

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

3189--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 11, 2011

Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to exempting certain old-growth forests from taxation

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of
2 section 480-a of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 396 of
3 the laws of 2008, is amended and a new subparagraph (iii) is added to
4 read as follows:
5 (ii) participation in a forest certification program (such as Forest
6 Stewardship Council certification, Sustainable Forestry Initiative;
7 American Tree Farm Program, etc.) recognized in the regulations of the
8 department[.]; OR
9 (III) AS TO AN "OLD-GROWTH" ELIGIBLE TRACT, A PLAN THAT INCLUDES
10 PROVISIONS THAT THE OLD-GROWTH FOREST BE PROTECTED WITH MINIMUM MANAGE-
11 MENT OR DISTURBANCE THAT ONLY CONSIDERS PASSIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTU-
12 NITIES WITH NO CONSTRUCTION OR COMMERCIAL REMOVAL OF TREES. IN THOSE
13 PROVISIONS, THE PROTECTION OF THE OLD-GROWTH FOREST FROM INVASIVE
14 SPECIES AND DISEASES MAY BE CONSIDERED.
15 S 2. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 1 of section 480-a of the real prop-
16 erty tax law is relettered paragraph (i) and a new paragraph (h) is
17 added to read as follows:
18 (H) "OLD-GROWTH ELIGIBLE TRACT" SHALL MEAN A TRACT THAT CONFORMS WITH
19 THE DEFINITION OF "OLD-GROWTH FOREST" CONTAINED IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF
20 SECTION 45-0105 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW.

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

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1 S 3. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 5 of section 480-a of the real prop-
2 erty tax law is relettered paragraph (e) and a new paragraph (d) is
3 added to read as follows:

4 (D) NO CUTTING OF FOREST CROP SHALL BE PERMITTED IN ANY APPROVED OLD
5 GROWTH ELIGIBLE TRACT EXCEPT TO PROTECT THE OLD GROWTH FOREST FROM INVA-
6 SIVE SPECIES OR DISEASE.

7 S 4. Subdivision 6 of section 480-a of the real property tax law is
8 amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

9 (E) NO CUTTING OF FOREST CROP SHALL BE MANDATED OR PERMITTED IN ANY
10 APPROVED OLD GROWTH ELIGIBLE TRACT EXCEPT TO PROTECT THE OLD GROWTH
11 FOREST FROM INVASIVE SPECIES OR DISEASE.

12 S 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2013 and shall apply to
13 taxable years beginning on and after such date.