

STATE OF NEW YORK

10573

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Pheffer Amato) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting the climate resilient New York act of 2024

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 43 to
2 read as follows:

ARTICLE 43

CLIMATE RESILIENT NEW YORK ACT OF 2024

Section 930. Short title.

6 931. Declaration of purpose.

7 932. Office of resilience.

8 933. Chief resilience officer.

9 934. Statewide resilience plan.

10 935. Resilience task force.

11 936. State agency resilience coordinators.

12 937. Interagency resilience coordination team.

13 938. Public engagement and reporting.

14 § 930. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
15 "climate resilient New York act of 2024".

16 § 931. Declaration of purpose. The legislature recognizes that the
17 state is particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts from climate change.
18 In less than 15 years, the state has experienced sixteen climate disas-
19 ter declarations. These rising risks pose economic, social, environ-
20 mental, and public health and safety challenges. A coordinated approach
21 is necessary to effectively, efficiently, and equitably address and
22 prepare for the adverse impacts of near-, mid-, and long-term climate
23 threats on the state. This act therefore relates to establishing a
24 statewide office of climate resilience; adding the office of climate
25 resilience to the executive branch of government; creating the office of
26 resilience within the office of the governor; establishing a chief resi-
27 lience officer; establishing resilience coordinators in each state agen-

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

LBD14027-03-4

1 cy; providing for a statewide resilience plan to be coordinated by the
2 office of climate resilience; establishing an interagency resilience
3 coordination team and providing for its members, meetings, and public
4 engagement; and providing for related matters.

5 § 932. Office of resilience. 1. There is hereby created in the execu-
6 tive department an office of resilience, hereinafter in this article
7 referred to as the "office".

8 2. The office shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

9 (a) Coordinate the resilience task force and provide strategic direc-
10 tion for governmental resilience initiatives to build long-term climate
11 resilience for a robust, vibrant economy, sustainable natural environ-
12 ment, healthy communities, and an equitable and just transition to
13 future climate;

14 (b) Establish an interagency resilience coordination team;

15 (c) Establish, in collaboration with the interagency resilience coor-
16 ordination team, a statewide resilience plan and framework to facilitate
17 coordination across resilience plans at all levels of government;

18 (d) Provide technical guidance and assistance to agencies and local
19 and regional jurisdictions, to integrate statewide resilience goals into
20 future projects, plans, and programs;

21 (e) Establish a means of tracking progress toward statewide goals on
22 climate resilience;

23 (f) Identify and develop policies necessary to implement a statewide
24 resilience plan and risk reduction strategy;

25 (g) Establish and maintain a website which shall facilitate the satis-
26 faction of the functions and duties of the office;

27 (h) Establish and maintain a principal office and such other offices
28 within the state as it may deem necessary;

29 (i) Appoint a secretary, counsel, clerks and such other employees and
30 agents as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation within the limi-
31 tations provided by law, and prescribe their duties; and

32 (j) Require that state agencies and any other state or municipal
33 department, agency, public authority, task force, commission, or other
34 state or municipal government body, provide, and the same are hereby
35 authorized to provide, such assistance, documents, and data as will
36 enable the office to carry out its functions and duties.

37 § 933. Chief resilience officer. 1. The head of the office shall be
38 the chief resilience officer who shall be appointed by the governor and
39 who shall hold office at the pleasure of the governor.

40 2. The chief resilience officer shall have the following functions,
41 powers and duties:

42 (a) Employ or allocate the necessary staff and request the assistance
43 of personnel of any state department or agency to carry out the func-
44 tions, powers and duties provided in this article or as otherwise
45 provided by law;

46 (b) Manage the office, the budget for such office, and related func-
47 tions as provided by law;

48 (c) Review and reconcile state agency comments on federally sponsored
49 resilience and risk mitigation activities to develop and present an
50 official state position;

51 (d) Represent the policy and consensus viewpoint of the state at the
52 federal, regional, state, and local levels with respect to resilience
53 and risk mitigation;

54 (e) Monitor and seek available funds to support the state's resilience
55 priorities, including coordinating cross-agency federal funding applica-
56 tions for community resilience projects;

