, except for those representing New York state departments, agencies, authorities or councils, shall serve for a term of two years and may be reappointed in the same manner as provided for their initial appointment.

4. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power or function of the commission. An act, determination, or decision of the members present and entitled to vote during the presence of a quorum shall be held to be the act, determination or decision of the commission.

5. The commission shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairman. Additional meetings may be called by the chairperson subject to the giving of one week's notice, and shall be called by him or her at the request of a majority of the members of the commission.

S 3. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions.

S 4. The commission may meet within and without the state, shall hold public hearings, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

S 5. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

S 6. The commission shall make a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations not later than one year after the effective date of this act, and a final report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations not later than two years after the effective date of this act, and shall submit with its reports such legislative proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

S 7. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to pay the expenses incurred, including personal service, in carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable out of the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account after audit by and on the warrant of the comptroller upon the vouchers certified or approved by the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the commission as prescribed by law.

S 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire September 30, 2011, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.