

STATE OF NEW YORK

1317

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 11, 2023

Introduced by Sen. STEWART-COUSINS -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, in relation to the legislative intent of such chapter, and in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to disproportionate impacts of environmental facility siting on disadvantaged communities; and relating to the scope of certain provisions of the environmental conservation law and the authority of the commissioner of environmental conservation thereunder

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the
2 environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental
3 facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A.
4 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:
5 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares that
6 each community in the state should equitably share the responsibilities,
7 burdens, and benefits of managing and solving environmental health
8 issues and the state's environmental problems and the facilities neces-
9 sary to accomplish such ends. The legislature further declares that
10 there has been an inequitable pattern in the siting of environmental
11 facilities in minority and economically distressed communities, which
12 have borne a disproportionate and inequitable share of such facilities.
13 As a result of the inequitable pattern in the siting of environmental
14 facilities, minority and economically distressed communities bear a
15 greater environmental health burden due to the cumulative pollution
16 exposure from multiple facilities. Consistent with its commitment to
17 providing equal justice for its citizens, the state has a responsibility
18 to establish requirements for the consideration of such decisions by
19 state and local governments in order to [~~insure equality of treatment~~]
20 ensure no community bears a disproportionate pollution burden, and to
21 actively reduce any such burden for all communities.

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

LBD04225-01-3

1 § 2. Section 8-0105 of the environmental conservation law is amended
2 by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

3 10. "Pollution" shall have the same meaning as defined by subdivision
4 nineteen of section 1-0303 of this chapter.

5 § 3. Paragraphs (k) and (l) of subdivision 2 of section 8-0109 of the
6 environmental conservation law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of
7 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the
8 location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills
9 numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, are amended to read as follows:

10 (k) effects of any proposed action on disadvantaged communities,
11 including whether the action may cause or increase a disproportionate
12 pollution burden on a disadvantaged community; and

13 (l) such other information consistent with the purposes of this arti-
14 cle as may be prescribed in guidelines issued by the commissioner pursu-
15 ant to section 8-0113 of this chapter[~~, and~~

16 ~~(l) effects of any proposed action on disadvantaged communities,~~
17 ~~including whether the action may cause or increase a disproportionate or~~
18 ~~inequitable or both disproportionate and inequitable pollution burden on~~
19 ~~a disadvantaged community].~~

20 § 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 4 of section 8-0109 of the
21 environmental conservation law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of
22 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the
23 location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills
24 numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:

25 As early as possible in the formulation of a proposal for an action,
26 the responsible agency shall make an initial determination as to whether
27 [~~or not~~] an environmental impact statement need be prepared for the
28 action. In making such determination for any proposed action [~~that is~~
29 ~~not a minor project as defined in subdivision three of section 70-0105~~
30 ~~of this chapter~~] the responsible agency shall consider whether such
31 action may cause or increase a disproportionate [~~or inequitable or both~~
32 ~~disproportionate and inequitable~~] pollution burden on a disadvantaged
33 community that is directly or significantly indirectly affected by such
34 action. When an action is to be carried out or approved by two or more
35 agencies, such determination shall be made as early as possible after
36 the designation of the lead agency.

37 § 5. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section
38 8-0113 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by a chapter of
39 the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to
40 the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative
41 bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:

42 (i) Actions or classes of actions that are likely to require prepara-
43 tion of environmental impact statements[~~, including actions which may~~
44 ~~cause or increase, either directly or indirectly, a disproportionate or~~
45 ~~inequitable or both disproportionate and inequitable pollution burden on~~
46 ~~a disadvantaged community];~~

47 § 6. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 8-0113 of the environ-
48 mental conservation law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2022
49 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of
50 environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.
51 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:

52 (b) [~~(i)~~] Criteria for determining whether or not a proposed action
53 may have a significant effect on the environment, taking into account
54 social and economic factors to be considered in determining the signif-
55 icance of an environmental effect, including whether it may cause or

1 increase a disproportionate pollution burden on a disadvantaged communi-
2 ty;

3 [~~(ii) Such criteria shall include consideration of the extent to which~~
4 ~~a proposed action may reasonably be expected to cause or increase a~~
5 ~~disproportionate or inequitable or both disproportionate and inequitable~~
6 ~~burden on disadvantaged communities,]~~

7 § 7. Section 70-0118 of the environmental conservation law, as added
8 by a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation
9 law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in
10 legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 § 70-0118. Disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities.

13 1. For the purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Disadvantaged communities" shall have the same meaning as subdivi-
15 sion five of section 75-0101 of this chapter.

16 (b) [~~"Existing burden report" shall mean the report required by this~~
17 ~~section describing the existing pollution burden in a disadvantaged~~
18 ~~community.~~

19 2. When issuing] "Applicable permit" shall mean a permit [for any
20 project that is not a minor project as defined in subdivision three of
21 section 70-0105 of this article and that], excluding a general permit,
22 applied for pursuant to:

23 (i) title fifteen of article fifteen of this chapter for a facility
24 withdrawing and using over twenty million gallons per day of water for
25 cooling purposes;

26 (ii) article seventeen of this chapter;

27 (iii) article nineteen of this chapter;

28 (iv) title seventeen of article twenty-three of this chapter; or

29 (v) title three, title seven, title nine or title eleven of article
30 twenty-seven of this chapter.

