

VETO MESSAGE:

VETO MESSAGE - No. 93

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Assembly Bill Number 9317-B, entitled:

"AN ACT to create a task force on multi-use trails"

NOT APPROVED

This bill would establish a "Multi-Use Trails Initiative Task Force" ("Task Force") that would create a plan or the development of a comprehensive statewide system of multi-use trails. The plan would include: (1) a vision for a statewide network of primary corridors linked to and enhanced by regional and local multi-use trails, including goals for geographic distribution of trails, universal accessibility to trails, and new trail acquisition and development; (2) a geographic information system inventory of existing and planned multi-use trails; (3) a listing of multi-use trail opportunities; (4) multi-use trail recommendations, including but not limited to acquisition and development priorities, guidelines for trail design and maintenance, guidelines for wayfinding, marketing and interpretive signs and informational resources; and (5) recommendations for funding the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and promotion of multi-use trails and implementation.

The bill requires the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health and Transportation and "any other state agencies, departments, public authorities or programs with relevant expertise or resources" to furnish the Task Force with "such facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and duties," and directs OPRHP to implement the plan "provided the costs of implementation have been appropriated or identified by" the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (the "Parks Commissioner").

While the purpose of this legislation is commendable, I am nevertheless constrained to disapprove this bill.

Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law Section 3.09(7-a) authorizes OPRHP to promulgate a comprehensive plan for the establishment of a state-wide trails system. OPRHP is in the process of updating an existing trail system plan, and the final plan will result in a comprehensive listing of recreational trails located throughout the State which will be available to the public through OPRHP's website. While this bill outlines a very ambitious plan, I am confident that the Parks Commissioner and OPRHP staff will design and implement a plan within available resources that meets the needs of the public.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) DAVID A. PATERSON