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I N   S E N A T E

March 13, 2012

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Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- (at request of the Adirondack Park Agency)  
-- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to  
the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to applications for minor  
and major projects before the Adirondack park agency

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

1     Section 1. Paragraphs b and d of subdivision 2 of section 809 of the  
2     executive law, as amended by chapter 428 of the laws of 1979, are  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     b. [On or before fifteen calendar] WITHIN FIFTEEN days [after the  
5     receipt of such application] OF THE RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION, the agen-  
6     cy shall [notify] MAIL WRITTEN NOTICE TO the project sponsor by certi-  
7     fied mail DETERMINING whether or not the application is complete. For  
8     the purposes of this section, a "complete application" shall mean an  
9     application for a permit which is in an approved form and is determined  
10    by the agency to be complete for the purpose of commencing review of the  
11    application but which may need to be supplemented during the course of  
12    review as to matters contained in the application in order to enable the  
13    agency to make the findings and determinations required by this section.  
14    If the agency fails to mail such notice within such fifteen-day period,  
15    the application shall be deemed complete. If the agency determines the  
16    application is not complete, the notice shall include a concise state-  
17    ment of the respects in which the application is incomplete, AND A  
18    REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. [The submission by the project spon-  
19    sor of the requested additional information shall commence a new fifteen  
20    calendar day period for agency review of the additional information for  
21    the purposes of determining completeness. If the agency determines the  
22    application is complete, the notice shall so state.] WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS  
23    OF THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, THE AGENCY SHALL  
24    MAIL WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE PROJECT SPONSOR BY CERTIFIED MAIL DETERMINING  
25    WHETHER OR NOT THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE.  
26    A notice of application completion shall not be required in the case  
27    of applications for minor projects which the agency determines to be

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

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complete when filed. Such applications shall be deemed complete for the purposes of this section upon the date of receipt.

d. [Immediately upon] UPON determining that an application is complete, the agency shall, except in relation to minor projects, cause a notice of application COMPLETION to be published in the next available environmental notice bulletin published by the department of environmental conservation pursuant to section 3-0306 of the environmental conservation law[, which publication shall be not later than ten calendar days after the date of such notice]. The time period for public comment on a permit application shall be stated in the notice of application COMPLETION. The agency shall at the same time mail a copy of the notice of application completion to the Adirondack park local government review board and to the persons named in paragraph a of THIS subdivision [two of this section], and invite their comments.

S 2. Paragraphs b, c, d and e of subdivision 3 of section 809 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 428 of the laws of 1979, are amended to read as follows:

b. In the case of an application for a permit for which no public hearing has been held, the agency SHALL MAIL ITS decision [shall be mailed on or before] WITHIN ninety [calendar] days or, in the case of a minor project, WITHIN forty-five [calendar] days[, after] OF (I) THE DATE the agency [notifies] MAILS the project sponsor [that the application is complete] THE NOTICE OF APPLICATION COMPLETION or [after] (II) THE DATE the application is deemed complete pursuant to the provisions of this [section] SUBDIVISION.

c. In the case of an application for a permit for which a public hearing has been held, the agency SHALL MAIL ITS decision [shall be mailed on or before] WITHIN sixty [calendar] days [after] OF receipt by the agency of a complete record, as that term is defined in paragraphs (a) through (e) of subdivision one of section three hundred two of the state administrative procedure act.

d. If the agency determines to hold a public hearing on an application for a permit, the agency shall [notify] MAIL WRITTEN NOTICE TO the project sponsor of its determination by certified mail [on or before sixty calendar] WITHIN SIXTY days or, in the case of a minor project, WITHIN forty-five [calendar] days [after] OF (I) THE DATE the agency [notifies] MAILS the project sponsor [that the] THE NOTICE OF application [is complete] COMPLETION or [after] (II) THE DATE the application is deemed complete pursuant to the provisions of this [section] SUBDIVISION. The determination of whether or not to hold a public hearing on an application shall be based on whether the agency's evaluation or comments of the review board, local officials or the public on a project raise substantive and significant issues relating to any findings or determinations the agency is required to make pursuant to this section, including the reasonable likelihood that the project will be disapproved or can be approved only with major modifications because the project as proposed may not meet statutory or regulatory criteria or standards. The agency shall also consider the general level of public interest in a project. No project may be disapproved without a public hearing first being held thereon.

