STATE OF NEW YORK

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2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 25, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. JONES, WOERNER, GOTTFRIED, OTIS, THIELE, GLICK, STEC, SIMON, SMULLEN, QUART, BURKE, ORTIZ, JAFFEE, WALCZYK, RYAN, D'URSO, McDONALD -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GALEF, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to establish the Adirondack road salt reduction task force, pilot plan and test program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Randy Preston road salt reduction act".

§ 2. 1. There is hereby established an Adirondack road salt reduction task force, hereinafter referred to as the "task force", to conduct a comprehensive review of road salt contamination and road management best practices within the Adirondack park. Such task force shall consist of fourteen members which shall include the commissioner of transportation or their designee, the commissioner of environmental conservation or their designee, the commissioner of health or their designee, the executive director of the Adirondack park agency or their designee, and ten other members to be appointed by the governor as follows: two upon the recommendation of the temporary president of the senate, two upon the recommendation of the speaker of the assembly, one upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the senate, one upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the assembly, and four without recommendation from any other person.

2. Task force members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, to the extent funds are appropriated

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

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for such purpose. The commissioner of environmental conservation and the commissioner of transportation shall serve as joint chairs of the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of any power or function of the task force. Any vacancies on the task force shall be filled in the manner provided for in the initial appointment.

3. The task force shall be authorized to hold public hearings and meetings, and to consult with any organization, educational institution, or other government entity or person, to enable it to accomplish its duties. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the task force may request and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state or any state public authority such assistance, information and data as will enable the task force to properly carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

4. The task force shall undertake a review and assessment of road salt contamination within the Adirondack park, assess current department of transportation policies and practices with respect to state roadway management in winter weather within the Adirondack park, and roadway management best practices. This review and assessment shall take into consideration the best available science concerning road salt contamination and the nature, scope and magnitude of associated impacts to surface and ground waters, public and private lands, property and infrastructure.

5. The task force shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chairs of the senate committees on transportation, environmental conservation and health, and the chairs of the assembly committees on transportation, environmental conservation and health, on or before September first, two thousand twenty-one, a report containing:

(a) findings of an initial assessment of the nature, scope and magnitude of associated impacts of road salt on surface and ground waters, public and private lands, property, health and infrastructure in the Adirondack park;

(b) a review of current state road management practices and levels of service for state and local roadways in the Adirondack park;

(c) recommendations for state and local governments and the public with respect to:

i. enhancement of winter road maintenance levels of service and best management practices and road salt reduction techniques to reduce road salt contamination of surface and ground waters in the Adirondack park;

ii. methods for rapid response to surface and groundwater contamination in the Adirondack park with the intent to minimize impacts for homeowners;

iii. establishment of a training program for state and local winter road maintenance workers; and

iv. advancement of a public education campaign to inform the public about road salt contamination and how the public can reduce the need for road salt;

(d) a calculation of the average amount of road salt applied on state roadways annually for the years 2008 through 2018 in the Adirondack park between October and April of each winter road management season to serve as a baseline amount;

(e) recommendations for a publicly accessible record-keeping database system for road salt purchases and applications within the Adirondack park;

(f) recommendations for road salt reduction targets for the Adirondack park to guide the department of transportation, department of health, and department of environmental conservation in measurably reducing sodium and chloride levels in surface and ground waters; and

(g) recommendations for an Adirondack park road salt reduction pilot plan and test program including monitoring and operational plan goals, objectives, and activities to be implemented pursuant to section three of this act.

§ 3. 1. There is hereby established an Adirondack park road salt reduction pilot plan and test program to be conducted by the department of transportation, in cooperation with the department of environmental conservation, between October 15 and June 30 each year beginning 2021 through 2024, to test best management practices, updated levels of service, and overall road salt reduction targets within the Adirondack park. The pilot plan and test shall be implemented on all state-owned roadways within the boundary of the Adirondack park.

2. For the duration of the pilot plan and test, the department of transportation and department of environmental conservation shall test a variety of application techniques and road management strategies within the Adirondack park, and shall issue a report on the effectiveness of such techniques and strategies which shall include the resulting impacts on water quality and state roadway levels of service for each technique and strategy. The techniques and strategies employed shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) varying application methods, rates and frequencies with the intent to measurably reduce road salt applied to state roadways within the Adirondack park. This shall include test comparisons of applications consisting primarily of abrasives and applications consisting primarily of deicers, especially anti-icing and deicing brines;

(b) implementation of well-established best practices such as cutting back the canopy where legal and appropriate, and pre-wetting abrasives or solid deicers;

(c) use of the best available technology and equipment for winter road management;

(d) changes to traffic management when weather events make road conditions hazardous;

(e) monitoring of water quality of surface and ground waters on downhill slopes of state roadways in the Adirondack park;

(f) monitoring of road conditions along state roadways within the Adirondack park;

(g) monitoring of truck operators using post-trip reporting;

(h) tracking of weather-related crash rates on state roadways within the Adirondack park; and

(i) the conducting of a public education and outreach campaign to inform Adirondack park residents and visitors of changes to winter road maintenance practices and engaging the public in changing behaviors to support road salt reduction efforts.

3. Following the completion of the pilot plan and test, the department of transportation and department of environmental conservation shall submit a summary report to the governor, temporary president of the senate, and speaker of the assembly by August 30, 2024, of the results of such pilot plan and test, including the identification of effective and ineffective techniques for winter road maintenance and revised levels of service in the Adirondack park.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31, 2024.