STATE OF NEW YORK

4082

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 27, 2019

Introduced by Sen. SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to eligibility of privately owned forest land for a real property tax exemption

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

Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 480-a of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 428 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

(e) "Eligible tract" shall mean a tract of privately owned forest land of at least [~~fifty~~] **twenty-five** contiguous acres, exclusive of any portion thereof not devoted to the production of forest crops**, timber, pulp, biomass, low-grade wood products, wildlife, fruits or mushrooms**. Lands divided by federal, state, county or town roads, easements or rights-of-way, or energy transmission corridors or similar facilities will be considered contiguous for purposes of this section, unless vehicular access for forest management purposes is precluded. Lands from which a merchantable forest crop has been cut or removed within three years prior to the time of application for certification under this section will be ineligible unless such cutting or removal was accomplished under a forest management [~~program~~] **plan** designed to provide for the continuing production of merchantable forest crops.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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