

STATE OF NEW YORK

4876

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 28, 2019

Introduced by Sen. METZGER -- 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 including the Asian longhorned tick on the invasive species list; and the agriculture and markets law, in relation to requiring the preparation of recommendations for best practices in treating livestock and farm properties for Asian longhorned tick treatment, prevention, and management

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

1 Section 1. Legislative Findings. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that the introduction of the Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphys-*
3 *alis longicornis*) represents a significant threat to New York live-
4 stock. The Asian longhorned tick is the first new invasive species of
5 ticks to enter the United States in 50 years. It is currently found in
6 eight states including parts of New York. As the climate continues to
7 warm, their geographic reach will continue to expand across the Eastern
8 seaboard. The Asian longhorned tick can rapidly reproduce asexually,
9 laying thousands of eggs at a time allowing for rapid proliferation.
10 They are attracted to and can transmit diseases to livestock such as
11 sheep, cattle, and horses. In Asia, the species carries a virus that
12 kills 15 percent of victims through hemorrhaging, organ failure, and
13 blood loss. The legislature hereby declares that due to the significant
14 risks of the Asian longhorned tick to the livestock industry, farmers
15 need to be made aware of the dangers presented by the Asian longhorned
16 tick. Therefore, the legislature seeks to provide farmers with a reli-
17 able source of information to turn to when looking for answers on how to
18 best protect their livestock and farm properties.

19 § 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
20 section 9-1711 to read as follows:

21 § 9-1711. Asian longhorned tick.

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

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1 The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of the depart-
2 ment of agriculture and markets, shall add the Asian longhorned tick to
3 the state invasive species list and include the Asian longhorned tick in
4 the comprehensive plan for invasive species management pursuant to
5 section 9-1705 of this title, and wherever practical, prohibit and
6 actively eliminate or otherwise control the invasive species the Asian
7 longhorned tick at project sites funded or regulated by the state in
8 collaboration with the council, aid in the review and reform of relevant
9 regulatory processes to remove unnecessary impediments to the restora-
10 tion of invaded ecosystems, and include information on the Asian long-
11 horned tick on statewide databases and clearinghouses that incorporates
12 existing data from agencies and organizations in the state, as well as
13 from nearby states, provinces, Canada, and the federal government.

14 § 3. Section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by
15 adding a new subdivision 50 to read as follows:

16 50. To develop, in consultation with the commissioner of the depart-
17 ment of health, best-practice recommendations for treatment, prevention
18 and management of livestock and farm property against Asian longhorned
19 ticks. Such recommendations shall be based upon scientific data and
20 shall include, but not be limited to, the use of landscape techniques
21 demonstrated to be safe for livestock, people, pets and the environment,
22 methods to discourage rodent activity, and the use of effective active
23 ingredients, as defined in subdivision one of section 33-0101 of the
24 environmental conservation law, including usage information and any
25 label warnings or caution statements. The commissioner, in consultation
26 with the New York state land grant university, shall develop and
27 distribute to farmers a pamphlet on Asian longhorned tick treatment,
28 management, and prevention. Such pamphlet and recommendations shall
29 also be made available on the department's website.

30 § 4. This act shall take effect on the fifteenth of April next
31 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective imme-
32 diately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
33 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
34 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.