

STATE OF NEW YORK

943

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. CROUCH, BARCLAY, FINCH, HAWLEY, MONTESANO, PALMESANO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the general municipal law, in relation to authorizing and directing the establishment of a stream maintenance and flood control program as a local option for counties

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

1 Section 1. Section 15-0501 of the environmental conservation law is
2 amended by adding a new subdivision 6-a to read as follows:

3 6-a. No permit under this section shall be required for stream maintenance and flood control activities conducted in furtherance of a stream
4 maintenance and flood control plan approved in accordance with the
5 provisions of subdivision two of section 16-0111 of this chapter.

6
7 § 2. Section 15-0505 of the environmental conservation law is amended
8 by adding a new subdivision 4-a to read as follows:

9 4-a. No permit under this section shall be required for stream maintenance and flood control activities conducted in furtherance of a stream
10 maintenance and flood control plan approved in accordance with the
11 provisions of subdivision two of section 16-0111 of this chapter.

12
13 § 3. Section 16-0111 of the environmental conservation law, as added
14 by chapter 727 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as follows:

15 § 16-0111. Powers and duties of commissioner.

16 1. The commissioner is hereby authorized and directed for and in
17 behalf of the state to carry out the state's participation in a federal
18 program of flood control, to sign all necessary agreements, and to do
19 and perform all necessary acts in connection therewith to consummate the
20 intent and purpose running with the approval by the federal government
21 of flood control projects in New York state and the allotment of moneys
22 for such projects, if, as and when made by the federal government. [~~He~~]

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

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1 The commissioner is authorized and empowered, notwithstanding any other
2 law of this state, to carry out the provisions of this act and to
3 perform and do such other and further acts not hereby specifically
4 provided in this act as may be necessary to carry out the projects
5 [~~herein~~] authorized under this article and so as to conform with the act
6 and rules, regulations and requirements of the federal government made
7 to govern the expenditures. Work may be carried out by contract or by
8 department forces or by a combination of these two methods. However, if
9 the commissioner deems it to be in the interest of the public, [~~he~~] the
10 commissioner may agree with a municipal corporation affected by such
11 work, to have its contractor or its forces and equipment perform such
12 work, upon such terms as the commissioner may deem advantageous to the
13 state. The commissioner shall exercise [~~his~~] any powers and duties with
14 respect to the said flood control projects in a manner that will comply
15 with any act of congress applicable thereto and any rules and regu-
16 lations made and promulgated by virtue thereof.

17 2. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the director of the
18 state emergency management office and local soil and water conservation
19 districts, is authorized and directed to establish a stream maintenance
20 and flood control program. The local governing body of a county may
21 elect to pass a local law providing a local option into such program. If
22 such local option is adopted, such county shall consult with the depart-
23 ment, the state emergency management office, the appropriate local soil
24 and water conservation districts and such other persons and organiza-
25 tions with expertise in the field of stream maintenance and flood
26 control as may be necessary or appropriate to assure the development of
27 the stream maintenance and flood control plan.

28 (b) Such plan shall take into account weather patterns, an analysis of
29 existing conditions and any hydrological data necessary to establish a
30 schedule of specific short and long term stream maintenance and/or
31 reclamation activities designed to prevent flooding while simultaneously
32 improving aquatic habitat in the subject county waterways.

33 (c) Upon the completion of the plan, the department shall have thirty
34 days to approve it or provide an alternative recommendation. Once the
35 final plan is approved by the department, the stream maintenance and
36 flood control activities scheduled in the plan shall commence immediat-
37 ly. The county shall be responsible for performing the work outlined in
38 the plan, however, a county may contract with a town, village, soil and
39 water conservation district or independent contractor, as necessary, to
40 execute the required maintenance activities. Where the maintenance
41 activities in the plan are intended to occur on private property, the
42 county, town, village, soil and water conservation district or independ-
43 ent contractor performing the work shall notify the affected property
44 owner and request permission to enter the property and perform the sche-
45 duled maintenance. Such work may be done without permission of the prop-
46 erty owner upon a finding by the local governing body of the county,
47 town or village, where the property is situated, that failure to make
48 such repairs poses an unwarranted risk to the health, safety or welfare
49 of the residents of such county, town or village. Any county, town,
50 village or soil and water conservation district taking such action shall
51 consider the impacts upstream and downstream of where the stream mainte-
52 nance and flood control is to be performed. Funding for any stream
53 maintenance and flood control activities shall be made available from
54 the monies appropriated to the environmental protection fund established
55 pursuant to section ninety-two-s of the state finance law.

1 § 4. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section
2 120-dd to read as follows:

3 § 120-dd. Stream maintenance and flood control by localities. A coun-
4 ty, town, village or soil and water conservation district acting pursu-
5 ant to a stream maintenance and flood control plan established under
6 subdivision two of section 16-0111 of the environmental conservation law
7 shall be authorized to engage in stream maintenance and flood control
8 activities which are necessary for the protection of the public health
9 and safety. Where the maintenance activities in the plan are intended to
10 occur on private property, the county, town, village or soil and water
11 conservation district performing the work shall notify the affected
12 property owner and request permission to enter the property and perform
13 the scheduled work. Such work may be done without permission of the
14 property owner upon a finding by the local governing body of the county,
15 town or village, where the property is situated, that failure to make
16 such repairs poses an unwarranted risk to the health, safety or welfare
17 of the residents of such county, town or village. Any county, town,
18 village or soil and water conservation district taking such action shall
19 consider the impacts upstream and downstream of where the stream mainte-
20 nance and flood control is to be performed.

21 § 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
22 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
23 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
24 tation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made on or
25 before such effective date.