STATE OF NEW YORK

9684

IN SENATE

April 1, 2026

Introduced by Sen. FAHY -- 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 board of trustees of The State University of New York to develop a SUNY-wide zero waste action plan

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 355-f to read as follows:

§ 355-f. SUNY-wide zero waste action plan. 1. The board of trustees in consultation with faculty, staff, students, the student assembly, any labor organization which has been selected by members of faculty, staff, or students to represent their interests, and any designated sustainability staff member shall issue a report on or before one year after the effective date of this section creating a comprehensive SUNY-wide zero waste action plan including but not limited to the following focus areas:

a. source reduction also known as waste minimization, including but not limited to:

(i) single use plastics elimination and reduction; and

(ii) reforms to procurement resulting in waste minimization;

b. materials reuse, including surplus property management and facility deconstruction;

c. comprehensive recycling, including construction and demolition materials;

d. comprehensive composting or organics recycling;

e. student, faculty, and staff engagement; and

f. vendor and contractor requirements and engagement.

2. The plan shall include metrics for tracking waste reduction and diversion across the system, establishing a baseline, interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to zero waste, and publicly reporting this information. Zero waste goals must include both diversion through recycling and composting and reduction through waste minimization goals. The zero waste action plan must prioritize durable and reus-

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

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able materials over single use materials, even if those materials are recyclable and/or compostable.

3. The plan shall set a detailed project timeline for the system to become zero waste by two thousand thirty-three.

4. Within one hundred eighty days of the issuance of a system wide plan, each SUNY campus shall be required to create a detailed action plan, in consultation with faculty, staff, students, student government associations, any labor organization which has been selected by members of faculty, staff, or students to represent their interests, and any designated sustainability staff member.

5. The board of trustees shall be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness and implementation of such program in consultation with faculty, staff, students, the student assembly, and any labor organization which has been selected by members of faculty, staff, or students to represent their interests, and shall annually report to the legislature on the progress of the plan and post such report on the university website. Such report shall include a comprehensive audit of all waste and materials diverted and updates on inventory and shall review each campus action plan and include intermediate measures should a campus not be on track to meet the two thousand thirty-three deadline.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.