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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1

Bill #:AF-02

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2 **Sponsors** Rachel Blake, Emmett Sullivan, Alex Maddaloni, Natalie Bianchi
3
4 **An Act To** Add § 282-d to New York Tax Law to create a fund to research carbon
5 neutral through SUNY schools by marginally increasing nonagricultural gasoline and
6 diesel fuel tax.

7
8 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*
9

10 **Purpose** Advance New York State towards a greener economy and society by
11 building a foundation for carbon neutral fuels in an effort to lower the carbon
12 emission rate from vehicles and utilize the remainder.

13
14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 Section 1

16 Definitions:

17 Carbon neutral fuels: Synthetic hydrocarbons which convert carbon dioxide into the
18 building block for sustainable liquid fuels.

19 Section 2

20 § 282-d. Tax on nonagricultural motor and diesel fuel. In addition to the taxes
21 imposed by sections two hundred eighty-two-a, two hundred eighty-two-b, and two
22 hundred and eighty-two-c of this chapter, a like tax shall be imposed at the rate of
23 three cents per gallon. The revenue generated from this tax would be placed into a
24 trust to fund the creation of research centers for carbon neutral fuels through the
25 SUNY school system.

26
27 **Justification** Carbon emissions comprise over 80 percent of Earth's greenhouse
28 gasses. This buildup results in climate change and causes extreme weather, which
29 costs billions of damage to New York State annually. Carbon neutral fuels are an
30 efficient way to reduce carbon emissions and remove existing amounts in the
31 atmosphere. It has not been extensively implemented because funding for in depth
32 research has not been raised. This simple 3 cent tax would build a fund to create
33 research centers through SUNY schools, which already do quite a bit of research in
34 science and other related fields. The tax would be small enough to be insignificant
35 to taxpayers, but large enough to create a substantial fund within a few years.
36 Carbon neutral fuels would open up more job opportunities and create a flourishing
37 new science career path. Additionally, although the tax increase is very small, it



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38 may be an incentive to practice cleaner transportation methods, such as carpooling
39 and public transport.

40

41 **Fiscal Implications** The bill would impose a 3 cent tax to nonagricultural
42 commercial and diesel fuel. This would be a very small increase, so taxpayers
43 wouldn't be burdened, but it would serve as an incentive to conserve energy. Any
44 impact on the taxpayer would be negated several times over due to the money
45 saved from a more sustainable society.

46

47 **Environmental Implications** Research and future implementation of carbon
48 neutral fuels in New York State will reduce carbon emissions and remove existing
49 carbon from the atmosphere. This will slow the deterioration of the ozone layer as
50 well as global warming.

51

52 **Effective Date** The most recent fiscal year following the passage of this bill.