e. If the agency has notified the project sponsor of its determination to hold a public hearing, the sponsor shall not undertake the project during the time period specified in paragraph c of this subdivision. The notice of determination to hold a public hearing shall state that the project sponsor has the opportunity within fifteen days to withdraw his application or submit a new application. A public hearing shall commence

1 [on or before ninety calendar] WITHIN NINETY days, or in the case of a  
2 minor project, WITHIN seventy-five days, [after] OF THE DATE the agency  
3 [notifies] MAILES NOTICE TO the project sponsor [that the application is  
4 complete or after the application is deemed complete pursuant to the  
5 provisions of this section] OF ITS DETERMINATION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEAR-  
6 ING. In addition to notice of such hearing being mailed to the project  
7 sponsor, such notice shall also be given by publication at least once in  
8 the environmental notice bulletin and in a newspaper having general  
9 circulation in each local government wherein the project is proposed to  
10 be located, by conspicuous posting of the land involved, and by individ-  
11 ual notice served by certified mail upon each owner of record of the  
12 land involved, and by mail upon: the Adirondack park local government  
13 review board, the persons named in paragraph a of subdivision two of  
14 this section, any adjoining landowner, to the extent reasonably discern-  
15 ible from the latest completed tax assessment roll, and the clerk of any  
16 local government within five hundred feet of the land involved. Public  
17 hearings held pursuant to this section shall be consolidated or held  
18 jointly with other state or local agencies whenever practicable.

19 S 3. Paragraph c of subdivision 6 of section 809 of the executive law,  
20 as amended by chapter 428 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 c. At any time during the review of an application for a permit or a  
23 request by a permit holder for the renewal, reissuance, or modification  
24 of an existing permit pursuant to subdivision eight of this section, the  
25 agency may request additional information from the project sponsor or  
26 permit holder with regard to any matter contained in the application or  
27 request when such additional information is necessary for the agency to  
28 make any findings or determinations required by law. Such a request  
29 shall not extend any time period for agency action contained in this  
30 section, UNLESS THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH RENEWAL, REISSUANCE, OR  
31 MODIFICATION WOULD CONSTITUTE A MATERIAL CHANGE, IN WHICH CASE AT THE  
32 AGENCY'S DISCRETION SUCH RENEWAL, REISSUANCE, OR MODIFICATION SHALL BE  
33 TREATED AS A NEW APPLICATION WITH NEW TIME PERIODS. Failure by the  
34 project sponsor or permit holder to provide such information may be  
35 grounds for denial by the agency of the application or request.

36 S 4. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 809 of the executive law,  
37 as separately amended by chapters 428 and 578 of the laws of 1979, is  
38 amended to read as follows:

39 a. A PROJECT AUTHORIZED BY A permit or certificate issued by the agen-  
40 cy pursuant to subdivision five or six of this section shall [expire  
41 within sixty days from the date thereof unless within such sixty-day  
42 period such permit or certificate] NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNLESS AND UNTIL IT  
43 shall have been duly recorded in the name of the landowner in the office  
44 of the clerk of the county wherein the project is proposed to be  
45 located. Where a permit OR CERTIFICATE involves action in concert by two  
46 or more landowners as described by paragraph c of subdivision ten of  
47 this section, the permit OR CERTIFICATE shall be recorded in the name of  
48 each landowner. ANY SUCH PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE, WHETHER OR NOT  
49 RECORDED, SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AND SHALL BE ENFORCEABLE AGAINST ANY PERSON  
50 UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT PERMITTED AND SUBSEQUENT LANDOWNERS.

51 S 5. Paragraph b of subdivision 8 of section 809 of the executive law,  
52 as added by chapter 428 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read as  
53 follows:

54 b. A permit holder may make written request to the agency for the  
55 renewal, reissuance, or modification of an existing permit. Such a

1 request shall be accompanied by sufficient information supporting the  
2 request for the agency action sought.

3 (1) UPON RECEIPT OF SUFFICIENT INFORMATION, THE AGENCY SHALL MAIL  
4 WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE PROJECT SPONSOR THAT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION HAS  
5 BEEN PROVIDED.

6 (2) In the case of a request TO THE AGENCY FOR A MODIFICATION TO THE  
7 PERMIT which does not involve a material change in permit conditions,  
8 THE PROJECT, the applicable law, environmental conditions or technology  
9 since the date of issuance of the existing permit, the agency shall [on  
10 or before] WITHIN fifteen [calendar] days [after the receipt of a  
11 request] OF THE DATE OF THE NOTICE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH ONE  
12 OF THIS PARAGRAPH mail a written determination to the permit holder of  
13 its decision [on] TO GRANT OR DENY the request. If the decision is to  
14 deny the request, the permit holder shall be afforded an opportunity for  
15 hearing and notice of such decision shall be given by the agency in the  
16 next available issue of the environmental notice bulletin.

