STATE OF NEW YORK

8970

IN SENATE

January 21, 2026

Introduced by Sen. ASHBY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing a municipal solar planning grant program

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

Section 1. Article 54 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new title 17 to read as follows:

TITLE 17

MUNICIPAL SOLAR PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Section 54-1701. Municipal solar planning grant program.

54-1702. Municipal solar planning grant program database.

§ 54-1701. Municipal solar planning grant program.

1. For the purposes of this title, the term "solar energy system" shall mean a renewable energy system, as defined by section sixty-six-p of the public service law, that generates electricity through solar thermal technology or photovoltaics technology.

2. The department, in conjunction with the New York state energy research and development authority, shall establish the municipal solar planning grant program to provide financial assistance to municipalities that submit a plan for the development of solar energy systems. Such submitted plans shall include a ratio, as determined by the New York state energy research and development authority, of solar energy systems housed on former agricultural land and open space land compared to commercial land, rooftops and parking lots.

3. Such program shall determine the following:

(a) definitions of agricultural land and commercially-zoned properties for the purposes of the program;

(b) eligible municipalities under the program;

(c) maximum per-municipality awards under the program; and

(d) any other standards, guidelines or rules as may be necessary to administer the program.

§ 54-1702. Municipal solar planning grant program database.

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

LBD14536-02-6

The department, in consultation with relevant state agencies, municipalities and the federal government, shall establish a database for municipalities to track their distribution of solar energy systems on agricultural land versus commercially-zoned properties, including, but not limited to, the address, square footage and approximate age of such solar energy systems. Such database shall be designed to enable municipalities to regularly update the information therein.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.