STATE OF NEW YORK

3339

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 27, 2025

Introduced by Sen. WALCZYK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to enacting the "geothermal education and outreach (GEO) act"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "geothermal education and outreach (GEO) act".

§ 2. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1872-b to read as follows:

§ 1872-b. Geothermal education and outreach program. 1. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Geothermal energy system" means a renewable energy system, as defined by section sixty-six-p of the public service law, that generates electricity through the use of geothermal electric or geothermal ground source heat technology.

(b) "Program" means the geothermal education and outreach program established pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

(c) "Qualified school district" means a public school district that the authority determines can feasibly convert to geothermal energy as its primary source of energy based on location, resources, and other relevant factors as determined by the authority.

2. Geothermal education and outreach program. (a) The authority is hereby directed to establish and administer, in consultation with the commissioner of education, a geothermal education and outreach program to provide guidelines, planning, and financial support for qualified school districts that wish to convert to a geothermal energy system as their primary source of energy.

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

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(b) Qualified school districts that convert to a geothermal energy system under the program shall be reimbursed by the authority for ninety percent of the costs of such conversion.

3. Rules and regulations. The authority is hereby authorized to promulgate any rules and/or regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.