STATE OF NEW YORK

6327

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 10, 2025

Introduced by Sen. S. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to providing an exemption against certain fiber optic cable assessments for municipal fiber optic broadband companies in Erie county

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

Section 1. The real property tax law is amended by adding a new section 431 to read as follows:

§ 431. Fiber optic cable in Erie county. 1. For the purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Municipal fiber optic broadband company" shall mean a local authority as defined in section two of the public authorities law or a municipal corporation as defined in section two of the general municipal law engaged in the construction, operation, marketing and sale of fiber optic broadband infrastructure and services and located in Erie county.

(b) "Municipal fiber optic network" shall mean municipal fiber optic cable and infrastructure owned by a municipal fiber optic broadband company.

(c) "Municipal fiber optic cable and infrastructure" shall mean fiber optic cable and related equipment which is owned and installed by or caused to be installed by a municipal fiber optic broadband company to transmit, or facilitate the transmission, of broadband data, applications, and services to end users located in Erie county.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all municipal fiber optic networks and municipal fiber optic cable and infrastructure owned by a municipal fiber optic broadband company, whether located on public or private property, and installed for the purpose of distributing broadband technology and services, shall be exempt from real property taxes, levies and assessments.

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

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3. In any contracting for the construction, operation, and management of a municipal fiber optic network, the municipal broadband company shall prioritize applicants that have and commit to maintaining high standards of workplace safety practices, training, certification or licensure for all relevant workers, and compliance with state and federal workplace protections; ensure that persons, companies, or entities seeking to contract with the municipal broadband company demonstrate suitable fiscal, technical, operational, and management capabilities; ensure that applicants for funding provide certifications as to compliance with relevant safety standards, including the National Electrical Safety Code; ensure that applicants for funding provide certifications as to compliance with relevant workplace protections as determined by the department of labor including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and New York State labor and employment laws; ensure that applicants for funding submit to the municipal broadband company a workforce plan which shall include: (a) information regarding whether the construction workforce will be directly employed or subcontracted and what entity employs the workforce; (b) the anticipated size of the workforce required to carry out the proposed work; (c) a description of plans to maximize use of local or regional workforce; and (d) a description of the expected workforce safety standards and training to ensure the project is completed at a high standard. The municipal broadband company shall publish workforce plans publicly on its website.

4. Municipal fiber optic networks shall be subject to prevailing wage requirements in accordance with article eight of the labor law.

5. The commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.