



**2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government**

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 6

Bill #: AF-40

1 **Sponsors:** Andrew Bilotti, Ian Hua, Adam Schultzer

2 **An Act To**

3 Amend section 499-bbbb of the New York State Real Property Tax Law to
4 incentivize big businesses that use solar power as an alternative source of energy.

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

6 **Purpose**

7 To give incentives for big businesses that utilize solar power as an alternative
8 source of energy to benefit the environment by reducing toxic emissions being
9 released into the environment.

10 **Summary of Provisions**

11 **Section 1: Definitions**

12 Megawatt: unit of power equal to one million watts, especially as a measure of the
13 output of a power station.

14 Big business: a big business must earn above 35.5 million in profits annually and
15 have above 1,500 employees which may vary depending on the industry.

16 Solar panel: a panel usually made of silicon designed to absorb sunlight as a source
17 of energy for generating electricity or heating.

18 Tax abatement: a reduction in taxes granted by a government to encourage certain
19 action.

20 **Section 2:**

21 § 499-bbbb. Real property tax abatement. An eligible building shall receive an
22 abatement of real property taxes as provided in this title and the rules promulgated
23 hereunder.

24 5. If large business produces and uses solar energy, they will receive a percentage
25 tax abatement based on the amount of solar energy they produce. The tax
26 abatement is 0.5% per megawatt produced. This amount will be capped at a
27 maximum of 3.5%.

28 **Justification**

29 Environmental issues are becoming increasingly prominent in our world. A
30 significant portion of these issues can be traced back to the use of carbon emitting
31 energy sources. We can improve the environment as solar energy produces
32 dramatically less carbon emissions in a relatively inexpensive manner. Using solar
33 panels, thousands of pounds of carbon can be prevented from entering the
34 atmosphere. This bill seeks to find a solution that benefits companies, the people of
35 the state, and the environment.

36 **Fiscal Implications**

37 Slightly raised local taxes in the area of the solar location. Companies who utilize
38 solar farms receive tax benefits and people in the local area will pay slightly higher
39 taxes.

40 **Effective Date**

41 This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.