

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1933

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GALEF, PEOPLES-STOKES, GOTTFRIED, PAULIN, DINOW-ITZ, ABINANTI, L. ROSENTHAL, WEPRIN, GLICK, THIELE, BARRON, CARROLL, COLTON, DE LA ROSA, FAHY, JACOBSON, JONES, NORRIS, QUART, SANTABARBARA, SEAWRIGHT, SIMON, STIRPE, TAYLOR -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, LUPARDO, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Housing

AN ACT to amend the real property law, in relation to the installation or use of solar power systems within a homeowners' association

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

Section 1. The real property law is amended by adding a new article 9-C to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 9-C

#### SOLAR RIGHTS ACT

Section 342. Certain covenants, conditions, and restrictions of homeowners' associations prohibited.

§ 342. Certain covenants, conditions, and restrictions of homeowners' associations prohibited. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "restriction on use" means any covenant, restriction, or condition contained in:

(i) a deed;

(ii) a contract;

(iii) the by-laws of a homeowners' association;

(iv) any rules or regulations adopted by a homeowners' association;

(v) a security agreement; or

(vi) any other instrument affecting the transfer or sale of, or any interest in, real property.

(b) "solar power system" means a photovoltaic system, comprising of solar electric generating equipment, installed on a rooftop, with a rated capacity of not more than twenty-five kilowatts.

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

LBD05416-02-1

1     2. A homeowners' association may not adopt or enforce any rules or  
2     regulations that would effectively prohibit, or impose unreasonable  
3     limitations on, the installation or use of a solar power system. A  
4     restriction on use which effectively prohibits the installation or use  
5     of a solar power system is unenforceable and shall be void as contrary  
6     to public policy. For the purposes of this subdivision, an unreasonable  
7     limitation includes, but is not limited to, any restriction on use that:

8     (a) inhibits the solar power system from functioning at its intended  
9     maximum efficiency; or

10    (b) increases the solar power system's installation or maintenance  
11    costs by an amount which is estimated to be greater than ten percent of  
12    the total cost of the initial installation of the solar power system,  
13    including the costs of labor and equipment.

14    3. Notwithstanding subdivision two of this section, a homeowners'  
15    association may adopt or enforce a restriction on use to prohibit the  
16    installation of a solar power system that is located on property owned  
17    by the homeowners' association or that is located on property owned in  
18    common by the members of the homeowners' association.

19    4. Any denial of a homeowner's installation of a solar power system by  
20    a homeowners' association must include a detailed description of the  
21    exact basis for rejection in writing with specific examples of the home-  
22    owners' association's concerns, if applicable.

23    5. A solar power system must meet the requirements established by any  
24    local, state or federal law, rule or regulation on health and safety  
25    standards and those requirements imposed by state and local permitting  
26    authorities.

27    § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
28    have become a law.