31 2. (a) When a new project subject to an applicable permit may [direct-
32 ly or indirectly affect] cause or contribute more than a de minimis
33 amount of pollution to any disproportionate pollution burden on a disad-
34 vantaged community, the department shall require the applicant to
35 prepare or cause to be prepared an existing burden report [and shall
36 consider such report in determining whether such project may cause or
37 contribute to, either directly or indirectly, a disproportionate or
38 inequitable or both disproportionate and inequitable pollution burden on
39 a disadvantaged community].

40 (b) In the case of an application for renewal or modification of an
41 applicable permit not subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this
42 subdivision which may cause or contribute more than a de minimis amount
43 of pollution to any disproportionate pollution burden on a disadvantaged
44 community the department shall require the applicant to prepare or cause
45 to be prepared an existing burden report; provided, however that the
46 department may elect not to require such existing burden report if the
47 permit would serve an essential environmental, health, or safety need of
48 the disadvantaged community for which there is no reasonable alterna-
49 tive.

50 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraphs (a) or (b) of this
51 subdivision, no existing burden report shall be required for an applica-
52 tion for a renewal of a permit if an existing burden report has been
53 prepared with respect to such permit within the previous ten years.

54 3. [~~No permit shall be approved or renewed by the department if it may~~
55 ~~cause or contribute to, either directly or indirectly, a dispropor-~~
56 ~~tionate or inequitable or both disproportionate and inequitable~~

~~pollution burden on a disadvantaged community.]~~ (a) When considering an application for an applicable permit, the department shall consider the existing burden report, if any, and an administrative record that includes, but is not limited to, comments received from the public in the disadvantaged community.

(b) The department shall not issue an applicable permit for a new project if it determines that the project will cause or contribute more than a de minimis amount of pollution to a disproportionate pollution burden on the disadvantaged community.

(c) In the case of an application for a modification of an applicable permit, the department shall not issue an applicable permit if it determines that the issuance of the permit would significantly increase the existing disproportionate pollution burden on the disadvantaged community.

(d) In the case of an application for renewal of an applicable permit, the department shall not issue an applicable permit if it determines that the project would significantly increase the existing disproportionate pollution burden on the disadvantaged community.

4. The department shall require actions to implement any appropriate operational changes which would reduce the pollution burden on the disadvantaged community as a condition of an applicable permit, only if such actions are reasonable and practicable, as determined by the department.

5. The department, in consultation with the department of health, shall develop the scope of the existing burden report and may adapt such requirements based on whether a permit application is for a new project, modification, or a renewal of a permit. The department shall provide for at least a thirty-day public comment period prior to finalizing the scope of the report. The report shall provide for an assessment of the following information:

(a) relevant baseline data on existing burdens, including from relevant criteria used to designate the particular disadvantaged communities pursuant to subdivision one of section 75-0111 of this chapter;

(b) the environmental or public health stressors already borne by the disadvantaged community as a result of existing conditions located in or affecting the disadvantaged community;

(c) the potential or projected contribution of the proposed action to existing pollution burdens in the community; and

(d) existing and potential benefits of the project to the community including increased housing supply, or alleviation of existing pollution burdens that may be provided by the project, including operational changes to the project that would reduce the pollution burden on the disadvantaged community.

§ 8. Subdivision 1 of section 70-0107 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:

1. The department, after public hearing, shall adopt rules and regulations to assure the efficient and expeditious administration of this article. Such rules and regulations shall include but not be limited to provisions regarding notice, review, public participation and public hearings. ~~[Such rules and regulations shall also include the form and content of an existing burden report which shall, at a minimum, include baseline monitoring data collected in the affected disadvantaged community within two years of the application for a permit or approval and~~

~~shall identify: (a) each existing pollution source or categories of sources affecting a disadvantaged community and the potential routes of human exposure to pollution from that source or categories of sources; (b) ambient concentration of regulated air pollutants and regulated or unregulated toxic air pollutants; (c) traffic volume; (d) noise and odor levels; (e) exposure or potential exposure to lead paint; (f) exposure or potential exposure to contaminated drinking water supplies; (g) proximity to solid or hazardous waste management facilities, wastewater treatment plants, hazardous waste sites, incinerators, recycling facilities, waste transfer facilities and petroleum or chemical manufacturing, storage, treatment or disposal facilities; (h) the potential or documented cumulative human health effects of the foregoing pollution sources; (i) the potential or projected contribution of the proposed action to existing pollution burdens in the community and potential health effects of such contribution, taking into account existing pollution burdens.]~~

§ 9. Section 9 of a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, is amended to read as follows:

§ 9. This act shall take effect [~~on the one hundred eightieth day~~] **two years** after it shall have become a law[~~, provided that section three of this act shall not apply to any person who has received an initial determination pursuant to subdivision 4 of section 8-0109 of the environmental conservation law prior to such date and provided further that section five of this act shall not apply to any determination of significance made prior to such date~~].

§ 10. No addition or amendment made to the environmental conservation law under this act or under a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, shall limit the existing authority of any state entity to deny or condition permits, licenses, or other administrative approvals.

§ 11. No addition or amendment made to the environmental conservation law under this act or under a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, shall relieve any person from compliance with any other requirement to not disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities as identified pursuant to section 75-0111 of the environmental conservation law.

§ 12. The commissioner of environmental conservation is authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with subdivision one of section 70-0107 of the environmental conservation law to effectuate the provisions of this act and a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D.

§ 13. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however that sections one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, ten, eleven and twelve of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the environmental conservation law relating to the location of environmental facilities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8830 and A. 2103-D, takes effect.