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

6776

I N S E N A T E

March 21, 2012

Introduced by Sen. YOUNG -- (at request of the Department of Environmental Conservation) -- 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 free sport fishing clinics

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

Section 1. Subdivision 16 of section 11-0305 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 46 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

16. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, to authorize [no more than four] free sport fishing clinics [in each year for each separate administrative region of the department, provided however that nothing in this subdivision shall preclude the department from conducting additional free sport fishing clinics during free sport fishing days designated by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision fourteen of this section]. A free sport fishing clinic shall include, but not be limited to, instruction provided by employees of the department OR ITS DESIGNEE in recreational angling, including its benefits and values, and may also include instruction and other information relevant to an understanding of fisheries management, ethics and aquatic ecology and habitat. No license OR RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING REGISTRATION is required to take fish by angling while participating in a fishing clinic conducted by the department OR ITS DESIGNEE that has been designated by the commissioner as a free sport fishing clinic. Such clinics shall be implemented CONSISTENT WITH DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND in a manner determined by the department to best provide public notice thereof and to maximize public participation therein, so as to promote the recreational opportunities afforded by sport fishing. Further, the commissioner may designate additional fishing events organized through the department that provide physical or emotional rehabilitation for veterans, as defined in subdivision three of section three hundred fifty of the executive law, or active duty members of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in 10 U.S.C. section 101(d)(1). No license OR RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING REGISTRATION shall be required for such veterans or active duty members to take fish by angling while participating in these events.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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