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I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 18, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT in relation to creating the New York state ocean acidification  
task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expi-  
ration thereof

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

1     Section 1. New York state ocean acidification task force. 1. There is  
2 hereby established, within the department of environmental conservation,  
3 an ocean acidification task force ("task force") which shall consist of  
4 14 members who shall be appointed as follows:  
5     (a) the commissioner of environmental conservation or his or her  
6 designee;  
7     (b) the secretary of state or his or her designee;  
8     (c) the commissioner of the office of general services or his or her  
9 designee;  
10    (d) two members appointed by the governor;  
11    (e) two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the  
12 senate;  
13    (f) two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;  
14    (g) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;  
15    (h) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;  
16    (i) one member to be appointed by the mayor of the city of New York;  
17    (j) one member to be appointed by the county executive of the county  
18 of Nassau; and  
19    (k) one member to be appointed by the county executive of the county  
20 of Suffolk.  
21    2. The at large members should include individuals with expertise in  
22 one or more of the following areas: climatology; hydrology; economics;  
23 marine fisheries including commercial and/or recreational fishing; envi-  
24 ronmental; aquaculture; oceanography or coastal ocean science; ocean  
25 acidification; and ecology or environmental biology.

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

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1 3. Task force members shall receive no compensation for their services  
2 but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
3 the performance of their duties.

4 4. The chairperson of the task force shall be the commissioner of  
5 environmental conservation or his or her designee. The task force shall  
6 meet no less than four times and at other times at the call of the  
7 chairperson.

8 5. Any vacancies on the task force shall be filled in the manner  
9 provided for in the initial appointment.

10 6. The task force shall be authorized to hold public hearings and  
11 meetings to enable it to accomplish its duties.

12 7. The task force may consult with any organization, educational  
13 institution, other government entity or agency or person including, but  
14 not limited to, the national ocean and atmospheric administration, in  
15 the development of its report required by subdivision 10 of this  
16 section.

17 8. The department of environmental conservation shall provide the task  
18 force with such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task  
19 force to carry out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other agen-  
20 cies of the state or subdivisions thereof may, at the request of the  
21 chairperson, provide the task force with such facilities, assistance,  
22 and data as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and  
23 duties.

24 9. The purpose of the New York state ocean acidification task force  
25 shall be to identify the causes and factors contributing to ocean acidi-  
26 fication and evaluating ways of addressing the problem by applying the  
27 best available science as to ocean acidification and its anticipated  
28 impacts.

29 10. No later than December 31, 2018, the task force shall transmit to  
30 the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of  
31 the assembly a report containing the following:

32 (a) an assessment of the anticipated impacts related to ocean acidifi-  
33 cation;

34 (b) recommendations related to mechanisms New York could establish to  
35 provide stronger, more protective standards, and the implementation and  
36 enforcement of such standards in the context of ocean acidification;

37 (c) recommendations regarding adaptive measures which may be taken to  
38 respond to ocean acidification, including measures to:

39 (i) identify and monitor early effects of ocean acidification on  
40 marine life, animals, plants and natural communities; and

41 (ii) integrate ocean acidification mitigation and adaptation strate-  
42 gies into state environmental plans;

43 (d) recommendations on state and local regulatory and/or statutory  
44 alterations to respond to the impacts of ocean acidification;

45 (e) review existing scientific literature and data on ocean acidifica-  
46 tion and how it has directly or indirectly affected or may potentially  
47 affect commercially harvested and grown species along the coast;

48 (f) identify and monitor the factors contributing to ocean acidifica-  
49 tion; and

50 (g) recommendations to increase public awareness of ocean acidifica-  
51 tion.

52 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
53 deemed repealed January 1, 2019.