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

3079

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 10, 2009

Introduced by Sen. VALESKY -- 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 preparing a report on the economic impact of hunting and fishing; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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 that according to a "2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation," recreational anglers and hunters spent more than $3.5 billion in pursuit of their pastimes in New York in 2001. The 1996 survey found that expenditures include monies spent for equipment, bait and tackle, hotels and motels, restaurants, lodges and camps, grocery and hardware stores, and guide services. The survey also found that these expenditures and their associated economic impact supported 43,000 jobs and generated $100 million in state sales tax and $32 million in state income tax in New York state in 1996. Nationally, the survey estimated that hunting and fishing supported 1.9 million jobs and generated $2.9 billion in state sales tax and $772 million in state income tax. The legislature finds and declares that hunting, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation support jobs, generate sales and income taxes, and are an integral component of the tourism industry and the overall economy in New York state. Efforts are underway in each state to promote tourism, including hunting, recreational fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation in the name of economic development. The legislature also finds that the department of environmental conservation must rely on a study every five years by the United States Departments of Interior and Commerce to determine the number of people who hunt and fish and expenditures relating to their recreation. Therefore, this legislation is intended to provide more accurate and timely information

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

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to policy makers and department administrators regarding the tourism and economic impact of hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation in New York state.

S 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new section 11-0310 to read as follows:

S 11-0310. REPORT ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FISHING AND HUNTING.

1. COMMENCING ONE YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, AND EVERY TWO YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMISSIONER OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, PREPARE A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION IN NEW YORK STATE. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE NUMBER OF ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND WILDLIFE-WATCHING PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARTICIPANTS, IN NEW YORK STATE, INCLUDING A BREAKDOWN OF RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND WILDLIFE-WATCHING PARTICIPANTS;

B. THE FREQUENCY OF PARTICIPATION OF ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND WILDLIFE WATCHERS AND HOW MUCH MONEY THEY SPEND ON THEIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO EXPENDITURES ON EQUIPMENT, BAIT AND TACKLE, HOTELS AND MOTELS, RESTAURANTS, LODGES AND CAMPS, GROCERY AND HARDWARE STORES, AND GUIDE SERVICES; AND

C. AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF JOBS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND WILDLIFE-WATCHING PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF SALES TAX AND INCOME TAX GENERATED BY ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND WILDLIFE-WATCHING PARTICIPANTS.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE LEGISLATURE, INCLUDING THE CHAIRS OF THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, TOURISM, ARTS AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE, AND COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of October next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed 10 years after such date.