1 (f) Provide strategic direction for interagency and cross-disciplinary
2 initiatives to build resilience, in collaboration with the other rele-
3 vant resilience task force and entities as the chief resilience officer
4 deems appropriate, for the purposes of climate resilience planning and
5 goal development, tracking and reporting progress on climate resilience
6 goals, and public engagement on climate resilience issues;

7 (g) Appraise the adequacy of statutory and administrative mechanisms
8 for coordinating the state's policies and programs at both the intra-
9 state and interstate levels, and between federal, state, and local
10 government, with respect to resilience and risk mitigation;

11 (h) Develop, where appropriate, intrastate or intergovernmental agree-
12 ments to formalize coordination roles for regional resilience projects,
13 such as the New York-New Jersey harbor and tributaries project;

14 (i) Appraise policy barriers to meet the goals of the state with
15 respect to resilience and risk mitigation;

16 (j) Serve as subject-matter expert for the state on issues related to
17 resilience and mitigation and provide recommendations to the legislature
18 and federal congress with respect to policies, programs, and coordinat-
19 ing mechanisms relative to resilience and risk mitigation;

20 (k) Assist with the state's planning efforts, including but not limit-
21 ed to a statewide resilience plan, the state hazard mitigation plan, and
22 other relevant state and regional plans for which there is a state
23 interest, to ensure the incorporation and alignment of the state's resi-
24 lience goals and objectives into a unified, proactive, pre-disaster
25 approach to adaptation and near-, mid-, and long-term resilience;

26 (l) Take other actions consistent with law as deemed necessary by the
27 chief resilience officer to carry out such officer's duties, functions,
28 and responsibilities.

29 § 934. Statewide resilience plan. 1. To coordinate and strengthen
30 efforts to reduce losses from future disasters across the state, the
31 office shall contribute to all statewide planning efforts related to
32 resilience and risk mitigation and shall develop a strategic statewide
33 resilience plan to protect the state from multiple climate threats.

34 2. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

35 (a) Articulation of the state's resilience goals and objectives;

36 (b) Utilization of the best available science, including a range of
37 future projections, to identify, implement, or reform policies,
38 projects, and programs to achieve the state's resilience goals and
39 objectives;

40 (c) Recommended agency-specific strategic actions, including criteria
41 for prioritization based on a vulnerability assessment of the risks from
42 multiple environmental threats to agency mission areas, assets,
43 services, and populations served;

44 (d) Prioritization of natural, nature-based, and non-structural
45 approaches to mitigating climate threats, wherever possible including,
46 without limitation, use of living shorelines, riparian restoration,
47 permeable surfaces, rain gardens, green roofs, tree canopy expansion,
48 wetland restoration, removing, altering, or right-sizing dams, natural
49 area conservation, waste-water and stormwater infrastructure upgrades,
50 alteration of structures, buyouts, and other flood and extreme heat
51 prevention, mitigation and resiliency strategies or projects;

52 (e) Set goals and resilience indicators that shall be tracked and
53 reported to the public over time in an annual progress report; and

54 (f) A framework for resilience project development, funding, and
55 implementation. Such framework shall include, but not be limited to,
56 the following:

1 (i) Spatial analysis of projected climate threat exposure and vulner-
2 ability, including but not limited to flood, extreme heat and precipi-
3 tation, storm events, and wildfire, and other risks. Such analysis and
4 resulting maps should delineate the geography and the social and ecolog-
5 ical vulnerability of the risk, using the state's environmental justice
6 and disadvantaged community layers and including climate-vulnerable
7 ecosystems, leveraging existing information from the New York state
8 climate impacts assessment, the New York city panel on climate change,
9 and other regional, peer-reviewed, best available scientific source,
10 wherever feasible;

11 (ii) An accessible, updated database or inventory of critical infras-
12 tructure vulnerable to current and future flooding, developed in collab-
13 oration with municipalities. This includes those that are essential for
14 critical government and business functions, national security, transpor-
15 tation, utilities, public health and safety, the economy, flood and
16 storm protection, water quality management, and wildlife habitat manage-
17 ment;

18 (iii) Maps or accessible, visual representation of federal, state, and
19 local municipal and county projects planned to reduce such risks, along
20 with the federal, state, or local agencies leading those projects and
21 the funding source; and

22 (iv) A strategic plan for developing, funding, and financing projects
23 that address such risks through federal, state, local, and private
24 sources. Such strategic plan shall:

25 (1) Include a strategy for how to make every effort practicable that
26 disadvantaged communities, as identified pursuant to section 75-0111 of
27 the environmental conservation law, receive at least forty percent of
28 the benefits of proposed plans and projects; provided, however, disad-
29 vantaged communities shall receive no less than thirty-five percent of
30 such benefits; and

31 (2) Seeks to build alignment and efficiencies across agency vulner-
32 ability assessments and resilience strategies.

