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Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-10

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Sponsors: Patrick Barnett, Victoria Guzzi

An Act To

Add Chapter 60 Article 20-E Section 500 to the Consolidated Tax Law to place a 3.5% excise tax per pound on the sale of red meat.

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

Purpose

To impose a 3.5% excise tax on the sale of red meat per pound.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Red meat: Any meat that comes from mammalian muscle including beef, lamb, pork, goat, veal, and mutton.

Section 2:

Article 20-E 1. A fine will be levied and imposed on a purchaser of red meat. Each pound of red meat will be subject to a 3.5 % excise tax.

(a)There is hereby imposed an excise tax on any red meat purchased in the state of New York under the rate of 3.5% per pound. This tax applies to any and all 1) fresh red meat which is sold in New York State and 2) prepackaged red meat which is sold in New York State. The excise tax imposed by this article shall be charged and paid by the purchaser at the time of such sale. The tax money derived from such red meat tax will be allocated to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

Justification

The passage of this bill will drastically reduce the increasing threat of environmental destruction which is seen throughout our world, nation, and state of New York. Large plots of land, keys to ecological success, are being shredded at alarming rates throughout New York in order to appease an unaddressed drive for livestock. In fact, livestock farming alone is responsible for an estimated eighteen percent of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Revenue of the excise tax will be allocated to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Fiscal Implications

This Bill will institute a three point five percent (3.5%) excise tax on the purchase of red meat per pound.

Environmental Implications

The passage of this bill will stimulate an array of positive environmental impacts, directly promoting an advancement of environmental conservation.

Effective Date

This Bill shall go into effect two years after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-11

1 **Sponsors:** Melissa Golden and Olivia Kelly

2

3 **An Act To** Amend section §130.96 of NYS consolidated law to raise the age of
4 classification for victims of first-degree sexual assault from 13 and younger to 15
5 and younger.

6

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

8

9 **Purpose**

10 This bill will provide protection for a greater range of ages for victims of sexual
11 assault in the first degree.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Rape:** penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part
16 or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent
17 of the victim

18 **Victim:** a person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other
19 event or action

20 **Sexual Assault:** when someone touches any part of another person's body in a
21 sexual manner, even through clothes, without that person's consent. Sexual
22 assault includes, but is not limited to attacks such as rape or attempted rape, as
23 well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats

24 **Predator:** a person or group that violates an individual through the manner of
25 sexual assault

26

27 **Section 2**

28 §130.96: A person is guilty of predatory sexual assault against a child when, being
29 eighteen years old or more, he or she commits the crime of rape in the first degree,
30 criminal sexual act in the first degree, aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree,
31 or course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree, as defined in this
32 article, and the victim is less than thirteen or equal to the age of fifteen years old.

33

34 **Justification**

35 Overall, rape rates in America have increased tremendously. Females ages 16-19
36 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape,
37 attempted rape, or sexual assault. Yes, females under the age of 13 get raped, but
38 the age for first degree must be raised. 82% of all victims under 18 are female.
39 One in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or
40 assault at the hands of an adult. During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of
41 youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized. The law currently states that the



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42 course of sexual contact against a child in the first degree, as defined in this article,
43 and the victim is less than thirteen years of age. Thirteen, while a decent age, could
44 be better. As mentioned, most are between 16-19. When raised to the age of 15,
45 lives will be saved from death and mental health cases. Rape can leave people
46 feeling alone, ashamed, and scared. The age of thirteen is simply too low. While of
47 course, rape should never happen, raising the age would be far more beneficial. A
48 study conducted in 1986 found that 63% of women who had suffered sexual abuse
49 by a family member also reported a rape or attempted rape after the age of 14.
50 Recent studies in 2000, 2002, and 2005 have all concluded similar results. The
51 average woman isn't even fully developed until 22, and the time period most are
52 sexually assaulted is a prime time in a teen's life. Over the course of their lifetime,
53 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized.

54

55 **Fiscal Implications**

56 Each sexual assault court case has an average cost of around \$600. Rape results in
57 more than \$122,000 in costs per victim and nearly \$3.1 trillion to the economy over
58 the lifetimes of all 25 million victims in the US population. For every rape
59 prevented, more than \$122,000 in lifetime costs are averted. According to the
60 Malta Justice Initiative (Including costs such as feeding, housing, and security.) The
61 average cost of an inmate per year is \$167,731.

