STATE OF NEW YORK

5813

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 17, 2023

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 declaring the waters of the state as public trust resources

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

Section 1. Subdivision 13 of section 15-0103 of the environmental conservation law is amended to read as follows:

13. **All the waters of this state are deemed to be public trust resources. The waters of the state are valuable public natural resources and this state has a duty as trustee to conserve and manage its waters effectively for the use and enjoyment of present and future inhabitants and for the protection of the environment.** It is in the best interest of the state that provision be made for the regulation and supervision of activities that deplete, defile, damage or otherwise adversely affect the waters of the state and land resources associated therewith.

§ 2. The opening paragraph of section 15-0105 of the environmental conservation law is amended to read as follows:

In recognition **that the waters of the state are public trust resources, and in recognition** of its sovereign duty to conserve and control its water resources for the benefit of all inhabitants of the state, it is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state of New York that:

§ 3. 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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