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

4502

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 4, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ESPAILLAT, PERALTA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BOYLAND, DIAZ, GOTTFRIED, HOOPER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to adding affordable housing to the definition of "environment" for purposes of environmental quality reviews

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that a significant number of residents of the state are living in substandard housing and that there exists a shortage of housing at reasonable costs for various income levels. A recent housing needs survey undertaken at the request of the division of housing and community renewal indicated that the number of new construction or substantial rehabilitation units needed statewide approaches four hundred forty thousand. It is further found that existing federal, state and local housing programs are not meeting the housing needs of the residents of the state of New York. It is further found that the critical shortage of housing demands that the state and local governments become sensitive to the impacts which rezonings and other governmental actions have on the availability of affordable housing. To assure that an adequate supply of safe and affordable housing exists for all citizens of the state of New York, it is a necessary part of the state environmental quality review (SEQR) process to examine the impact of a governmental action on the availability of affordable housing.

S 2. Subdivision 6 of section 8-0105 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 228 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read as follows:

6. "Environment" means the physical conditions which will be affected by a proposed action, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance, existing

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

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patterns of population concentration, distribution, or growth, [and] existing community or neighborhood character, AND NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND AFFORDABILITY.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.