STATE OF NEW YORK

8717

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- 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 the provision of information relating to renewable energy technologies and programs

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 1912 of the public authorities law, as amended by chapter 106 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1. Developing and enhancing a community education and engagement program to inform New Yorkers about the climate crisis and the benefits of shifting to a clean energy economy and conducting outreach, providing information and education, and building consensus on the environmental and local benefits of renewable energy technologies. Such strategic education and outreach shall include:

(a) Effective communication, engagement and public outreach to communities, including disadvantaged communities, to provide education and information on maximizing the benefits that renewable energy technologies can provide while demonstrating strategies and solutions that are available to ensure that community benefits are meaningful and negative impacts are avoided, reduced, or mitigated**. Such education and information shall include the provision of information to residential and commercial consumers regarding currently available incentive and affordability programs, including but not limited to home energy efficiency programs and programs that increase home access to renewable energy**;

(b) Comprehensive education and outreach to local governments that may host renewable energy technologies to provide objective information about the impacts of renewable energy development and mitigation opportunities; [~~and~~]

(c) Facilitation of forums for communities, regions, renewable energy developers, and other stakeholders to exchange information and ensure that all have access to the factual information necessary to support the

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

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appropriate siting of facilities and acceptance of renewable energy technologies[.]**; and**

(d) Methods of public outreach which shall include, but not be limited to: brochures and posters to be distributed to public libraries and other public institutions; use of social media, internet, radio, newspapers, and print advertising; use of television advertising; and recruitment of individuals to serve as visible public ambassadors.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 1912 of the public authorities law made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.