STATE OF NEW YORK

7638

IN SENATE

January 5, 2022

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- 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 authorizing and directing the department of environmental conservation to conduct a study of the overall health of each watershed in the state

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

Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new section 15-0518 to read as follows:

§ 15-0518. Watershed study.

1. The department is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a study of the overall health of each watershed in the state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to the following attributes of each watershed in the state:

a. hydrology;

b. landscape condition;

c. habitat condition;

d. geomorphology;

e. water quality;

f. biological condition, including but not limited to the biodiversity of plants, animals and aquatic species; and

g. threats to or vulnerabilities of the watershed that impact the attributes prescribed by this subdivision.

2. The department may consult with any state or local office, agency, department or political subdivision of this state that has information relevant to the completion of this study and report.

3. On or before December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-four and triennial thereafter, the department shall deliver a report of the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision one of this section and any recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate standing committee on environmental conservation and the chair of the assembly standing committee on environmental conservation.

§ 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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