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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-10

**Sponsors:** Violet Hamlin, Michael Innocenzi, Viktoriya Jones, and Melanie Schwartz

**An Act To**

Amend section §12-102 of NYS consolidated Energy law to require a percentage of renewable energy in all new houses.

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

**Purpose**

The purpose of this bill is to require a percentage of all new houses to have renewable energy in order to help counteract the climate crisis.

**Summary of Provisions**

**Section 1 Definitions:**

New house: A residential one-family or two-family home, that is to begin construction after this bill is enacted.

The New York State Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC): A corporation that creates homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families by providing grants to governmental, not-for-profit and charitable organizations to help subsidize the cost of newly constructed houses and the renovation of existing housing.

**Section 2**

The legislature hereby finds and declares that the use of renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy, within the state should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible, and required that 15% of the energy in all new houses is renewable, not including houses being built with help from New York State Affordable Housing Corporation grants; that effective, well-designed, carefully manufactured and properly serviced solar thermal systems are essential for the development of a viable solar industry; that false claims, fraudulent sales practices, shoddy workmanship, equipment failures and poor servicing of products would inhibit the growth of the solar industry; that adequate warranty protections should be made available to consumers in order to prevent such deceptions; that certain warranty protections are presently made available to consumers of products normally used for personal, family or household purposes pursuant to the Federal Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act; 1 and that warranty protections should be made available to purchasers of all solar energy products in this state, regardless of use.



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**Justification**

The Earth is dying. Every day, across New York State, the United States, and the world, people excessively use fossil fuels to power their homes. These nonrenewable, destructive energy sources are rapidly causing irreparable damage to our environment. In 2017 alone, New York state consumed 1.28 quadrillion British Thermal Units (BTU) of natural gas. Natural gas is one of many fossil fuels that detrimental effects on our Earth due to the fact they produce Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases have caused a higher level of heat to be trapped within our atmosphere. Global temperatures in 2018 were 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit (0.83 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean average, according to scientists at NASA. Furthermore, global sea levels are on the rise. Those living on coasts, which is more than half of the New York State population, have already experienced major flooding due to encroaching waters, and by 2100 will experience sea levels that could be up to 75 inches higher than they are now. If action is not taken, a multitude of New York Counties, including the five boroughs of New York, will experience serious damage. The implementation of this law would reduce fossil fuel dependency in New York State and thus ensuring a brighter future.

**Fiscal Implications**

Given the fact that solar is the most popular type of renewable energy, the following calculations are for solar energy. The average house needs about 4 to 6 panels to power 15% of its electricity. In New York State, it costs around \$10,000 for one solar panel. Thus, it would cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 dollars to install these panels before incentives. New York State offers a 25% tax credit on solar panels, so the cost would be lowered to \$30,000 to \$45,000. Not to mention, over time, due to the fact that solar panels are cheaper than fossil fuel electricity long term profit margins will be increased.

**Environmental Implications**

This bill will have positive effects on the environment. By requiring the use of renewable energy, there will be a reduction in the use of fossil fuels within homes. This will therefore minimize the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that would typically be generated by New York State. The implementation of cleaner energy will only benefit the environment, including New York State wildlife and reserves.

**Effective Date**

This bill will go into effect one year after passage.