STATE OF NEW YORK

8696

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the state university of New York to install solar canopies on its campuses

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

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

22. a. The state university trustees shall adopt rules requiring each institution of the state university of New York, to calculate, in a manner to be developed by the state university of New York, the total amount of square kilometers occupied by parking facilities suitable for solar canopy development within one year of the effective date of this subdivision.

b. The state university trustees shall utilize the data from each institution, calculated pursuant to paragraph a of this subdivision, to create a distributed solar energy goal for each institution to use no less than seventy-five percent of eligible parking facility space for solar canopies by two thousand forty.

c. Beginning one year after the effective date of this subdivision, any construction project undertaken by the state university of New York on a campus of an institution where the scope of such project includes a parking garage, open parking lot or other parking facility that offers parking spaces for the purposes of public use, state employee use or pay-per-usage or includes a parking garage, open parking lot or other parking facility constructed by a private entity using state capital funding, shall install solar canopies in such facilities, unless such institution has already reached the seventy-five percent goal established pursuant to paragraph b of this subdivision.

d. As used in this subdivision, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Parking facility" shall mean a parking garage, open parking lot or other parking facility owned and/or operated by the state university

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

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of New York, that offers parking spaces for the purposes of public use, faculty and staff use, student use, or pay-per-usage.

(2) "Solar canopy" shall mean a system designed to capture solar radiation for the purpose of producing usable energy.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.