

4553

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 10, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. MARCHIONE -- 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 expanding the definition of "public body" for purposes of conservation easements

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 49-0303 of the environmental  
2     conservation law, as amended by chapter 201 of the laws of 2011, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     3. "Public body" means the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE state or a municipi-  
5     pal corporation as that term is defined in section two of the general  
6     municipal law. Such term shall further include the Palisades interstate  
7     park commission; the Central Pine Barrens joint planning and policy  
8     commission; and a soil and water conservation district as that term is  
9     defined in section three of the soil and water conservation districts  
10    law.  
11    S 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision 5 of section 49-0305 of the  
12    environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 292 of the laws of  
13    1984, is amended to read as follows:  
14    A conservation easement may be enforced in law or equity by its gran-  
15    tor, ITS holder or by a public body or any not-for-profit conservation  
16    organization designated in the easement as having a third party enforce-  
17    ment right, and is enforceable against the owner of the burdened proper-  
18    ty. Enforcement shall not be defeated because of any subsequent adverse  
19    possession, laches, estoppel or waiver. No general law of the state  
20    which operates to defeat the enforcement of any interest in real proper-  
21    ty shall operate to defeat the enforcement of any conservation easement  
22    unless such general law expressly states the intent to defeat the  
23    enforcement of such easement or provides for the exercise of the power

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

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1 of eminent domain. It is not a defense in any action to enforce a  
2 conservation easement that:

3 S 3. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 7 of section 49-0305 of the environ-  
4 mental conservation law, as amended by chapter 292 of the laws of 1984,  
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (b) standards and procedures which require each conservation easement  
7 held by a public body, OTHER THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, to include  
8 terms under which the easement shall be modified where the commissioner  
9 has found after a non-adjudicatory public hearing at which the public  
10 shall be given opportunity to be heard, that such easement is inconsist-  
11 ent with any other interest in land required for the local gathering,  
12 transmission or distribution of gas, electricity, water, telephone or  
13 cable television services and that no reasonable alternative exists for  
14 the local gathering, transmission or distribution of such service.  
15 Notice of any such hearing shall be given to the public pursuant to  
16 thirty days published notice in the state register, the environmental  
17 notice bulletin and in a newspaper having general circulation in the  
18 county where the real property burdened by the easement is situated and  
19 individual notice shall be given in writing to any person who may be  
20 entitled to enforce such easement pursuant to the provisions of subdivi-  
21 sion five of this section at such address as such person shall file with  
22 the commissioner.

23 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.