

STATE OF NEW YORK

5909

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 24, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. EPSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing an office of sustainability

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 section 94-d
2 to read as follows:

3 § 94-d. Office of sustainability. 1. Purpose. It shall be the purpose
4 of the office to coordinate efforts across all agencies and other state
5 government entities to address climate change mitigation and climate
6 sustainability efforts.

7 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this section "office" shall mean
8 the office of sustainability created pursuant to this section.

9 3. Office of sustainability; chief sustainability officer. There is
10 hereby created within the department of state an office of sustainabili-
11 ty. The secretary shall appoint a chief sustainability officer of the
12 office to accomplish the duties set forth in this section. Such chief
13 sustainability officer shall receive an annual salary within amounts
14 appropriated and shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary.

15 4. Organization of the office. The secretary shall have the power to
16 establish, consolidate, reorganize, or abolish any organizational units
17 within the office as they determine to be necessary for the efficient
18 operation of such office. The secretary shall assign functions to any
19 such unit and may appoint staff, agents, and consultants, prescribe
20 their duties, and fix their compensation within amounts appropriated.

21 5. Powers and duties of the office. The office shall have the power
22 and duty to:

23 (a) Review rules and regulations of state agencies and submit proposed
24 amendments and/or additions of such rules and regulations to such agen-
25 cies for consideration that the chief sustainability officer shall deem

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

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1 appropriate or necessary to help mitigate negative impacts of climate
2 change and promote climate sustainability;

3 (b) Coordinate policy to promote energy and environmental sustainabil-
4 ity across state government operations, including the office of general
5 services, the New York state energy research and development authority,
6 the department of environmental conservation, and the department of
7 state;

8 (c) Work with state agencies and departments to ensure effective
9 implementation and achievement of statutory requirements and state goals
10 related to energy and environmental protection;

11 (d) Coordinate implementation of programs and initiatives to improve
12 state facility and vehicle fleet efficiency, promote adoption of energy
13 efficient technologies, and modernize state facilities and operations;

14 (e) Design and share with state agencies and departments strategies
15 that can be used to leverage state facilities and assets to advance the
16 conservation of natural resources and highlight best environmental,
17 technological and policy strategies to reach the highest energy effi-
18 ciency standards reasonably possible;

19 (f) Develop sustainable practices to plan for and mitigate enterprise
20 risks while reducing waste and to help strengthen commercial, cultural,
21 and political cooperation and engagement;

22 (g) Advise other state agencies and departments in best practices for
23 environmental regulatory compliance, reporting, partnerships and
24 outreach, and environmental sustainability innovation;

25 (h) Assist the department of state in reducing its use of natural
26 resources through improving energy and water efficiency, and providing
27 data and tools that protect the health of the state government's person-
28 nel and employees and their families;

29 (i) Partner with private sector businesses, public and private univer-
30 sities, and government agencies to improve environmental sustainability
31 across the state;

32 (j) Participate in inter-agency working groups that develop environ-
33 mental requirements and guidance for state agencies;

34 (k) Act as a representative of New York state at the United States
35 Climate Alliance and other national and international organizations
36 focused on climate science and sustainability research and goals that
37 the chief sustainability officer shall deem appropriate;

38 (l) Inform the governor, secretary, legislature, and state agencies
39 and other governmental entities of the latest research and developments
40 in the field of climate science; and

41 (m) Advise and assist the New York state climate action council estab-
42 lished pursuant to section 75-0103 of the environmental conservation law
43 in such duties of such council that the chief sustainability officer
44 shall deem appropriate.

45 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
46 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.