

STATE OF NEW YORK

6843--B

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 19, 2021

Introduced by Sens. KAVANAGH, BIAGGI, BRISPORT, BROUK, GIANARIS, HINCHEY, HOYLMAN, KRUEGER, MAY, MYRIE, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting the "all-electric building act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "all-electric building act".

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 382-c to
4 read as follows:

5 § 382-c. All-electric buildings. 1. As used in this section:

6 a. "All-electric building or project" shall mean a building or project
7 that uses a permanent supply of electricity as the sole source of energy
8 to meet building energy needs. An all-electric building or project shall
9 have no natural gas, propane, or oil heaters, boilers, piping systems,
10 fixtures or infrastructure installed to meet building energy needs.

11 b. "Building energy needs" shall mean all space conditioning including
12 heating and cooling, water heating including pools and spas, cooking
13 appliances and clothes drying appliances.

14 c. "All-electric ready" shall mean a building, project, or portion
15 thereof that contains electrical systems and designs that provide suffi-
16 cient capacity for a future retrofit of a mixed-fuel building to an
17 all-electric building, including sufficient space, drainage, electrical
18 conductors or raceways, bus bar capacity, and overcurrent protective
19 devices for such retrofit. The department of state shall promulgate
20 guidelines for an electric-ready building on or before January first,
21 two thousand twenty-three.

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

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1 d. "Initial application" shall mean the first site or building
2 permit application associated with the building or project.

3 e. "Mixed-fuel building" shall mean a building that uses a combination
4 of electricity and natural gas, propane, or oil to meet building energy
5 needs. For the purposes of this section, "mixed-fuel building" shall
6 not include buildings that use geothermal or solar energy to meet heat-
7 ing and/or cooling building energy needs but are otherwise all-electric
8 buildings.

9 f. "Mixed-use building" shall mean a building used for both residen-
10 tial and commercial purposes.

11 2. a. No city, town or village shall issue a permit for the
12 construction of any new commercial, residential, or mixed-use building
13 that is not an all-electric building if the initial application for such
14 permit was submitted after December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-
15 three, unless the circumstances set forth in paragraph b of this subdivi-
16 vision apply.

17 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph a of this subdivision,
18 a city, town, or village may issue a permit for construction of a new
19 mixed-fuel building upon a finding by the permitting body of such city,
20 town, or village that constructing an all-electric building or project
21 is physically or technically infeasible and that a modification is
22 warranted. Financial considerations shall not be a sufficient basis to
23 determine physical or technical infeasibility. Modifications shall only
24 be issued under this exception where the permitting body finds that:

25 (i) sufficient evidence was submitted to substantiate the infeasibil-
26 ity of an all-electric building or project design. Such evidence must
27 show that either:

28 A. the proposed building has seven or more floors and cannot satisfy
29 necessary building code requirements without the usage of gas or oil
30 piping systems, fixtures and/or infrastructure and the initial applica-
31 tion for the permitting of such building was not submitted after Decem-
32 ber thirty-first, two thousand twenty-six;

33 B. the building is specifically designated for occupancy by a commer-
34 cial food service establishment, laboratory, laundromat, hospital, or
35 crematorium, and such establishment cannot feasibly operate using
36 commercially available all-electric appliances; or

37 C. the natural gas or oil piping systems are used solely for the
38 generation of emergency standby power;

39 (ii) the installation of natural gas or oil piping systems, fixtures
40 and/or infrastructure is strictly limited to the system and area of the
41 building for which all-electric building or project design is infeasib-
42 le;

43 (iii) the area or service within the project where gas or oil piping
44 systems, fixtures and/or infrastructure are installed is all-electric
45 ready; and

46 (iv) the project's modified design provides equivalent health, safety
47 and fire-protection to all-electric building or project design.

48 c. If a modification is issued under paragraph b of this subdivision,
49 the applicant shall pay or agree in writing to pay any costs related to
50 the connection of any gas main and/or transmission system to ensure that
51 such costs are not subsidized by other service class rate payers. Those
52 costs include but are not limited to the material and installation of
53 the pipe, conduit, duct, or other facilities to be installed.

54 3. a. No city, town or village shall issue building or construction
55 permits that would convert an all-electric building or project into a

1 mixed-fuel building where the initial application was submitted after
2 December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-two.

3 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph a of this subdivision,
4 a city, town, or village may issue a permit to convert an all-electric
5 building or project into a mixed-fuel building for the generation of
6 emergency standby power or occupancy by a commercial food service
7 establishment, laboratory, laundromat, hospital, or crematorium, and
8 such establishment cannot feasibly operate using commercially available
9 all-electric appliances, provided:

10 (i) sufficient evidence is presented to substantiate the physical or
11 technical infeasibility of an all-electric building or project design,
12 financial considerations shall not be a sufficient basis to determine
13 physical or technical infeasibility;

14 (ii) the installation of natural gas or oil piping systems, fixtures
15 and/or infrastructure is strictly limited to the system and area of the
16 building for which all-electric building or project design is infeas-
17 ible;

18 (iii) the area or service within the project where gas or oil piping
19 systems, fixtures and/or infrastructure are installed is all-electric
20 ready; and

21 (iv) the project's modified design provides equivalent health, safety
22 and fire-protection to all-electric building or project design.

23 c. If a permit is issued under paragraph b of this subdivision, the
24 applicant shall pay or agree in writing to pay any costs related to the
25 connection of any gas main and/or transmission system to ensure that
26 such costs are not subsidized by other service class rate payers. Those
27 costs include but are not limited to the material and installation of
28 the pipe, conduit, duct, or other facilities to be installed.

29 4. On or before February first, two thousand twenty-three, the depart-
30 ment of public service, the division of housing and community renewal,
31 the department of state, and the New York state energy research and
32 development authority shall report jointly to the governor, the tempo-
33 rary president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the
34 speaker of the assembly, and the minority leader of the assembly,
35 regarding what changes to electric rate designs, new or existing subsidy
36 programs, policies, or laws are necessary to ensure this section does
37 not diminish the production of affordable housing or the affordability
38 of electricity for customers in all-electric buildings. For the purpose
39 of this subdivision, "affordability of electricity" shall mean that
40 electricity does not cost more than six percent of a residential custom-
41 er's income.

42 5. On or before December first, two thousand twenty-eight, the depart-
43 ment of public service, the department of state, and the New York state
44 energy research and development authority shall report jointly to the
45 governor, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of
46 the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the minority leader of the
47 assembly, regarding the continued need of waivers established under this
48 section for commercial food establishments, laboratories, laundromats,
49 hospitals, or crematoriums. The report shall make recommendations for
50 the continuance or elimination of such waivers for both new construction
51 and building conversions.

52 6. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted or otherwise construed
53 as preempting a municipality from requiring all-electric buildings or
54 otherwise prohibiting new gas service connections for new buildings and
55 conversions.

56 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.