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

5710

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 29, 2015

Introduced by Sen. BONACIC -- 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 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:

Section 1. Section 9-1709 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3.(A) THE COMMISSIONER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS, AND THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-1705 OF THIS ARTICLE, SHALL DEVELOP A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE THREE NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES PRESENT IN THIS STATE WITH THE HIGHEST INVASIVENESS ASSESSMENT RATINGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO JAPANESE KNOTWEED (REYNOUTRIA JAPONICA, FALLOPIA JAPONICA, AND POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM).

(B) SUCH CAMPAIGN SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, DISTRIBUTING INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO IDENTIFYING SUCH INVASIVE SPECIES AND THE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CONTAINMENT, REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL. AS PART OF THE PROCESS TO DEVELOP THE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS, THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS AND THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SHALL CONDUCT OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS. ONCE CREATED, THE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS SHALL BE MADE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND, AT A MINIMUM SHALL BE PLACED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(C)(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH, NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, AT LEAST TWO FIVE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF REMOVING THE 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.

LBD09808-03-5

SION. AT LEAST ONE OF THE PILOT PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE JAPANESE KNOTWEED. SUCH PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AT A CAMPSITE OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN THE CATSKILL PARK, TOWN OF ROCKLAND, COUNTY OF SULLIVAN.

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

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