

7149

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 27, 2015

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

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to creating a public awareness campaign for the purpose of educating the public about the three non-native species present in this state with the highest invasiveness assessment ratings, including Japanese knotweed

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

- 1 Section 1. Section 9-1709 of the environmental conservation law is
2 amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:
3 3.(A) THE COMMISSIONER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL-
4 TURE AND MARKETS, AND THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL CREATED PURSUANT TO
5 SECTION 9-1705 OF THIS ARTICLE, SHALL DEVELOP A PUBLIC AWARENESS
6 CAMPAIGN FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE THREE NON-NA-
7 TIVE PLANT SPECIES PRESENT IN THIS STATE WITH THE HIGHEST INVASIVENESS
8 ASSESSMENT RATINGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO JAPANESE KNOTWEED
9 (REYNOUTRIA JAPONICA, FALLOPIA JAPONICA, AND POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM).
10 (B) SUCH CAMPAIGN SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, DISTRIBUTING
11 INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO IDENTIFYING SUCH INVASIVE SPECIES
12 AND THE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CONTAINMENT, REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.
13 AS PART OF THE PROCESS TO DEVELOP THE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS, THE
14 DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS AND THE INVASIVE
15 SPECIES COUNCIL SHALL CONDUCT OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING BUT
16 NOT LIMITED TO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS. ONCE CREATED, THE
17 INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS SHALL BE MADE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
18 AND, AT A MINIMUM SHALL BE PLACED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.
19 (C)(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH, NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR AFTER
20 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, AT LEAST TWO FIVE-YEAR PILOT
21 PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF REMOVING THE
22 NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVI-

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

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1 SION. AT LEAST ONE OF THE PILOT PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE JAPANESE KNOT-
2 WEED. SUCH PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AT A CAMPSITE OPERATED BY
3 THE DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN THE CATSKILL PARK, TOWN OF ROCKLAND, COUNTY OF
4 SULLIVAN.

5 (II) WHILE CONDUCTING SUCH PILOT PROGRAMS THE COMMISSIONER SHALL
6 RELEASE ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE INCLUDING METHODS USED, THE
7 COST OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAMS AND ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS AND BENEFITS TO
8 LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA.

9 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
10 have become a law.