STATE OF NEW YORK

4571--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2025

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing a floating solar incentive and education program

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

Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1885 to read as follows:

§ 1885. Floating solar incentive and education program. 1. As used in this section the term "floating solar" shall mean solar photovoltaic systems mounted on floating structures or platforms on the surface of a body of water, including but not limited to canals, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

2. The authority shall establish and maintain a floating solar incentive and education program pursuant to standards and criteria promulgated by the authority which shall provide information and resources including technical assistance, access to industry standards, and financing available through the authority or other public or private sector sources, to municipalities, developers, builders, design professionals, and potential owners for the construction of floating solar.

3. The program shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) Grants for the development of floating solar on sites that are constructed on canals, reservoirs, commercial and industrial ponds, and any other artificially created body of water suitable for siting a floating solar project;

(b) Identification of best practices and strategies for siting floating solar projects that protect the ecosystems of bodies of water;

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

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(c) Monitoring any impacts floating solar may have on water quality, water conservation, and algae control; and

(d) Establishing and distributing educational materials and resources about siting, construction, maintenance, and available incentives on floating solar.

4. The authority, in consultation with the public service commission and the department of environmental conservation, shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.