



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 1078

LCO No. 4171

04171_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BI-STATE LONG ISLAND SOUND COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The General Assembly
2 hereby finds that Long Island Sound is a precious and sensitive natural
3 resource providing the states of Connecticut and New York with a
4 source of environmental beauty, marine resources, transportation,
5 industry and recreation. Said states share ownership and stewardship
6 of Long Island Sound. Decisions of one state may impact directly or
7 indirectly on the residents of the other state. Significant projects may
8 require approval from state or local agencies in both states. Proposed
9 projects to address energy supply and energy demand of both states
10 potentially affect Long Island Sound. Cooperative planning to address
11 such energy supply and demand would greatly reduce the impact of
12 such proposed projects on Long Island Sound. The waters and
13 industrial uses of the lower Hudson River Valley similarly affect the
14 quality of Long Island Sound.

15 (b) There is established a Bi-State Long Island Sound Commission.
16 Said commission shall consist of fourteen members, seven of whom

17 shall be residents of Connecticut and seven of whom shall be residents
18 of New York. The Connecticut members shall be appointed to two-
19 year terms as follows: One appointed by the Governor, one appointed
20 by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one appointed by the
21 majority leader of the Senate and one appointed by the minority leader
22 of the Senate, one appointed by the speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
24 Representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the
25 House of Representatives. The Governors of the states of Connecticut
26 and New York, or their designees, shall be cochairpersons of said
27 commission, ex officio, unless the commission members select other
28 chairpersons by majority vote. In no event shall the cochairpersons be
29 from the same state.

30 (c) Said commission shall (1) review and consider major
31 environmental, ecological and energy issues involving Long Island
32 Sound and the lower Hudson River Valley, (2) seek consensus on
33 strategies and policies concerning such issues, and (3) make
34 recommendations for administrative and legislative action to
35 implement such strategies and policies. Said commission shall meet
36 not later than October 1, 2009, and not less than quarterly thereafter, at
37 a time, date and place to be determined by the cochairpersons.

38 (d) Said commission shall be within the Department of
39 Environmental Protection for administrative purposes only, and the
40 expenses for said commission shall be borne equally by the states of
41 Connecticut and New York.

42 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supplant or
43 supercede any statutory or regulatory authority of any state or
44 municipal agency concerning projects, policies or activities of said
45 commission.

46 (f) The provisions of this section shall take effect upon enactment by
47 the State of New York of legislation having like effect.

48 Sec. 2. Sections 25-138 to 25-142, inclusive, of the general statutes are
49 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2009*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To repeal the Bi-State Long Island Sound Marine Resources Committee and to establish a Bi-State Long Island Sound Commission.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]