

STATE OF NEW YORK

7603

IN SENATE

January 29, 2020

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

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to payments associated with the conversion of land subject to an agricultural assessment by virtue of oil or gas exploration or extraction activity or solar development

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

Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 301 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 565 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

5. "[~~oil, gas~~] Solar or wind [~~exploration,~~] development [~~or extraction~~] activities" means the installation and use of fixtures and equipment which are necessary for the [~~exploration,~~] development [~~or extraction~~] of [~~oil, natural gas~~] solar or wind energy, including but not limited to, access roads, [~~drilling apparatus, pumping facilities, pipelines,~~] solar panels and wind turbines.

§ 2. Subparagraph (iv) of paragraph d of subdivision 1 of section 305 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 565 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

(iv) If such land or any portion thereof is converted to a use other than for agricultural production by virtue of [~~oil, gas~~] solar or wind [~~exploration,~~] development, [~~or extraction activity~~] or by virtue of a taking by eminent domain or other involuntary proceeding other than a tax sale, the land or portion so converted shall not be subject to payments. If the land so converted constitutes only a portion of a parcel described on the assessment roll, the assessor shall apportion the assessment, and adjust the agricultural assessment attributable to the portion of the parcel not subject to such conversion by subtracting the proportionate part of the agricultural assessment attributable to the portion so converted. Provided further that land within an agricultural district and eligible for an agricultural assessment shall not be considered to have been converted to a use other than for agricultural

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

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1 production solely due to the conveyance of [~~oil, gas~~] ~~solar~~ or wind
2 rights associated with that land.

3 § 3. Paragraph c of subdivision 2 of section 306 of the agriculture
4 and markets law, as amended by chapter 565 of the laws of 2003, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 c. If such land or any portion thereof is converted by virtue of [~~oil,~~
7 ~~gas~~] ~~solar~~ or wind [~~exploration,~~] development, [~~or extraction activity~~]
8 or by virtue of a taking by eminent domain or other involuntary proceed-
9 ing other than a tax sale, the land or portion so converted shall not be
10 subject to payments. If land so converted constitutes only a portion of
11 a parcel described on the assessment roll, the assessor shall apportion
12 the assessment, and adjust the agricultural assessment attributable to
13 the portion of the parcel not subject to such conversion by subtracting
14 the proportionate part of the agricultural assessment attributable to
15 the portion so converted. Provided further that land outside an agricul-
16 tural district and eligible for an agricultural assessment pursuant to
17 this section shall not be considered to have been converted to a use
18 other than for agricultural production solely due to the conveyance of
19 [~~oil, gas~~] ~~solar~~ or wind rights associated with that land.

20 § 4. The commissioner of agriculture and markets, in consultation with
21 the commissioner of environmental conservation and the New York state
22 energy research and development authority, shall within one hundred
23 eighty days of the effective date of this section, make regulations
24 regarding the conversion of lands subject to an agricultural assessment
25 by virtue of solar development, which protect and preserve prime and
26 unique farmland and farmland of statewide importance as such terms are
27 defined in 7 C.F.R. § 657.5, encourage the development of solar activ-
28 ities on marginal soils, and minimize the loss of forested land.

29 § 5. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
30 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment
31 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
32 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
33 completed on or before such effective date.