

4204

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 23, 2011

Introduced by Sen. GRISANTI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the public buildings law, the general municipal law, the executive law, the environmental conservation law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "bird-friendly buildings act"

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

- 1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "bird-friendly buildings act".
3 S 2. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds that:
4 (a) a federal multi-agency report issued in 2009, entitled "The State
5 of the Birds, United States of America", provides the most comprehensive
6 assessment to date on the status of bird populations;
7 (b) the multi-agency report concludes that nearly one-third of this
8 nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant
9 decline;
10 (c) daytime and nighttime collisions with man-made structures are the
11 most significant, quantifiable causes of avian mortality and are
12 increasing with adverse effects being seen at a population level with
13 estimates ranging from several hundred million to one billion birds
14 dying from collisions annually in the United States;
15 (d) not only are birds beautiful, interesting and fascinating crea-
16 tures that are eagerly welcomed by millions of Americans into their
17 backyards every year, but birds also have an impact on the United States
18 and the New York state economies;
19 (e) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has reported that
20 birdwatchers contribute thirty-six million dollars annually to the econ-
21 omy, and birds naturally provide billions of dollars worth of pest
22 control, benefitting farmers, forestry owners and consumers alike;

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

LBD09911-04-1

1 (f) bird-friendly design features can be incorporated into new
2 construction and major renovation projects at no to minimal extra cost;
3 and existing buildings may be made bird-friendly through the use of
4 simple, low-cost adaptations; and

5 (g) these design features have already been implemented in buildings
6 constructed and renovated both in this state and throughout the country.

7 S 3. The public buildings law is amended by adding a new section 8-a
8 to read as follows:

9 S 8-A. USE OF BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES.
10 1. EACH PUBLIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTED, ALTERED OR ACQUIRED BY THE OFFICE
11 OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL INCORPORATE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND AS
12 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION,
13 BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES.

14 2. IN ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS, THE COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL SERVICES,
15 WHERE PRACTICABLE, SHALL:

16 (A) INCORPORATE BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES;
17 AND

18 (B) ADDRESS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIGHTING AND REFLECTIVE GLASS
19 IMPACTS ON NATIVE BIRD SPECIES.

20 3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS
21 AND DESIGN FEATURES" MAY INCLUDE MATERIALS AND FEATURES RECOMMENDED BY:

22 (A) FEDERAL LAW, AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED PURSUANT THERE-
23 TO;

24 (B) THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S "BIRD-SAFE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE FOR NEW
25 CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION";

26 (C) THE CITY OF TORONTO'S "BIRD-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES"; AND

27 (D) THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY AND NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON'S
28 "BIRD-SAFE BUILDING GUIDELINES".

29 S 4. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 77-f
30 to read as follows:

31 S 77-F. USE OF BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES.
32 1. EACH PUBLIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTED, ALTERED OR ACQUIRED BY A MUNICIPAL
33 CORPORATION OR SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF SHALL INCORPORATE,
34 TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVI-
35 RONMENTAL CONSERVATION, BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN
36 FEATURES.

37 2. IN ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR SCHOOL
38 DISTRICT, OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF, WHERE PRACTICABLE, SHALL:

39 (A) INCORPORATE BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES;
40 AND

41 (B) ADDRESS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIGHTING, AND REFLECTIVE GLASS
42 IMPACTS ON NATIVE BIRD SPECIES.

43 3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS
44 AND DESIGN FEATURES" MAY INCLUDE MATERIALS AND FEATURES RECOMMENDED BY:

45 (A) FEDERAL LAW, AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED PURSUANT THERE-
46 TO;

47 (B) THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S "BIRD-SAFE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE FOR NEW
48 CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION";

49 (C) THE CITY OF TORONTO'S "BIRD-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES"; AND

50 (D) THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY AND NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON'S
51 "BIRD-SAFE BUILDING GUIDELINES".

52 S 5. Section 378 of the executive law is amended by adding a new
53 subdivision 17 to read as follows:

54 17. A. REQUIRE EVERY BUILDING, CONSTRUCTED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE
55 DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, WHICH HAS ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED OR MORE
56 SQUARE FEET OF EXTERIOR GLASS TO INCORPORATE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE

1 AND AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION,
2 BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES. ALL SUCH BUILDINGS
3 SHALL:

4 (I) INCORPORATE BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES;
5 AND

6 (II) ADDRESS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIGHTING, AND REFLECTIVE GLASS
7 IMPACTS ON NATIVE BIRD SPECIES.

8 B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATE-
9 RIALS AND DESIGN FEATURES" MAY INCLUDE MATERIALS AND FEATURES RECOM-
10 MENDED BY:

11 (I) FEDERAL LAW, AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED PURSUANT THERE-
12 TO;

13 (II) THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S "BIRD-SAFE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE FOR NEW
14 CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION";

15 (III) THE CITY OF TORONTO'S "BIRD-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES";
16 AND

17 (IV) THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY AND NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON'S "BIRD-
18 SAFE BUILDING GUIDELINES".

