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P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 65, *approved April 7, 1997*
Senate, No. 1264 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing an interdepartmental ecotourism task force
2 ¹[and],¹ supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes¹, and
3 making an appropriation¹.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. There is established within the Department of Environmental
9 Protection the "Ecotourism Development and Strategic Planning Task
10 ¹[Force,] Force,"¹ hereinafter referred to as the "task force."

11 b. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the
12 Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, the
13 Commissioner of Transportation, and the Secretary of Agriculture
14 shall each appoint three employees of their respective departments to
15 the task force. Each member of the task force shall be a person of
16 recognized ability and experience in one or more of the following
17 areas: parks management, natural resource protection, forestry,
18 wildlife conservation, economic development, small business attraction
19 and retention, marketing, tourism, agri-business, and road and trail
20 building. The commissioners together shall select the chairperson and
21 vice-chairperson of the task force from among its members. The task
22 force shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the
23 appointment of its members.

24 c. The task force shall meet regularly as it may determine, and shall
25 also meet at the call of the chairperson of the task force.

26 d. A majority of the membership of the task force shall constitute
27 a quorum for the transaction of task force business. Action may be
28 taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the task force at any
29 meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of a majority of the
30 membership of the task force in attendance at the meeting.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SNR committee amendments adopted June 6, 1996.

1 e. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
2 itself of the services of such employees of any State, county, or
3 municipal department, authority, board, bureau, commission, agency,
4 or entity, or of Rutgers, The State University or any other public
5 institution of higher education in the State, as it may require and as
6 may be available to it for the purpose of carrying out its duties under
7 this act.

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9 2. It shall be the duty of the task force to:

10 a. Identify existing and potential natural, historic and cultural
11 resources that could be promoted as ecotourism destinations;

12 b. Evaluate and assess the measures recommended to be taken to
13 ensure that the promotion of a resource identified pursuant to
14 subsection a. of this section results in the preservation and increased
15 protection of the resource, which shall include, but need not be limited
16 to, any appropriate private, public or volunteer enforcement function,
17 the creation or enhancement of educational or interpretive facilities or
18 programs, and the coordination with local communities with regard to
19 the resource management strategy to be employed;

20 c. Evaluate and assess the capacity of the resources identified
21 pursuant to subsection a. of this section to accommodate tourism-
22 related development and activities, which shall include, but need not
23 be limited to, the creation or enhancement of transportation or other
24 infrastructure, tourist visitation, and small business development;

25 d. Investigate methods for funding the costs of ecotourism
26 promotion and development as well as resource preservation, including
27 the use of volunteers, soliciting private financial support, providing
28 departmental educational and technical assistance for interested public,
29 nonprofit, and private entities, and establishing collaborative
30 relationships between State agencies, the tourism industry and local
31 communities; ¹[and]¹

32 e. Hold such public hearings as it may deem necessary to solicit
33 public input on the matters set forth in this section¹; and

34 f. Consult with the Pinelands Commission when implementing
35 subsections a. through d. of this section in the pinelands area
36 designated pursuant to section 10 of P.L. 1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-11)¹.
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38 3. The task force shall report its findings and conclusions and any
39 recommendations for legislative or administrative action to the
40 Governor, the Legislature, the Commissioner of Environmental
41 Protection, the Commissioner of Commerce and Economic
42 Development, the Commissioner of Transportation, the Secretary of
43 Agriculture, and the public within one year of the effective date of this
44 act, whereupon the task force shall dissolve.

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46 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Ecotourism

1 Development and Strategic Planning Task Force established pursuant
2 to this act the sum of \$25,000 to meet the administrative costs of the
3 task force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this act.

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5 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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10 Establishes Ecotourism Development and Strategic Planning Task
11 Force.