STATE OF NEW YORK

4247

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 1, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, OTIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT establishing the Adirondack Park forest preserve study commission to examine land-management practices for certain classifications of state forest preserve lands; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Adirondack Park forest preserve study commission. 1. There is hereby established, within the department of environmental conservation, a forest preserve study commission ("commission") which shall consist of thirteen members who shall be appointed as follows:

(a) The commissioner of environmental conservation, or his or her designee;

(b) The commissioner of the office of general services, or his or her designee;

(c) The chair of the Adirondack park agency, or his or her designee;

(d) Two members to be appointed by the governor;

(e) Three members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(f) Three members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(g) One member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

(h) One member to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

2. Of the at-large members, three of such members shall be elected officials from a municipality within the Adirondack Park. The remaining at-large members shall include residents of a municipality within the Adirondack Park and representatives of organizations whose prime function is the protection of natural resources within the Adirondack Park.

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

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3. Commission members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

4. The chairperson of the commission shall be the commissioner of environmental conservation, or his or her designee. The commission shall meet no less than four times and at other times at the call of the chairperson and any such meetings shall be subject to the open meetings law.

5. Any vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for in the initial appointment.

6. The commission shall be authorized to hold public hearings and meetings to enable it to accomplish its duties.

7. The commission may consult with any organization, educational institution, other government entity or agency in the development of its report required by subdivision ten of this section.

8. The department of environmental conservation shall provide the commission with such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the commission to carry out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other agencies of the state or political subdivisions thereof may, at the request of the chairperson, provide the commission with such facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the commission to carry out its powers and duties.

9. The purpose of the commission shall be to examine existing land-use management practices for certain classifications of state forest preserve lands, to identify problematic human modified or altered sites, roads, built structures, or infrastructure that needs rehabilitation, remediation, or removal to become more in keeping with the constitutional purposes of the Adirondack Park.

10. (a) No later than December 31, 2023, the commission shall transmit to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly a report providing an inventory and property-specific description of forest preserve lands:

(i) classified as state administrative that contain existing buildings;

(ii) with buildings listed on the national register of historic places and any buildings constructed prior to 1968; and

(iii) currently without a state land master plan classification, and a description of any buildings on such land.

(b) The report shall provide the following for the properties identified pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision:

(i) the status of any unit management plan;

(ii) a map of the management units delineating the boundaries of the properties;

(iii) an inventory of natural resources, including plants, fish and wildlife, water resources, wetlands, soils, and rare, threatened and endangered species and historic and archeological resources; and

(iv) an inventory of existing infrastructure, including structures, roads, trails, and other man-made features.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed January 1, 2024.