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I N   S E N A T E

May 31, 2016

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Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- 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 increasing certain penalties and authorizing the payment of rewards for aid in the apprehension and conviction of persons guilty of certain felonies or misdemeanors relating to endangered and special species, species of special concern and illegal ivory articles and rhinoceros horns

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

1     Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a  
2     new section 71-0929 to read as follows:

3     S 71-0929. PAYMENT OF REWARDS FOR AID IN APPREHENSION AND CONVICTION OF  
4     PERSONS GUILTY OF FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR.

5     THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO OFFER AND PAY REWARDS OF NOT MORE  
6     THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR INFORMATION WHICH LEADS TO THE  
7     DETECTION, ARREST AND CONVICTION OF A PERSON GUILTY OF A FELONY OR  
8     MISDEMEANOR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 11-0535 OR 11-0535-A  
9     OF THIS CHAPTER; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO POLICE OFFICER, AS THAT TERM  
10    IS DEFINED UNDER SUBDIVISION THIRTY-FOUR OF SECTION 1.20 OF THE CRIMINAL  
11    PROCEDURE LAW, PEACE OFFICER, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 2.10 OF  
12    THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW, OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT  
13    OFFICER OR OFFICIAL SHALL BE ENTITLED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO  
14    COLLECT OR RECEIVE ANY SUCH REWARD OR PART THEREOF.

15    S 2. Subdivision 13 of section 71-0925 of the environmental conserva-  
16    tion law, as amended by chapter 706 of the laws of 2005, is amended to  
17    read as follows:

18    13. If the violation was an act prohibited by subdivision two of  
19    section 11-0535 or by section 11-0536 of this chapter, or by any lawful  
20    rule or regulation of the department promulgated pursuant thereto, not  
21    more than [two] FOUR thousand dollars, and an additional penalty of not  
22    more than [three] SEVEN hundred [fifty] dollars for each fish, shellf-  
23    ish, crustacea, wildlife or part thereof involved in the violation. If  
24    the violation was an act prohibited by any regulation of the department

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

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1 promulgated pursuant to subdivision three of section 11-0535 of this  
2 chapter, then such penalty shall be not more than [one] TWO thousand  
3 dollars, and an additional penalty of not more than [two] FOUR hundred  
4 dollars for each fish, shellfish, crustacea, wildlife or part thereof  
5 involved in the violation.  
6 S 3. The commissioner of environmental conservation shall inform the  
7 public of the importance of protecting endangered and threatened  
8 species. Such commissioner shall also publicize the laws protecting such  
9 species and the existence of a reward pursuant to section one of this  
10 act.  
11 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.