



Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

New York Association of Conservation Districts

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2011 Proposed Legislation to Strengthen Soil & Water Conservation Districts

S. 2839/A.3555: Referred to EnCon Committee

Modifications to the State Soil & Water Conservation Law to Legitimize District Programs:

Breadth and scope of SWCDs operations has outpaced various sections of District Law

- **Recognize Conservation Education as a role of the SWCDs**
 - 20% of the State's SWCDs already have Environmental Educators on staff
 - Adding Conservation Education to District Law will provide legislative authority to SWCDs for providing this service, therefore, recognizing conservation education as a practice that can stand alone in the protection of natural resources
 - Will legitimize programs, and the value of education that cannot be understated as important tool in preserving and protecting NY's soil, water and other natural resources.
- **Recognize the role of SWCDs in controlling and mitigating the spread of invasive species**
 - Include invasive species control as an authority of SWCDs
 - Giving Districts formal authority to mitigate and control the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species will provide another tool for Districts to preserve and improve watershed quality to protect valuable drinking water supplies while enhancing recreational opportunities.



Fiscal impact: none

S. 2840/A.3556: Referred to EnCon Committee

Proposed Changes to the Environmental Conservation Law: Ocean & Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act

Amend Article 14 to recognize the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) as a full NY Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council Member as per recommendation of the Ecosystem Based Management report (EBM) entitled, "Our Waters, Our Communities, Our Future."

- *A no cost legislative action item.* The SWCC provides direct guidance to the 58 SWCDs, and has specific EBM principles within its legislative charge. The SWCC administers programs that directly affect our natural resources, with the SWCDs as the local delivery system. Expansion of the Council offers a practical means for integration of EBM at the local level.

Fiscal impact: none

S.2838: Referred to Finance/ A.3557 Referred to EnCon Committee

Proposed Change to NYS Executive Law: Article 42: Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas & Inland Waterways

Change the law to allow Districts to be eligible applicants for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant Program (LWRP) administered by the NYS Department of State (DOS).



- Currently, only eligible applicants are municipalities while the LWRP program has many categories which fall within the scope of SWCDs. While SWCDs are working with DOS on this grant program, they must go thru the municipalities, which slows down implementation of projects and increases costs.
- SWCDs as eligible applicants, would allow DOS to work with one entity instead of many municipalities.
- **Fiscal impact: none**

NYACD is a nongovernmental, nonpartisan, volunteer organization with over 50 years of experience representing NYS's 58 Soil & Water Conservation Districts, including the 5 boroughs of New York City. To contact the local SWCD in your county, visit nyacd.org for a complete listing of Districts.