

STATE OF NEW YORK

107

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. CAHILL, LIFTON, STECK, JAFFEE, GOTTFRIED, BLAKE, SEPULVEDA, WALKER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, RODRIGUEZ, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to establishing a tax on carbon-based fuels to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions causing anthropogenic climate change

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The tax law is amended by adding a new article 12-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 12-B

TAX ON CARBON-BASED FUELS

Section 289-g. Definitions.

289-h. Administration of emissions charges.

289-i. Carbon dioxide emissions tax.

289-j. Carbon dioxide emissions fund.

289-k. Regulations.

§ 289-g. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Carbon-based fuel" means coal, natural gas, renewable biomass, petroleum products, and any other product that contains carbon and emits carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, or other greenhouse gases when combusted, that are used for fuel, heating, cooling, or industrial processes, which processes shall include electricity generation.

2. "Carbon-generated electricity" means electric energy produced using a carbon-based fuel that is generated or transmitted by an electric power facility.

3. "Carbon dioxide equivalent" means a unit of measure denoting the amount of emissions from a greenhouse gas, expressed as the amount of carbon dioxide by weight that produces the same global warming impact.

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

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1 4. "Carbon dioxide emissions tax" means a tax imposed on each ton of
2 carbon dioxide equivalency.

3 5. "Fuel distributor" means any person, firm, association or corpo-
4 ration, that imports or causes to be imported into the state, for use,
5 distribution, storage or sale within the state, any carbon-based fuel as
6 defined in subdivision one of this section; and also any person, firm,
7 association or corporation that produces, refines, manufactures or
8 compounds carbon-based fuel within the state.

9 6. "Fund" means the carbon dioxide emissions fund established by this
10 article.

11 7. "Motor vehicle fuel" means fuel for the operation of a motor vehi-
12 cle.

13 8. "Utility" means any such gas corporation, electric corporation, gas
14 and electric corporation, steam corporation, municipality, or any entity
15 that, in any manner, sells or facilitates the sale, furnishing or
16 provision of gas or electronic commodity to residential customers;
17 provided, however, that the term shall not include any municipality that
18 is exempt from regulation by the public service commission pursuant to
19 paragraph g of subdivision five of section one thousand five of the
20 public authorities law.

21 § 289-h. Administration of emissions charges. The department of envi-
22 ronmental conservation shall administer the schedules of carbon dioxide
23 emissions charges and the carbon dioxide emissions fund, both estab-
24 lished pursuant to this article. Such tax shall be imposed on each fuel
25 distributor and utility at a rate and schedule to be determined by the
26 department of environmental conservation in accordance with section two
27 hundred eighty-nine-i of this article for a carbon-based fuel that is
28 either:

29 1. sold by a fuel distributor to consumers in this state in the previ-
30 ous calendar year; or

31 2. used to produce carbon-generated electricity that is supplied by a
32 utility to consumers in this state in the previous calendar year.

33 § 289-i. Carbon dioxide emissions tax. 1. The department and the
34 department of environmental conservation shall establish a carbon diox-
35 ide emissions tax on the distribution or sale of carbon-based fuels
36 which shall be no less than thirty-five dollars per ton of carbon diox-
37 ide equivalency and shall increase by fifteen dollars per ton of carbon
38 dioxide equivalency annually to a maximum of one hundred eighty-five
39 dollars per ton of carbon dioxide equivalency.

40 2. In the fourth year of implementation, and biannually thereafter,
41 the department of environmental conservation shall publish a report for
42 the legislature and shall post the report on an internet website acces-
43 sible to the public. Such report shall consider whether any increases or
44 decreases in the carbon dioxide emissions tax as authorized by this
45 section are recommended to account for inflation, and to ensure progress
46 towards reaching emissions levels to mitigate climate change in further-
47 ance of established state policy.

48 3. The department shall determine total taxable emissions annually for
49 each distributor or utility using the carbon dioxide equivalent for each
50 carbon-based fuel based on information that shall be provided in an
51 annual report to the department by the distributor or utility about the
52 amount of carbon-based fuel or carbon-generated electricity sold to
53 consumers within the state during the preceding calendar year. Such
54 annual report shall also include any information required by the depart-
55 ment by rule or regulation.

1 4. The department and the department of environmental conservation
2 shall be authorized to develop any rule or regulation necessary to
3 collect and administer the carbon dioxide emissions tax authorized under
4 this article.

5 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the tax
6 authorized under this section shall not be imposed on any carbon-based
7 fuel or source of carbon-based electricity if such imposition is super-
8 seded by federal law or regulation.

9 § 289-j. Carbon dioxide emissions fund. 1. The department of environ-
10 mental conservation shall establish the carbon dioxide emissions fund,
11 and the department's office of climate change shall serve as the fund's
12 administrator. The department of environmental conservation shall depos-
13 it all proceeds collected in accordance with section two hundred eight-
14 y-nine-i of this article into the fund. No such proceeds shall fund
15 government operations of the state, other than to pay for reasonable
16 administrative costs as provided under subdivision two of this section.

17 2. The office of climate change shall return sixty percent of all
18 carbon dioxide emissions charge proceeds to very low to moderate income
19 residents of the state in the form of tax credits in order to offset the
20 regressive nature of such fees. The amount of such credit shall be based
21 on estimates and averages of expense and consumption trends for very low
22 to moderate income residents determined by the office of climate change
23 in conjunction with the department in accordance with section two
24 hundred eighty-nine-k of this article. Such credit shall be progressive-
25 ly issued to very low to moderate income residents. Such income catego-
26 ries shall mean those with income below fifty percent for very low
27 income residents, income between fifty and eighty percent for low income
28 residents, and income between eighty-one and one hundred fifteen percent
29 for moderate income residents, of the area median income as determined
30 by the department of housing and urban development.

31 3. The office of climate change shall distribute evenly the remaining
32 forty percent of proceeds of such fund in order to support the transi-
33 tion to one hundred percent clean energy in the state, to support mass
34 transit to reduce carbon emissions, and to improve climate change adap-
35 tation. Such funds shall include but not be limited to payments and
36 subsidies for renewable energy, energy conservation and efficiency meas-
37 ures, improvements in infrastructure, improvements in mass transit
38 capacity, agricultural adaptation measures, protection of low-lying
39 areas including coastlines, and emergency responses to extreme weather
40 events.

41 § 289-k. Regulations. 1. The department and department of environ-
42 mental conservation shall promulgate such rules and regulations as shall
43 be necessary to implement the provisions of this article.

44 2. The department and the department of environmental conservation
45 shall undertake all reasonable efforts to collect charges authorized
46 pursuant to this article at the first point of distribution or sale
47 within the state.

48 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
49 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the
50 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary
51 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized
52 and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.