62

63 **Environmental Implications**

64 Passage of this bill will have a negligible effect on New York State Environment.

65

66 **Effective Date**

67 The bill will be effective one year after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-12

1 **Sponsors:** Wells Liscomb, Kason Romanowski

2

3 **An Act To** Amend bill S-4144 to mandate New York State to alter the State
4 Foundation Aid formula

5

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

7

8 **Purpose**

9 The purpose of this bill is to alter the Payable State Foundation Aid formula so that
10 schools are given aid money more effectively based on the amount of students with
11 Extraordinary needs.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Foundation Aid:** The total financial aid given by the state to public schools.

16 **Public School:** A school supported by public funds, whether through state funding or
17 taxes.

18 **Extraordinary Needs:** Students who require assistance in their education, whether
19 the student has a learning disability or the student is an ELL Student.

20 **ELL Student:** A student who has another language as their primary language or is in
21 the process of learning the English language.

22 **Learning Disability:** A condition giving rise to acquiring knowledge and skills to the
23 level expected of those the same age.

24

25 **Section 2**

26 **Bill S-4144 is being amended to include subsection 3605-A that will add the total**
27 **amount of a District's Students who have a Learning Disability to Tier D of the**
28 **Foundation Aid Payable formula.**

29

30 **Justification**

31 Currently, there are a number of public New York schools that are not being given
32 enough financial aid by New York State when they require more money to continue
33 certain programs. Not only is this unfair to the schools who are being paid less than
34 necessary, but it's also unfair to the local taxpayers, who now have to cover the
35 rest of the State Aid. This bill would help to bolster a fiscal level playing field, and
36 help the schools with their budgets. This bill is being written to try to help patch a
37 problem that has become more and more apparent over the past years. Currently,
38 the Payable Foundation Aid formula is complicated, with a lot of factors going into
39 it. The formula is a tiered system, with 10 different tiers. The main tier this group is



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40 focusing on is Tier D, which accounts for ELL students and the Pupil Wealth ratio.
41 However, Tier D doesn't take into account students with a learning disability. In
42 fact, none of the tiers do. This bill looks to add the amount of Students with a
43 Learning Disability to the Foundation Aid Payable formula. Districts currently are
44 eligible for Tier D benefits if the Public Enrollment increases, the amount of ELL
45 Students increase, and the Combined Wealth Ratio decreases. If this bill passes,
46 schools would also qualify if the amount of students who have a Learning Disability
47 increase by 5% within a given time period.

48

49 **Fiscal Implications**

50 The passing of the bill will cost the state a relatively small amount of money which
51 will vary depending on each district's total Foundation Aid Payable sum, but will
52 ultimately lower the local school taxes, as the schools would be receiving more
53 Foundation Aid

54

55 **Environmental Implications**

56 This bill is expected to have no effect on New York State Wildlife.

57

58 **Effective Date**

59 This bill will go into effect before the next year's state budget is released.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 3

Bill #:SF-18

1 **Sponsors:** Grace Brody, Bridget Connolly, Owen Luntz

2
3 **An Act To** Amend Vehicle and Traffic Law Article 19, Section 502, paragraph 4(b)
4 to add paragraph 4(b)(i) to require that road tests include a test of driving skills on
5 roads with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour or greater.

6
7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8
9 **Purpose** To ensure that licensed drivers within New York State possess the skills
10 and competency required to drive on roads with speed limits of 55 miles per hour
11 or greater.

12
13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Road test:** shall mean an assessment of a permit holder's ability to drive that takes
16 place at least six (6) months after the acquisition of the learner's permit.

17 **Licensed driver:** shall mean an individual who is in possession of a valid New York
18 State driver's license.

19 **High speed driving skills:** shall mean any skill required to operate a vehicle at
20 speeds at or above 55 miles per hour, including but not limited to: merging, lane
21 changing and defensive driving.

