STATE OF NEW YORK

7377

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. STIRPE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the canal law, in relation to establishing a stakeholder group to coordinate water release in the Oswego river basin

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

Section 1. The canal law is amended by adding a new section 130-a to read as follows:

§ 130-a. Oswego river basin water release coordination. 1. The corporation, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, shall, within six months of the effective date of this section, form a stakeholder group to evaluate approaches to coordinating water releases in the Oswego river basin. Such stakeholder group shall include all entities with the ability or responsibility to control flood water discharges either directly to or from major water bodies within the Oswego river basin and their tributaries, community stakeholder groups, the department of environmental conservation, and subject matter experts.

2. The stakeholder group shall review all available information regarding utilizing flood storage above lake rule curves, and watershed releases during high flow events, in the Oswego river basin, including any relevant modeling. Within six months of the formation of the stakeholder group, the stakeholder group shall make recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on a regulatory structure to coordinate communication and water releases during high flow events. In making such recommendations, the stakeholder group shall consider a variety of alternatives, including but not limited to:

(a) recommending a continuation, expansion, or reconstitution of the stakeholder group for such purpose;

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

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(b) recommending a legislative mandate for coordination of water releases; or

(c) recommending the legislature initiate an independent water regulating district with the authority to direct water releases pursuant to title twenty-one of article fifteen of the environmental conservation law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.