

9653

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 22, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee
on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to making technical corrections
to the conservation easement tax credit

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph 1 of subsection (kk) of section 606 of the tax
2 law, as added by section 1 of part F of chapter 62 of the laws of 2006,
3 is amended to read as follows:
4 (1) Credit allowed. In the case of a taxpayer who owns land that is
5 subject to a conservation easement held by a public or private conserva-
6 tion agency, there shall be allowed a credit for twenty-five percent of
7 the [allowable school district, county and town] real property taxes
8 PAID on [such] THE land, OR PORTION OF THE LAND, SUBJECT TO THE
9 EASEMENT. In no event shall the credit allowed under this subsection in
10 combination with any other credit for [such school district, county and
11 town] real property taxes under this section exceed such taxes.
12 S 2. Subdivision 38 of section 210 of the tax law, as added by section
13 3 of part F of chapter 62 of the laws of 2006, is renumbered subdivision
14 45 and is amended to read as follows:
15 45. Conservation easement tax credit. (1) Credit allowed. In the case
16 of a taxpayer who owns land that is subject to a conservation easement
17 held by a public or private conservation agency, there shall be allowed
18 a credit for twenty-five percent of the [allowable school district,
19 county and town] real property taxes PAID on [such] THE land, OR PORTION
20 OF THE LAND, SUBJECT TO THE EASEMENT. In no such case shall the credit
21 allowed under this subdivision in combination with any other credit for
22 [such school district, county and town] real property taxes under this
23 section exceed such taxes.
24 (2) Conservation easement. For purposes of this subdivision, the term
25 "conservation easement" means a perpetual and permanent conservation
26 easement as defined in article forty-nine of the environmental conserva-
27 tion law that serves to protect open space, scenic, natural resources,
28 biodiversity, agricultural, watershed and/or historic preservation

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

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1 resources. Any conservation easement for which a tax credit is claimed
2 under this subdivision shall be filed with the department of environ-
3 mental conservation, as provided for in article forty-nine of the envi-
4 ronmental conservation law and such conservation easement shall comply
5 with the provisions of title three of such article, and the provisions
6 of subdivision (h) of section 170 of the internal revenue code. Dedi-
7 cations of land for open space through the execution of conservation
8 easements for the purpose of fulfilling density requirements to obtain
9 subdivision or building permits shall not be considered a conservation
10 easement under this subdivision.

11 (3) Land. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "land" means a
12 fee simple title to real property located in this state, with or without
13 improvements thereon; rights of way; water and riparian rights; ease-
14 ments; privileges and all other rights or interests of any land or
15 description in, relating to or connected with real property, excluding
16 buildings, structures, or improvements.

17 (4) Public or private conservation agency. For purposes of this subdi-
18 vision, the term "public or private conservation agency" means any
19 state, local, or federal governmental body; or any private not-for-pro-
20 fit charitable corporation or trust which is authorized to do business
21 in the state of New York, is organized and operated to protect land for
22 natural resources, conservation or historic preservation purposes, is
23 exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the
24 internal revenue code, and has the power to acquire, hold and maintain
25 land and/or interests in land for such purposes.

26 (5) Credit limitation. The amount of the credit that may be claimed by
27 a taxpayer pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed five thousand
28 dollars in any given year.

29 (6) Application of the credit. The credit allowed under this subdivi-
30 sion for any taxable year shall not reduce the tax due for such year to
31 less than the higher of the amounts prescribed in paragraphs (c) and (d)
32 of subdivision one of this section. However, if the amount of the credit
33 allowed under this subdivision for any taxable year reduces the tax to
34 such amount, any amount of the credit thus not deductible in such taxa-
35 ble year shall be treated as an overpayment of tax to be credited or
36 refunded in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section
37 [ten hundred] ONE THOUSAND eighty-eight of this chapter, except that, no
38 interest shall be paid thereon.

39 S 3. Subparagraph (B) of paragraph 1 of subsection (i) of section 606
40 of the tax law is amended by adding a new clause (xxxiv) to read as
41 follows:

42 (XXXIV) CONSERVATION EASEMENT	AMOUNT OF CREDIT UNDER
43 TAX CREDIT UNDER SUBSECTION (KK)	SUBDIVISION FORTY-FIVE OF
44	SECTION TWO HUNDRED TEN

45 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be made applica-
46 ble to taxable years commencing on and after January 1, 2012 and there-
47 after.