22
23 **Section 2**

24 **4(b)(i) All road tests administered in conjunction with an application for a driver's**
25 **license shall include a test of driving skills on roads with a speed limit of 55 miles**
26 **per hour or greater, including but not limited to merging, lane changing and**
27 **defensive driving.**

28
29
30 **Justification**

31 From 2011 to 2015, there were 12,000 speed-related crashes in New York State
32 alone. In 2015 this included 29% of roadway fatalities. High-speed driving is high
33 risk driving. Currently, the New York State road test may include a three-point turn,
34 left turn, and parallel parking, with no requirements for assessment of high speed
35 driving skills. Despite the New York State road test's aim to holistically assess
36 prospective drivers, it fails to do so. While driver's education and the five-hour
37 course may include general information on high-speed driving, it is possible to
38 receive a New York State driver's license with no practical assessment of high-
39 speed driving skills. High-speed roadways are congested, unpredictable, and
40 dangerous. Inexperienced drivers create a hazard for themselves and others on the
41 road. Skills required to safely navigate high-speed roadways include merging, lane



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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 3

Bill #:SF-18

42 changing, and defensive driving. This bill will ensure that drivers acquire those skills
43 necessary to be safe drivers on all New York State roadways.

44

45 **Fiscal Implications**

46 This bill will have minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Motor Vehicles
47 within the state budget.

48

49 **Environmental Implications**

50 Establishment of a road test that more accurately reflects the driving conditions
51 faced by the average driver in New York State will increase safety on New York
52 State roadways.

53

54 **Effective Date**

55 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #: SL-01

1 **Sponsors:** Niquita Varier, Juliet Lovelace, Shana Hatia

2
3 **An Act To:** Amend 5-102 of Article 5, Title 1 of the New York State Election Law to
4 lower the minimum voting age for local elections

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

7
8 **Purpose:**

9 AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to the qualifications of voters in local
10 elections;

11
12 **Summary of Provisions:**

13 Section 1

- 14 a) Federal election - Elections in the United States that are held for government
15 officials at the federal level (ex. President)
- 16 b) State election - Elections held in each individual states that are held for state
17 representatives (ex. Governor, state legislative representatives)
- 18 c) Local election - Elections that take place to select office-holders in local
19 government (city or town), such as mayors and councillors. It can also be
20 referred to as "municipal elections" (ex. sheriff, city council members, mayor,
21 school board)
- 22 d) Vote - indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of
23 action expressed through election
- 24 e) Residence - a place where someone lives such as a state, county, village,
25 city, and street.

26
27 Section 2

28 Qualifications of voters; age and residence.

29 1. No person shall be qualified to register for and vote at any state and federal
30 election unless he is a citizen of the United States and is or will be, on the day of
31 such election, eighteen years of age or over, and a resident of this state ~~and of~~
32 ~~the county, city or village~~ for a minimum of thirty days next preceding such
33 election.

34 No person shall be qualified to register for and vote at municipal elections unless he
35 is a citizen of the United States and is or will be, on the day of such election,
36 sixteen years of age or over, and a resident of this state and of the county, city or
37 village for a minimum of thirty days next preceding such election.

38
39
40



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Committee Assignment:

Senate Liberty 1

Bill #: SL-01

41 **Justification:**

42 Passing this bill will give youth citizens a voice in their future. 16 is considered a
43 perfect voting age as in certain states a 16-year-old is considered old enough to be
44 examined for the death penalty, eligible to drive, qualified to hold a job, and are old
45 enough to drop out of school. At the age of 17 you are legally able to join the
46 military, with parental consent, as well. I believe that if people feel so passionately
47 about something they should have the right to be heard. The right to vote would
48 provide a constituency for children, not only for those registered to vote, but also
49 for their younger brothers and sisters. Many people believe that having the power
50 to vote is the strongest way to get legislators' attention. The concept is to slowly
51 introduce 16 and 17 year olds to the idea of being able to take their future into
52 their own hands, and help decide what kind of government they want stating locally
53 within their counties and cities.

54

55 **Fiscal Implications:**

56 Instead of changing the voting registration form for the state entirely, which states
57 the age to be eighteen, students of ages 16 and 17 can be eligible to register for
58 the municipal elections locally at their own school. If one does not attend a school
59 they can register at their local city or town hall. This registration only grants them
60 access to vote at local elections.

