S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

7371

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 6, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to creating the New York State bicycle tourism promotion act

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

Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new article 23 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 23

NEW YORK STATE BICYCLE TOURISM PROMOTION ACT

SECTION 500. SHORT TITLE.
501. STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT.
502. DEFINITIONS.
503. ADMINISTRATION.
504. GRANTS FOR LOCAL BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK.
505. PROGRAM REVIEW.

S 500. SHORT TITLE. THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE NEW YORK STATE BICYCLE TOURISM PROMOTION ACT.

S 501. STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT. THE LEGISLATURE HEREBY RECOGNIZES THE ROLE THAT CYCLING PLAYS IN LOCAL TOURISM. INCREASINGLY, BICYCLES ARE UTILIZED BY TRAVELERS TO EXPLORE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OR AS A METHOD OF TRAVEL THROUGH THE STATE. AS BICYCLES HELP EXPAND TRAVEL DESTINATIONS, AND ADD TO EXPERIENCE BASED TOURISM, THE STATE SHOULD ACT TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH IN THIS SECTOR. IT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING FLEET OF RENTAL BIKES AT CONVENTION BUREAUS, VISITOR CENTERS AND POINTS OF INTEREST THAT ARE HEAVILY VISITED BY TOURISTS AND PROFESSIONALS. ADDITIONALLY, THE LEGISLATURE WISHES TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM TO CONNECT VISITING PROFESSIONALS AND TRAVELERS WITH INFORMATION AND MAPS OF BICYCLING ROUTES AND DESTINATION POINTS.

S 502. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS ACT, "BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK" SHALL MEAN A CENTRAL LOCATION EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY TOURISTS WHERE BICYCLES,

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

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BICYCLING SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND A LOCAL BICYCLE ROUTE MAP ARE PROVIDED FOR RENTAL AND USE.

S 503. ADMINISTRATION. 1. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES FOR, AND ADMINISTER A PROGRAM TO PROMOTE BICYCLE TOURISM IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES. IN DOING SO, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(A) SOLICIT AND ACCEPT PROPOSALS FROM LOCAL TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCIES, CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL BICYCLE ROUTES AND HOST A BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK;

(B) EVALUATE THOSE PROPOSALS TO ENSURE THAT PROPOSED BICYCLE ROUTES WILL PROVIDE TRAVELERS WITH AN ADEQUATE EXPERIENCE BASED ON THE PROXIMITY OF POINTS OF INTEREST AND TOURISM ATTRACTIONS TO PROPOSED BICYCLE ROUTES; AND

(C) PROVIDE THAT NO BICYCLES SHALL BE RENTED WITHOUT ALSO PROVIDING A BICYCLE HELMET, OR HAVING BEEN PROVIDED THAT THE PERSON RENTING THE BICYCLE HAS IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION A HELMET TO BE USED WHILE OPERATING SUCH BICYCLE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE UP TO FIFTEEN PROPOSALS TO CREATE A LOCAL BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK.

3. NOTHING SHALL PROHIBIT THE DEPARTMENT FROM CONTRACTING WITH A STATEWIDE BICYCLING ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL AREAS FOR A BICYCLE TOURISM PROGRAM, EVALUATING PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND LOCALLY ADMINISTERING GRANTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

S 504. GRANTS FOR LOCAL BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK. 1. FROM EXISTING AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED FOR TOURISM PROMOTION, AND ANY OTHER AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS TO TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCIES, CONVENTIONS AND VISITORS BUREAUS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION OF A BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK.

2. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH A STATEWIDE BICYCLING ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER GRANTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

3. NO SINGLE GRANT MAY EXCEED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

4. ELIGIBLE USES FOR GRANTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) FOR THE PURCHASE OF BICYCLES, HELMETS, LOCKS, BICYCLE TOOLS, STATIONARY BICYCLE RACKS, AND ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND PROVIDE SAFE BICYCLE RENTALS;

(B) FOR PERSONAL SERVICE COSTS, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT SUCH PERSONAL SERVICE COSTS SHALL NOT EXCEED NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER GRANT;

(C) FOR ANY OTHER COSTS NECESSARY TO LEASE OR PURCHASE SPACE TO OPERATE A BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK; AND

(D) FOR REASONABLE NON-PERSONAL SERVICE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A BICYCLE TOURISM KIOSK.

S 505. PROGRAM REVIEW. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, SIX MONTHS AFTER THE AWARDING OF GRANTS UNDER THIS ARTICLE, CAUSE TO BE PRODUCED A REVIEW OF THE PROGRAM. A REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.