

STATE OF NEW YORK

9213

IN ASSEMBLY

February 16, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the navigation law, in relation to financial responsibility for the liability of a major facility or vessel

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 3 of section 181 of the navigation law, as amended by chapter 584 of the laws of 1992 and subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) as amended by chapter 585 of the laws of 1992 and as further amended by section 104 of part A of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended and a new paragraph (f) is added to read as follows:

2 (e) (i) The owner or operator of a major facility or a vessel shall establish and maintain with the department evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the amount of liability established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision. A person may not cause or permit the operation of a major facility or vessel in the state until the person has furnished to the department, and the department has approved such evidence. The owner or operator of any vessel which demonstrates financial responsibility pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), shall be deemed to have demonstrated financial responsibility in accordance with this paragraph.

3 (ii) [~~The commissioner in consultation with the superintendent of financial services may promulgate regulations requiring the owner or operator of a major facility other than a vessel to establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility in an amount not to exceed twenty-five dollars, per incident, for each barrel of total petroleum storage capacity at the facility, subject to a maximum of one million dollars per incident per facility in an aggregate not to exceed two million dollars per facility per year; provided, however, that if the owner or operator establishes to the satisfaction of the commissioner that a lesser amount will be sufficient to protect the environment and public health, safety and welfare, the commissioner shall accept evidence of financial responsibility in such lesser amount. In determining the sufficiency of the amount of financial responsibility required~~]

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

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~~1 under this section, the commissioner and the superintendent of financial
2 services shall take into consideration facility size, storage capacity,
3 throughput, proximity to environmentally sensitive areas, type of petro-
4 leum handled, and other factors relevant to the risks posed by the class
5 or category of facility, as well as the availability and affordability
6 of pollution liability insurance. Any regulations promulgated pursuant
7 to this subparagraph shall not take effect until forty-eight months
8 after the effective date of this section.~~

9 (iii) Financial responsibility under this paragraph may be estab-
10 lished by any one or a combination of the following methods acceptable
11 to the commissioner in consultation with the superintendent of financial
12 services: evidence of insurance, surety bonds, guarantee, letter of
13 credit, qualification as a self-insurer, or other evidence of financial
14 responsibility, including certifications which qualify under the Federal
15 Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

16 ~~(iv)~~ (iii) The liability of a third-party insurer providing proof of
17 financial responsibility on behalf of a person required to establish and
18 maintain evidence of financial responsibility under this section is
19 limited to the type of risk assumed and the amount of coverage specified
20 in the proof of financial responsibility furnished to and approved by
21 the department. For the purposes of this section, the term "third-party
22 insurer" means a third-party insurer, surety, guarantor, person furnish-
23 ing a letter of credit, or other group or person providing proof of
24 financial responsibility on behalf of another person; it does not
25 include the person required to establish and maintain evidence of such
26 financial responsibility.

27 (f) (i) Acceptance of proof of financial responsibility shall expire:

28 (1) one year from its issuance for self-insurance;

29 (2) on the effective date of a change in the surety bond, guarantee,
30 insurance agreement, letter of credit, or other proof of financial
31 responsibility; or

32 (3) on the expiration or cancellation of the surety bond, guarantee,
33 insurance agreement, letter of credit, or other proof of financial
34 responsibility.

35 (ii) The person whose proof of financial responsibility is accepted by
36 the department under this section shall notify the department at least
37 thirty days before the effective date of a change, expiration or cancel-
38 lation in the surety bond, guarantee, insurance agreement, letter of
39 credit, or other proof of financial responsibility. Application for
40 renewal of acceptance of proof of financial responsibility under this
41 section must be filed at least thirty days before the date of expira-
42 tion.

43 (iii) The department, after notice and hearing, may revoke acceptance
44 of proof of financial responsibility if it determines that:

45 (1) acceptance was procured by fraud or misrepresentation; or

46 (2) a change of circumstance has occurred other than a change speci-
47 fied in clauses one through three of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph,
48 which would have warranted denial of the application.

49 (iv) Upon acceptance and approval of proof of financial responsibility
50 under this section, the department shall issue to the applicant a
51 certificate stating that the state's financial responsibility require-
52 ments have been satisfied. The certificate must include the name of the
53 major facility, vessel, or pipeline for which it is issued and the expi-
54 ration date of the certificate.

55 § 2. The navigation law is amended by adding a new section 181-f to
56 read as follows:

1 § 181-f. Railroad financial preparedness. 1. The department shall
2 annually require a railroad company that transports crude oil in the
3 state to submit information relating to the railroad company's ability
4 to pay in the event of a discharge involving the transport of crude oil.
5 The information submitted to the department must include a statement of
6 whether the railroad has the ability to pay for discharges resulting
7 from a reasonable worst case discharge as determined by the department
8 pursuant to rules and regulations. For the purposes of this section:

9 a. "Crude oil" shall mean any naturally occurring hydrocarbons coming
10 from the earth that are liquid at twenty-five degrees Celsius and one
11 atmosphere of pressure including, but not limited to, crude oil, bitumen
12 and diluted bitumen, synthetic crude oil, and natural gas well conden-
13 sate.

14 b. "Railroad" shall have the same meaning as provided in subdivision
15 twenty-four of section two of the transportation law.

16 c. "Railroad company" shall have the same meaning as provided in
17 subdivision twenty-five of section two of the transportation law.

18 d. "Street railroad" shall have the same meaning as provided in subdi-
19 vision twenty-nine of section two of the transportation law.

20 2. The department shall make such information available on its public
21 website not later than February first of each year. In addition, the
22 department shall also provide recommendations to the legislature on how
23 to address any financial deficiencies identified by railroad companies.

24 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
25 it shall have become a law.