61

62 **Effective Date:** January 1, 2021



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #:SL-02

1 **Sponsors:** Stephen Gilbert, Logan Luke and Joy Mydlenski

2
3 **An Act To** Add to Article 10 §207 of NYS General Municipal Law § 207-R for
4 compensation of firefighters and emergency medical practitioners with PTSD

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

6 **Purpose** The purpose of this bill is to create a PTSD presumptive payment for
7 emergency medical practitioners and firefighters who develop PTSD due to their
8 work as first responders.

9 **Summary of Provisions**

10 **Section 1**

11 § 207-R. Presumptive Payments to Emergency Medical Practitioners and
12 Firefighters with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Emergency medical
13 practitioners and paid members of the fire department of any city or town in New
14 York who (a) have been employed in such profession for two or more years and (b)
15 are clinically diagnosed with PTSD shall be assumed to have acquired it due to
16 Repeated Exposure Trauma.

17 (1) Upon receiving a clinical diagnosis from a registered psychiatrist or
18 psychologist, New York State shall compensate any emergency medical practitioner
19 or firefighter with proof of diagnosis with a presumptive payment of one thousand
20 dollars to help the payment of treatment.

21 (2) Should a second diagnosis occur, and treatment need to continue two years
22 after the initial diagnosis

23 (a) the state shall provide two hundred and fifty dollars per quarter in which
24 psychotherapy continues or

25 (b) full compensation of prescription costs

26 **Justification** Up to thirty seven percent of firefighters and emergency medical
27 practitioners have a high chance of currently having PTSD, either diagnosed or
28 undiagnosed. Currently, New York State does nothing to help firefighters and their
29 risk of PTSD but they do cover physical ailments such as broken bones, hospitalized
30 injuries and most recently cancer. Several other states such as California,
31 Washington, Montana, and Vermont have enacted legislation regarding PTSD and
32 the health of their first responders and New York State has already begun to
33 expand the compensation and health benefits of the state's first responders.
34 Treatment is relatively inexpensive, but firefighters deserve compensation for the
35 hard work they have done to keep their neighborhoods safe not just from fires but
36 other disasters.

37 **Fiscal Implications** This would approximately cost New York State less than five
38 million dollars upon passage and approximately less than five hundred thousand
39 dollars every subsequent year.

40 **Environmental Implications** There are no environmental implications to this bill.

41 **Effective Date** This bill will go into effect one year after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #:SL-06

1 **Sponsors:** Emilia Brandimarte, Lydia Colon, Julianna Ugliodoro

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Article 17, § 801, subsection 3, of the New York State Education Law to add LGBTQ+
5 history to social studies curriculum.

6

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

8

9 **Purpose**

10 This bill aims to add LGBTQ+ history to all applicable high school history classes in order to
11 make them more inclusive to a diverse range of historical perspectives and create a more
12 accepting environment for marginalized LGBTQ+ students.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1: Definitions**

16 LGBTQ+: individuals who identify themselves with the community of lesbian, gay, bisexual,
17 transgender, and queer individuals.

18 **Section 2**

19 3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such courses of instruction in
20 patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the
21 inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground railroad), the
22 Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, a study of the impact of
23 LGBTQ+ individuals throughout history and to the world, including but not limited to the
24 Stonewall riots and the involvement of the United States in the AIDs epidemic; and in the
25 history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United
26 States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state
27 of New York and the amendments thereto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in
28 such subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such instruction and for
29 such other matters as are required for carrying into effect the objects and purposes of this
30 section. The commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall
31 cause to be inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The
32 commissioner may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school money to be
33 apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for failure of the school authorities of such district
34 or city to provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon such instruction, as
35 herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the rules of the regents adopted as herein
36 provided.

37

38 **Justification**

39 This bill will give students a more diverse and inclusive view of history. The history that we learn
40 in mandatory high school classes usually shape the worldviews of most students well into their



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #:SL-06

41 adult lives, since most people don't look extensively into other perspectives and historical
42 narratives. History as it is taught is extremely subjective; the events and sources that are used
43 can completely change how we look at the world and can define the zeitgeist of an entire
44 generation. Therefore, teaching queer history to a general population by adding it to existing
45 mandatory classes instead of adding it as an elective can foster inclusivity throughout the high
46 school population, and acceptance of queer students by their peers. This will legitimize the
47 queer struggle to outsiders, as well as making students confront preconceived biases that they
48 may have about the queer community by proving that alternate identities have always existed.
49 In addition, it will legitimize queerness to queer students themselves who have internalized
50 bigotry or are unwilling to accept their identities. Queer history isn't passed down familially, so
51 this is also a way to preserve history that is often lost due to lack of legitimization as a field and
52 visibility. By bringing alternate views of history into light, students straight and queer alike will
53 receive a perspective that they may not have considered looking into themselves.