33 § 935. Resilience task force. 1. There is hereby established within
34 the office a resilience task force to provide strategic direction to
35 resilience efforts across the state and make recommendations to the
36 office.

37 2. Such task force shall be comprised of the following members:

38 (a) The chief resilience officer, who shall serve as chair and shall
39 represent the views of the interagency resilience coordination team;

40 (b) The commissioner of the department of environmental conservation,
41 or their designee;

42 (c) The commissioner of the division of homeland security and emergen-
43 cy services, or their designee;

44 (d) The commissioner of the division of housing and community renewal,
45 or their designee;

46 (e) The secretary of state, or their designee;

47 (f) The commissioner of the department of financial services, or their
48 designee;

49 (g) The commissioner of the department of health, or their designee;

50 (h) The president of the energy research and development authority, or
51 their designee;

52 (i) The commissioner of the department of transportation, or their
53 designee;

54 (j) The commissioner of the department of agriculture and markets;

55 (k) The chair of the metropolitan transportation authority, or their
56 designee;

1 (l) The chair of the thruway authority, or their designee;
2 (m) The chair of the bridge authority, or their designee;
3 (n) The executive director of the port authority, or their designee;
4 and
5 (o) A member of the general public with expertise in resiliency plan-
6 ning.

7 § 936. State agency resilience coordinators. Each state agency
8 included in the resilience task force and any other agencies to be
9 included in resilience planning as designated by the chief resilience
10 officer or resilience task force shall appoint a resilience coordinator
11 to work with the chief resilience officer to ensure resilience is inte-
12 grated into agency missions and priorities, and otherwise coordinate
13 with the chief resilience officer. Such coordinators shall serve on the
14 interagency resilience coordination team established pursuant to section
15 nine hundred thirty-seven of this article. Each such coordinator shall
16 be appointed by a state agency with the exclusive role of focusing on
17 climate resilience with such agency's mission and activities.

18 § 937. Interagency resilience coordination team. 1. There is hereby
19 established within the office an interagency resilience coordination
20 team to maintain awareness, communication, and alignment with regard to
21 the state's resilience and risk mitigation needs, progress, and priori-
22 ties and to oversee development of the statewide resilience plan.

23 2. Such team shall:

24 (a) Be comprised of resilience coordinators from each state agency
25 included in this article or otherwise designated by the chief resilience
26 officer or resilience task force and the chief resilience officer, who
27 shall serve as chair;

28 (b) Meet upon the call of the chair, with a minimum of four meetings
29 annually;

30 (c) Develop strategic plans for agencies and collaborate in the devel-
31 opment of a statewide resilience plan; and

32 (d) Develop and implement a plan for public engagement, review of key
33 products of the statewide resilience plan, and track and report on
34 progress of such plan over time.

35 3. The chief resilience officer shall convene the first meeting of the
36 interagency resilience coordination team on or before the ninetieth day
37 after the effective date of this section.

38 § 938. Public engagement and reporting. (a) Public engagement. A
39 statewide resilience plan shall be developed and the resilience task
40 force shall hold at least six regional public comment hearings on the
41 draft plan, including three meetings in the upstate region and three
42 meetings in the downstate region, and shall allow at least one hundred
43 twenty days for the submission of public comment. The task force shall
44 provide meaningful opportunities for public comment from all segments of
45 the population that will be impacted by the plan, including persons
46 living in disadvantaged communities as identified pursuant to section
47 75-0111 of the environmental conservation law.

48 (b) Reporting. No later than one year after the effective date of this
49 section, and every five years thereafter, the office shall complete and
50 submit an updated statewide resilience plan to the legislature and make
51 such plan publicly available.

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