19 S 6. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
20 section 3-0121 to read as follows:

21 S 3-0121. BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING COUNCIL.

22 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT A BIRD-FRIENDLY
23 BUILDING COUNCIL. SUCH COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NOT LESS THAN ELEVEN
24 NOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN MEMBERS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE COMMISSIONER, WHO
25 SHALL BE THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL, AND NOT LESS THAN TEN, NOR MORE THAN
26 FOURTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY
27 THE COMMISSIONER SHALL INCLUDE PERSONS REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING INTER-
28 ESTS: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL WILDLIFE
29 AGENCIES, ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, WINDOW MANUFACTURERS AND
30 DISTRIBUTORS, COMMERCIAL BUILDING MANAGERS, AND ACADEMIA. THE WILDLIFE
31 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE THE
32 AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON AND THE LONG ISLAND
33 AUDUBON COUNCIL. THE FEDERAL WILDLIFE AGENCY REPRESENTATION ON THE COUN-
34 CIL SHALL INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT OF THE U.S.
35 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE
36 BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE. FURTHER-
37 MORE, THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR
38 SERVICES BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES
39 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
40 IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL SERVE AS AN
41 EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

42 2. THE BIRD FRIENDLY BUILDING COUNCIL SHALL:

43 A. DEVELOP SUCH RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES AS NECESSARY FOR IT
44 TO EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES;

45 B. ATTEMPT TO ASSESS AND QUANTIFY THE EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF THE
46 PROBLEM STATEWIDE CAUSED BY DIURNAL AND NOCTURNAL BIRDS COLLIDING WITH
47 BUILDINGS. THIS EFFORT SHALL IDENTIFY THOSE SPECIES MOST COMMONLY KILLED
48 DURING DAYTIME COLLISIONS, THOSE SPECIES MORE COMMONLY KILLED DURING
49 NIGHTTIME COLLISIONS AND SHALL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT ON SPECIES AT RISK
50 DUE TO RARITY AND ENDANGERMENT;

51 C. DEVELOP CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING
52 EXISTING BUILDINGS WHICH POSE A DANGER TO BIRD SPECIES DUE TO THE THREAT
53 OF COLLISIONS;

54 D. IDENTIFY EXISTING AND EMERGING PRODUCTS, TECHNOLOGIES, STRATEGIES
55 AND CONCEPTS WHICH CAN REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BIRD MORTALITY FROM BUILDING
56 COLLISIONS;

1 E. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES, IN ADDITION TO THE PROCEEDS
2 FROM THE SALE OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION STAMP ESTABLISHED PURSU-
3 ANT TO SECTION 11-0307 OF THIS CHAPTER, TO FUND THE RETROFITTING AND/OR
4 REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS OF EXISTING PROBLEMATIC BUILDINGS, IDENTIFIED
5 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH C OF THIS SUBDIVISION, WHICH POSE A THREAT TO
6 BIRDS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER MITIGATIVE STRATEGIES;

7 F. PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THIS ISSUE AND WHAT MEMBERS OF THE
8 PUBLIC CAN DO TO MITIGATE IMPACTS;

9 G. SUPPORT AND FUND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH TO BETTER UNDERSTAND PARTIC-
10 ULAR ASPECTS OF THE BUILDING-BIRD COLLISION ISSUE; AND

11 H. CONSULT WITH OTHER SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN ORGANIZATIONS.

12 S 7. Subdivision 2 of section 3-0301 of the environmental conservation
13 law is amended by adding a new paragraph dd to read as follows:

14 DD. ESTABLISH, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING COUNCIL
15 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3-0121 OF THIS ARTICLE, CRITERIA TO
16 IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE FOR THE RETROFITTING OF BUILDINGS WHICH POSE A
17 THREAT TO BIRD POPULATIONS IN THE STATE.

18 S 8. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 11-0307 of the environmental
19 conservation law, subdivision 2 as added by chapter 494 of the laws of
20 1984 and subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 42 of the laws of 1991, are
21 amended to read as follows:

22 2. The department shall, by rule and regulation, establish the means
23 or method for creation of both voluntary migratory bird stamps and
24 migratory bird art prints, their administration, sale and distribution
25 and other matters relating to such voluntary stamps and art prints. The
26 department shall select appropriate works of art that will reflect
27 migratory bird species and/or aquatic ecosystem scenes. The department
28 may prepare or cause to be prepared voluntary migratory bird stamps and
29 prints for any year in excess of the number otherwise to be issued for
30 sale to collectors or other persons desiring to purchase such voluntary
31 stamps or prints. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY PRINT AND MAKE AVAIL-
32 ABLE FOR SALE A UNIQUE MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION STAMP.

33 3. The department shall prepare or cause to be prepared voluntary
34 migratory bird stamps, INCLUDING THE MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION STAMP,
35 and shall furnish such migratory bird stamps annually to license issuing
36 agents and officers for issuance or sale in the same manner as other
37 types of licenses. The department shall, by rule and regulation, estab-
38 lish the fee for such voluntary stamps which shall not exceed five
39 dollars as a fee and fifty cents for the issuing agent or officer for a
40 stamp sold in the year in which it was issued. ALL MONEYS FROM THE SALE
41 OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION STAMP SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE "BIRD-
42 FRIENDLY BUILDING FUND" ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETY-THREE-A
43 OF THE STATE FINANCE LAW. The purchase of a stamp is voluntary and need
44 not be possessed in order to hunt migratory waterfowl.

45 S 9. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 93-a to
46 read as follows:

47 S 93-A. BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING FUND. 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED
48 IN THE JOINT CUSTODY OF THE COMPTROLLER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION
49 AND FINANCE A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING
50 FUND".

51 2. SUCH FUND SHALL CONSIST OF MONEYS PAID THERETO FROM THE SALE OF THE
52 MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION STAMP PURSUANT TO SECTION 11-0307 OF THE ENVI-
53 RONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, AND ALL OTHER MONEYS APPROPRIATED, CREDITED
54 OR TRANSFERRED THERETO FROM ANY OTHER FUND OR SOURCE PURSUANT TO LAW.

1 3. MONEYS OF THE FUND FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION THEREOF, SHALL BE
2 EXPENDED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH DD OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION 3-0301
3 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW.
4 S 10. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
5 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.