



## **A.5877-B (CAHILL, ET AL.) S.2501-B (PARKER, THOMPSON)**

### **Summary**

This bill would amend New York's energy law by adding a new Article 6 to govern state energy planning. It would re-establish a State Energy Planning Board consisting of members from various state agencies, as well as appointees from the Senate, Assembly and Governor. The Board's planning process would involve overseeing an assessment and analysis of long-term statewide energy needs through public hearings and comment periods, the adoption of rules and regulations, and the issuance of subpoenas as necessary. The bill calls for the adoption of a final state energy plan every four years.

### **Explanation**

Ensuring a reliable supply of clean power is one of the most critical policy issues facing the state. The New York Independent Systems Operator's updated 2009 Reliability Needs Assessment concluded that based on current forecasts and capacity, the state should have a sufficient supply of electricity to avoid any shortages through 2018. Going forward, there are a number of options that would enable the state to continue meeting its energy needs, including significantly increased investment in energy efficiency and conservation measures, as well as increasing power generated from clean, renewable sources.

Due to myriad factors affecting energy markets, it is critical that public officials take a comprehensive, forward-thinking approach to establishing a state energy plan. This bill would achieve such an end by requiring the State Energy Plan to include supply and demand forecasts for five-, 10- and 20-year periods. It also directs the Board to consider public health and environmental impacts, reliability, price volatility, demand-reducing measures, load management, transmission and distribution, energy efficiency and conservation measures, and environmental justice; it also places a strong emphasis on the inventory and reduction of climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions.

With an increased focus on efficiency, conservation and renewable energy, this bill would result in a comprehensive energy plan for New York that considers both economic pressures and long-term environmental concerns. Having such a plan in place will enable the state to better adapt to future market fluctuations while reducing our reliance on unsustainable fossil-fuels that are warming the planet.

**Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.**

**Memo 22**