S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6921

I N S E N A T E

April 11, 2012

Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT providing for the creation of a temporary state commission on the energy costs savings for school districts and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A temporary state commission, to be known as the commission on alternative energy cost savings for schools in New York state, hereinafter referred to as the commission, is hereby created to, in consultation with the New York state department of education, examine, evaluate, make recommendations and to collect data concerning the cost savings of school districts if each school utilized alternative energy technologies including but not limited to, solar panels and advanced-technology miniature wind turbines, to help offset energy cost currently incurred by each school.

S 2. The commission shall consist of fifteen members, to be appointed as follows: nine members to be appointed by the governor, four of which shall be staff from the New York state department of education or the New York state energy research and development authority and five of which shall be members of green energy technology firms and environmental conservation not-for-profit organizations operating in the state of New York; two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

S 3. The commission shall be housed at and staffed by the New York state energy research and development authority. The governor shall designate the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the commission. Vacancies in the membership of the commission and among its officers shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments or designations.

S 4. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder. To the maximum

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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extent feasible, the commission shall be entitled to request and receive and shall utilize and be provided with such facilities, resources, and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it deems necessary or desirable to carry out properly its powers and duties hereunder.

S 5. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation within the amounts made available therefor.

S 6. The commission may meet within and outside the state, shall hold public hearings, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

S 7. The commission shall make and submit its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate in a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly, the New York state school boards association and the council of school supervisors and administrators not later than two hundred seventy days after it first convenes. Such report shall include recommendations for:

1. the alternative energy technologies that should be used;

2. mechanisms for funding a rapid implementation and construction of such energy saving systems;

3. the potential for school districts to feed excess energy capacity into the electricity grid and projected revenue from such;

4. the short term construction costs;

5. the long-term maintenance costs;

6. the potential to reduce school property taxes;

7. the projected energy costs savings per school district;

8. the number of short-term job creation for this green initiative;

9. the number of long-term job creation for this green initiative;

10. the projected timeline to outfit the more than 4,200 public school buildings in the state with such technology;

11. the projected reduction in greenhouse gases if this project is implemented statewide;

12. the ability for school districts to sell excess power generation capacity to utility companies and local community; and

13. the ability of schools to use the implementation of green energy alternatives as a tool for classroom instruction in their science, math and technology curriculum.

S 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the appointment of members to the commission on alternative energy cost savings for schools in New York state shall be completed within thirty days of such effective date, provided further, that this act shall remain in effect until thirty days after the commission on alternative energy cost savings for schools in New York state submits the report required by section six of this act, at which time this act shall expire and be deemed repealed; and provided further, however, that the chairperson of the temporary state commission on alternative energy cost savings for schools in New York state shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the submission of its report as provided for in section six of this act in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effecting the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.