



S.6050 (STACHOWKSI, ET AL.) **A.9040 (CAHILL, ET AL.)**

Summary

This bill amends Public Authorities Law establishing energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives to be administered by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). It authorizes NYPA to fund such projects and defines them to include high performance building retrofits, equipment efficiency improvements, renewable technologies, and pollution-reduction technologies, among others. It also allows for public entities to enter into leases or other agreements with NYPA to install clean energy systems on site, and directs NYPA to submit a report on these activities to the Governor and Legislature in 2012.

Explanation

Established in 1931, NYPA is the nation's largest state-owned power organization. The large scale and scope of the Authority presents an opportunity for New York to advance and fund innovative energy projects that promote efficiency and renewable energy. While NYPA has to date pursued some such programs, the scale of these initiatives remains small relative to the vast resources at the Authority's disposal.

The expansion of renewable power systems and efficiency measures reduce stress on the electric grid, allow consumers to hedge against volatile energy costs, and will provide environmental, public health, and economic benefits. Such benefits are in the public interest, for which NYPA was created to support.

This bill would ensure that NYPA has the ability to fully fund clean energy and efficiency projects across the state. A better bill would go a step further by setting a megawatt target for efficiency savings and new renewable capacity. However, this bill is one of many actions that should be taken to ensure sufficient legislative oversight of NYPA programs, in order to maximize the Authority's effectiveness in implementing the state's broader energy goals.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

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