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2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sens. SERRANO, BRESLIN, DILAN, ESPAILLAT, HASSELL-THOMPSON, KRUEGER, MONTGOMERY, SAMPSON, SANDERS, SAVINO, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to requiring an evaluation of the impacts of the closure of public access to any land owned or operated by the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation

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

1 Section 1. The parks, recreation and historic preservation law is
2 amended by adding a new section 13.14 to read as follows:
3 S 13.14 CLOSURE OF LANDS OWNED, HELD OR ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE. 1.
4 NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO
5 ANY REAL PROPERTY OWNED, HELD OR ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE, THE COMMIS-
6 SIONER SHALL ISSUE A DRAFT REPORT THAT PROVIDES THE JUSTIFICATION AND
7 RATIONAL FOR SUCH CLOSURE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
8 (A) A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY;
9 (B) THE PURPOSES THAT THE REAL PROPERTY SERVES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
10 STATE;
11 (C) A COMPARISON OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CLOSURE VERSUS CONTINUED
12 OPERATION OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO THE STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE
13 PUBLIC;
14 (D) AN ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL HARM TO SUCH REAL PROPERTY FROM
15 VANDALISM, LACK OF MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, AND OTHER IMPACTS FROM
16 THE LACK OF REGULAR OVERSIGHT BY THE OFFICE;
17 (E) THE IMPACT OF SUCH PROPOSED CLOSURE ON THE ENTIRE REAL PROPERTY
18 SYSTEM OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE OFFICE; AND
19 (F) SUCH OTHER FACTORS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO THE REAL
20 PROPERTY AND ITS FUNCTION AS STATE LAND.

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

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1 2. NOT LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PUBLIC
2 ACCESS TO SUCH REAL PROPERTY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE PUBLIC
3 NOTICE OF AND CONDUCT ONE OR MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS, INCLUDING ONE IN THE
4 IMPACTED AREA OF THE PROPOSED CLOSURE. NOTICE OF ANY SUCH HEARING SHALL
5 BE ON A STATEWIDE BASIS, INCLUDING PUBLICATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
6 NOTICE BULLETIN. EACH PUBLIC HEARING SHALL ACCEPT WRITTEN STATEMENTS IN
7 LIEU OF AN ORAL PRESENTATION.
8 3. UPON CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A CLOSURE, THE COMMIS-
9 SIONER SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT WHICH INCLUDES THE RESPONSE ON ALL
10 ISSUES RAISED AT THE HEARINGS AND INFORMATION ENTERED INTO THE HEARING
11 RECORD. SUCH FINAL REPORT SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AND DISTRIBUTED TO
12 THE PUBLIC.
13 4. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ISSUE AND SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE
14 LEGISLATURE A FINDINGS STATEMENT ON EACH PROPOSED CLOSURE THAT PROVIDES
15 THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH CLOSURE OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, THE INFORMA-
16 TION THAT SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE REAL PROPERTY.
17 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.