54

55 **Fiscal Implications**

56 This bill will require the additional training of teachers on how to teach this new material and the
57 optional purchase of new textbooks. This bill won't necessitate the addition of any new teachers,
58 classes, or school time.

59

60 **Effective Date**

61 This law will go into effect on January 1, 2024.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #: SL-08

1 **Sponsors:** Sophia Gugino, Ellaina Scholes, Grace Darrin, Raygen Haggstrom

2
3 **An Act To** Add New York State Education Law EDN § 344-d, replacing the New
4 York State Standardized Exams in grades 3-8 in ELA, Math, and Science with locally
5 developed exams.

6
7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8
9 **Purpose** Improve the academic careers of students in grades three through eighth
10 by eliminating the need for the NY State Test Exams in English, math, and science,
11 while permitting the continuation of NYS regents offered to eighth graders.

12
13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 Section 1 Definitions

15 AP- advanced placement

16 NEA – National Education Association

17 NAESP – National Association of Elementary School Principles

18 ESSA – Federal regulation of 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act which requires all
19 states measure and report student growth in ELA and Math to the Department of
20 Education

21 Section 2

22 Grade 3-8 exams in Math, ELA, and Science as required by Federal Law Every
23 Student Succeeds Act 2015 (ESSA) will be locally created and administered by
24 school districts and will replace the state created exams. Yearly local exams will be
25 submitted to the Board of Regents one year prior to administration to ensure state
26 standards and rigor are being addressed.

27
28
29 **Justification**

30 A majority of third through eighth graders take the NYS test for math and English,
31 with an additional science test taken in fourth and eighth grade. At the school's
32 discretion, eighth graders can begin to take AP science and math, eradicating the
33 need for these students to take the state exam. They would continue to take the
34 regents exam like in previous years from that point on. Unlike the regents exams,
35 there is no retest option if you perform poorly on the state test.

36 The NEA conducted a survey in 2015 consisting of 1500 NEA members. This
37 study showed that 70% of educators believe that the curriculum being tested is not
38 helping the development of students when working towards a career path,
39 and therefore is unnecessary. This survey also displays that 76% of elementary and



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #: SL-08

40 middle school teachers see standardized exams to be hurtful towards students. A
41 separate study also performed by the NEA shows 72% of educators feel pressured
42 by districts to improve their test scores. The test scores from the 2019 NYS ELA
43 exam show only 45% of students who took the test reached proficiency. Similarly,
44 the 2019 NYS math exam shows 47% of students met proficiency. Another large
45 factor to consider is how the human body responds to the taxing nature of these
46 exams. The years students take these exams is also the time the average student
47 experiences puberty. Puberty not only ages us physically, but mentally as well. An
48 article by the NAESP proves this; during puberty, around 20% of all past
49 connections are lost, including material you may have learned and are expected to
50 retain from elementary school. This time period is when the development of the
51 neo-cortex occurs. The neo-cortex can also be referred to as the executive portion
52 of a brain. This shift sets students apart from a childlike mentality. Development of
53 the neo-cortex can also be linked to a child's attention span. The
54 average student's attention span is around 10-12 minutes. Training a young and
55 undeveloped brain to sit down to take the exam can prove to be a difficult task for
56 anyone. Sitting through these exams can be mentally draining, and bad for
57 a student's overall health; this can also make it difficult to focus, leading to the
58 potential for a poor test result.

59

60 **Fiscal Implications**

61 By repealing a state-wide exam for students grades 3-8 the state will be able to
62 save around 93.6 million dollars a year of the nation's 669 million spent on
63 standardized exams. NYS alone spends \$7 per child per test. This seems miniscule;
64 however, this means that from third to eighth grade the school will spend upwards
65 of \$98 for you to take the state exams. As a nation we spend \$1.7 billion on
66 standardized testing, only .25% of the yearly amount spent on education.
67 Ultimately, replacing state-wide exams with a district localized exam will help the
68 school's budget as they no longer have to pay for the testing implemented by the
69 state.

