



Parks&Trails
NEW YORK

Memo in Support Resident Curator Program S. 2749/A.5710

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Title: An act to authorize the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to establish a resident curator program for the rehabilitation of state park buildings

Summary: This bill authorizes OPRHP to enter into agreements with private individuals who are willing to invest private funds to rehabilitate and maintain vacant and at risk residential buildings in state parks and historic sites for which the agency has no public use and lacks the funds or staff resources to improve and maintain, in exchange for receiving a forty-year lease or life estate to live in the building. Ownership of the structures would remain with OPRHP, and at the end of the lease or term control would revert back to the agency.

Why PTNY supports this bill: This bill embodies the type of innovative thinking that must be brought into play to ameliorate the immense problem of OPRHP's aging infrastructure. PTNY has long decried the backlog of parks' capital needs, estimated to be more than one billion dollars. Given the State's fiscal woes and the predicted slow turnaround of the economy, a "resident curator" program is a very appropriate step to take at this point and will hopefully save some important and historic properties. Similar programs have been very successful in other states.

Parks & Trails New York strongly supports this bill.