17 [(2)] (3) In the case of a request which may involve a material change  
18 as described in subparagraph [one] TWO of this paragraph, the agency  
19 shall [on or before] WITHIN fifteen [calendar] days [after the receipt  
20 of a request] OF THE DATE OF THE NOTICE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SUBPARA-  
21 GRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH mail a written determination to the permit  
22 holder that the request shall be treated as an application for a new  
23 permit.

24 If pursuant to subparagraph [one] TWO or [two] THREE of this para-  
25 graph, the agency fails to mail a written determination to the permit  
26 holder within such fifteen [calendar] day period, the provisions of  
27 subdivision six of this section shall apply.

28 S 6. Paragraph c of subdivision 10 of section 809 of the executive  
29 law, as amended by chapter 578 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 c. The project would be consistent with the overall intensity [guide-  
32 line] GUIDELINES for the land [use area involved] INCLUDED IN THE  
33 PROJECT. A landowner shall not be allowed to construct[, either direct-  
34 ly or as a result of a proposed subdivision,] more principal buildings  
35 on the land included within the project than the overall intensity  
36 [guideline] GUIDELINES for [the given land use area in which the project  
37 is located] SUCH LAND. [In determining the] THE land area upon which  
38 the intensity guideline is calculated [and which is included within a  
39 project, the landowner shall only include land under his ownership and  
40 may include all adjacent land which he owns within that land use area  
41 irrespective of such dividing lines as lot lines, roads, rights of way,  
42 or streams and, in the absence of local land use programs governing the  
43 intensity of land use and development, irrespective of local government  
44 boundaries] MAY INCLUDE ALL LAND WITHIN THE PROJECT IN THE GIVEN LAND  
45 USE AREA IRRESPECTIVE OF SUCH DIVIDING LINES AS LOT LINES, ROADS, RIGHTS  
46 OF WAY, OR STREAMS AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF LOCAL LAND USE PROGRAMS  
47 GOVERNING THE INTENSITY OF LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, IRRESPECTIVE OF  
48 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES. PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS PROPOSED AS PART OF THE  
49 PROJECT SHALL NOT BE COUNTED IN APPLYING THE INTENSITY GUIDELINES  
50 PROVIDED THAT: (1) EACH SUCH PRINCIPAL BUILDING SHALL CORRESPOND TO A  
51 PERMANENT REDUCTION BY ONE PRINCIPAL BUILDING OF THE LAWFULLY AVAILABLE  
52 DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY OF LANDS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE LANDS INCLUDED  
53 IN THE PROJECT, THAT ARE IN THE SAME OR ANY MORE RESTRICTIVE LAND USE  
54 AREA AND WITHIN THE SAME LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY; AND (2) NO SUCH  
55 PROPOSED PRINCIPAL BUILDING SHALL BE LOCATED WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE OF  
56 ANY LAKE, POND, NAVIGABLE RIVER OR STREAM. Principal buildings in

1 existence within the [area included within a project, as such area is  
2 defined by the landowner,] LAND OWNERSHIP PROPOSED FOR THE PROJECT shall  
3 be counted in applying the intensity guidelines. [As between two or more  
4 separate landowners in a given land use area the principal buildings on  
5 one landowner's property shall not be counted in applying the intensity  
6 guidelines to another landowner's project, except that two or more land-  
7 owners whose lands are directly contiguous and located in the same  
8 general tax district or special levy or assessment district may, when  
9 acting, in concert in submitting a project, aggregate such lands for  
10 purposes of applying the intensity guidelines to their lands thus aggre-  
11 gated.] The area upon which the intensity guideline is calculated shall  
12 not include (a) bodies of water, such as lakes and ponds, (b) any land  
13 in the same ownership that is directly related to any principal building  
14 in existence on August first, nineteen hundred seventy-three, which land  
15 is not included in the project, and (c), in the case of any principal  
16 building constructed after August first, nineteen hundred seventy-three,  
17 any land in the same or any other ownership that was included within the  
18 area of any previous project in order to comply with the overall inten-  
19 sity guideline.

20 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to appli-  
21 cations received after such effective date.