STATE OF NEW YORK

368

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

Introduced by Sens. LITTLE, AKSHAR, MARCHIONE, SEWARD, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the wood products development council; and to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to contracts for timber or other forest products

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 225 of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 325 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

2. The council shall work with wood-using manufacturers to increase the economic contributions and employment opportunities related to the practice of forestry and manufacture of wood products in New York state. The council shall give priority to increasing private investment in working forests; maintaining access to working and family forests; coordinating policy and permitting issues with state agencies, academia and the private sector; working to improve public understanding of and appreciation for forestry**, the timber industry** and forest products; and increasing export and market opportunities for New York forest products. The council shall deliver an annual report outlining its work and making recommendations with regard to economic development and marketing initiatives and research and development initiatives consistent with the purposes of the council. The report shall be delivered to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly and the minority leader of the senate.

§ 2. Section 9-0505 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. Notwithstanding subdivision three of section one hundred twelve of the state finance law, if the value or estimated value of the trees,

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

LBD00288-01-7

timber or other forest products does not exceed fifty thousand dollars, the contract may be executed by the department and shall be valid and enforceable without first being approved by the state comptroller and filed in his or her office.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.