STATE OF NEW YORK

9364

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 19, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a regional impact assessment framework and requiring a ten-point regional impact test for statewide climate, energy, and infrastructure policies

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 "regional equity in policy implementation act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and intent. The Legislature finds that New York State's diverse regions including the North Country, Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, Central New York, Southern Tier, Western New York, the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island face significantly different economic capacities, infrastructure realities, and readiness levels for transition to the green economy.

While certain regions of the state possess robust and modernized electrical grids and transportation infrastructure, other areas particularly rural and upstate regions--experience aging or unreliable utility systems, reduced tax bases, unique geographic constraints, and disproportionate implementation costs.

Statewide mandates and programs often assume uniform readiness and capacity across all regions, unintentionally creating inequitable burdens and slowing progress toward statewide climate and sustainability goals.

Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that statewide policies recognize these regional differences by establishing a standardized 10-point regional impact test to evaluate the feasibility, cost, and equity implications of proposed laws, regulations, and capital programs.

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

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§ 3. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 184 to read as follows:

§ 184. Regional impact assessment framework. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "policy" shall mean any statewide legislation, regulatory action, program design, or funding mandate involving climate, energy, infrastructure, economic development, or municipal obligations.

(b) "test" shall mean the ten-point regional impact test developed under this section.

2. The division of the budget, in consultation with the department of public service, the department of environmental conservation, the New York state energy research and development authority, and the empire state development corporation, shall:

(a) develop and maintain a regional impact assessment framework applicable to statewide policies; and

(b) define no less than ten regions of the state.

3. Any policy proposed within the state shall be accompanied by:

(a) a ten-point regional impact test, unless expressly exempted by law; and

(b) a publicly available report based on the ten-point regional impact test which shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) regional disparities identified and taken into account;

(ii) strategies which support regions with lower capacity or readiness;

(iii) demonstrations that regions are not disproportionately burdened in cost, compliance, or infrastructure requirements;

(iv) any data supporting the regional impact test's results; and

(v) detailed information on proposed mitigation strategies.

4. (a) The ten-point regional impact test shall include ten criteria which shall be evaluated and scored for each region within the state. Such criteria shall be:

(i) infrastructure readiness, including but not limited to reliability of the electrical grid, broadband, transportation systems, and water/wastewater capacity.

(ii) economic capacity, including but not limited to ability of households, municipalities, and businesses to absorb compliance or upgrade costs.

(iii) workforce availability and skills, including but not limited to availability of trained workers needed to implement the policy or whether additional workforce development is required.

(iv) technological readiness, including but not limited to availability of clean-energy systems, electric vehicle infrastructure, heat pumps, transmission capacity, and related technologies.

(v) geographic and climatic conditions, including but not limited to unique challenges related to climate, weather severity, rural distances, or terrain.

(vi) community and demographic needs, including but not limited to impacts on low-income communities, aging populations, and areas with limited transportation access.

(vii) municipal capacity, including but not limited to availability of local planning staff, code enforcement, grant-writing capacity, and regional administrative support.

(viii) cost-benefit distribution, including but not limited to whether benefits and burdens are proportionally shared between regions.

(ix) implementation timeline feasibility, including but not limited to whether the proposed timeline is practical given a region's infrastructure and economic realities.

(x) equity and resiliency outcomes, including but not limited to assessment of whether the policy increases resiliency and avoids disproportionate impacts on any region.

(b) Each region shall receive a rating of "high impact," "moderate impact," or "low/no impact" based on the findings of the test. Where three or more regions score "high impact," the policy shall be revised or include mitigation measures.

5. Mitigation measures shall be tailored to the region and the criteria resulting in the "high impact" rating and shall not include the policy being implemented in a manner that disproportionately harms or delays progress in regions with lower infrastructure readiness.

6. The division of the budget shall submit an annual report to the legislature and the governor summarizing statewide trends, regional needs, and recommended updates to this section.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all statewide legislation, regulatory actions, program designs, or funding mandates chaptered or adopted on and after January 1, 2027.