STATE OF NEW YORK

10978

IN ASSEMBLY

April 14, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. HYNDMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to continuing the New York state geological survey as a bureau within the New York state science service

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 235-c to read as follows:

§ 235-c. New York state geological survey. 1. The New York state geological survey, originally established in the year eighteen hundred thirty-six, is hereby continued as a bureau established in the New York state science service established under section two hundred thirty-five of this part within the state museum to inventory, research, analyze and disseminate information about all rocks, minerals, geologic structures, strata, geologic fluids and energy resources and the geologic framework of New York state. The New York state geological survey shall:

(a) develop and maintain an inventory of the geological resources of New York state, with special emphasis on identifying those resources that are important to understanding the geological history, geologic framework, geologic hazards and potential strata, rocks and minerals of economic significance, or that have particular scientific, systematic, or societal and environmental importance;

(b) conduct research on and advance the knowledge of the geological materials, chronologic events, plate tectonic history, glacial history and characteristics and processes that constitute or affect New York state's geological framework and landscape;

(c) interpret and publish the results of research on New York state's geological history, resources, and provide advisory services thereby making information available to citizens, teachers, industry, and government for educational purposes and for use in decision making;

(d) ensure the preservation and appropriate expansion of the state's collection of scientific specimens and artifacts, conduct research on such collections, and make specimens and data available for mineral

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

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resource studies, geologic hazards analyses, and other research projects;

(e) cooperate with the department of environmental conservation, office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, department of transportation, and other state and federal agencies, private organizations and institutions, corporations, and individuals interested in geological resources; and

(f) maintain sufficient staff with geological expertise to effectively map, study, research, and curate to provide advisory services and remain knowledgeable on all aspects of the geology of New York state.

2. The New York state geological survey shall be the recognized authoritative bureau within New York state government to produce geological maps. Map production shall occur under the direction of a licensed professional geologist serving as the chief geoscientist. The New York state geological survey shall produce geological maps and conduct geological mapping projects that align with the following goals:

(a) addressing longstanding questions regarding the natural history of New York state and aligning with the research mission of the state museum;

(b) engaging in the discovery, characterization, and inventory of mineral resources;

(c) providing geologic information to protect and preserve the property and livelihood of New York state citizens, the state and industry;

(d) addressing potential geologic hazards associated with climate change;

(e) fostering continued education and training for future geoscientists and providing an authoritative source of geologic information for licensed professional geologists;

(f) raising the knowledge and opportunity for citizens to engage in geoscience literacy;

(g) identifying potential aggregate, building and construction resources to serve as raw materials to build, maintain, and repair aging infrastructure;

(h) characterizing the geologic framework of the state to identify and protect water resources;

(i) aligning with the state's renewable energy goals; and

(j) leading to the discovery of new scientific information and data to promote and enhance the earth science education curriculum in K-12 schools.

3. The New York state geological survey shall not be authorized to enter any privately owned lands without the written consent of the landowner, lessee, or person in control. The New York state geological survey shall be authorized to enter into agreements with landowners to enter private lands on such terms as may be acceptable.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.