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

2881

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 5, 2009

Introduced by Sen. BONACIC -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission on the feasibility of constructing and operating a light rail commuter system between the counties of Ulster, Sullivan and Orange, and the city of New York; 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 the feasibility of constructing and operating a light rail commuter system between the counties of Ulster, Sullivan and Orange, and the city of New York is hereby created to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the feasibility, costs and benefits of constructing and operating a light rail commuter system between the counties of Ulster, Sullivan and Orange, and the city of New York. Such commission shall direct its attention to the following:

(a) Evaluating the population flow and other demographic data in the counties of Ulster, Sullivan and Orange;

(b) Evaluating the benefits of constructing and operating such a light rail commuter system;

(c) Evaluating the effects of population growth on the operation of such a light rail commuter system;

(d) Evaluating the impact on rental housing and real property values of the operation of such a light rail commuter system;

(e) Evaluating the impact the operation of such light rail commuter system would have upon the loss of population and employment in upstate counties;

(f) Recommending where such light rail commuter system should be constructed and where the passenger stations of the system should be located;

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

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(g) Estimating the cost of constructing such light rail commuter system; and

(h) Estimating the economic benefits from the construction and operation of such a light rail commuter system.

S 2. The commission shall be composed of thirteen members to be appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the governor; three members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; three members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The governor shall designate the chair of the commission. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

S 3. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions, and fix their compensation within the amount available therefor and shall otherwise have five staff liaisons and/or assistants appointed by the commissioner of transportation.

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. All meetings of the commission and documents in the possession of the commission shall be subject to the provisions of articles 6 and 7 of the public officers 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 pursuant to this act.

S 6. To the maximum extent feasible, the commission shall be entitled to request and receive, and shall utilize and be provided with such facilities, resources and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly carry out its powers and duties pursuant to this act.

S 7. The commission shall submit a report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions and recommendations on or before June 1, 2010, and shall submit with its report such legislative proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

S 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until June 1, 2010, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.