70

71 **Environmental Implications** This will have a positive impact on the environment,
72 since the state will not have to print the tests, saving paper.

73

74 **Effective Date** The start of the school year following the bills passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-10

1
2 **Sponsors:** Violet Hamlin, Michael Innocenzi, Viktoriya Jones, and Melanie Schwartz

3
4 **An Act To**

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

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

9
10 **Purpose**

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

13
14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1 Definitions:**

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

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

23 **Section 2**

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

38
39



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-10

40 **Justification**

41 The Earth is dying. Every day, across New York State, the United States, and the
42 world, people excessively use fossil fuels to power their homes. These
43 nonrenewable, destructive energy sources are rapidly causing irreparable damage
44 to our environment. In 2017 alone, New York state consumed 1.28 quadrillion
45 British Thermal Units (BTU) of natural gas. Natural gas is one of many fossil fuels
46 that detrimental effects on our Earth due to the fact they produce Carbon Dioxide
47 and other greenhouse gases. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases have caused a
48 higher level of heat to be trapped within our atmosphere. Global temperatures in
49 2018 were 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit (0.83 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1951 to
50 1980 mean average, according to scientists at NASA. Furthermore, global sea levels
51 are on the rise. Those living on coasts, which is more than half of the New York
52 State population, have already experienced major flooding due to encroaching
53 waters, and by 2100 will experience sea levels that could be up to 75 inches higher
54 than they are now. If action is not taken, a multitude of New York Counties,
55 including the five boroughs of New York, will experience serious damage. The
56 implementation of this law would reduce fossil fuel dependency in New York State
57 and thus ensuring a brighter future.

58

59 **Fiscal Implications**

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

68

69 **Environmental Implications**

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

75

76 **Effective Date**

77 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-16

1 **Sponsors:** Eli DeCampo, Coen Nelson, Ian Salyer

2

3 **An Act To**

4 An act to amend the Education Law §- 3208 -A to allow homeschooled students of
5 New York to try out and be on public school sports teams.

6

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

8

9 **Purpose**

10 To allow New York homeschoolers to participate in public school sports programs.

11 **Section 1: Definitions**

12 **Homeschooler:** A school-age child who is not actively enrolled in any running public
13 or private school.

14 **Section 2:**

15 In no event shall a successful petitioner be entitled to costs in any proceeding
16 brought pursuant to this section. The school district shall not be responsible for
17 providing or bear the cost of, any special or preventive measures or devices needed
18 to protect the student unless such special or preventive measures or devices are
19 contained in a student's individual education plan recommended by the school
20 district committee on the handicapped and such student is a child with a
21 handicapping condition, as defined in section forty-four hundred one of this chapter.
22 A physically impaired child eligible to commence a special proceeding as provided
23 by this section shall be defined as any child determined by a school physician as
24 ineligible for participation on the basis of the regulations of the state education
25 department, the American Medical Association Guide for Medical Evaluation for
26 Candidates for School Sports, or by any standard established by the school district
27 involved.

28 An athletic program for the purpose of this section shall include intramural
29 activities, inter-school activities, extramural activities, and organized practice as
30 defined by section 135.1 by the commissioner of education's regulations except for
31 section 135.4 (c) (7) (iii) (2). Additionally, any homeschooler will be given the
32 opportunity to participate in public school athletic programs by entering the tryouts
33 of the school, and by meeting the qualifications the school sets for all participants.
34 If the homeschooler earns a position in the athletic program, they are allowed to
35 participate in it just as the other participants from the school.

36

37

38



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-16

39

40 **Justification**

41 Homeschoolers should be given the same athletic opportunities as people in public
42 schools. This is because homeschool families pay school taxes as well. This type of
43 legislation is not unheard of, and is rather common in the United States. Currently,
44 Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and 19 other states allow homeschoolers to participate
45 in public school sports. By giving public schools the opportunity to make their
46 athletic teams stronger, they can be greatly affected in positive ways. These
47 benefits include the schools being able to wield a stronger sports team, which can
48 lead to better funding and donations, expanding the students' interactions with
49 other children, and leading to an overall more connected community.

50

51 **Environmental Impact**

52 This bill has no environmental impact.

53

54 **Fiscal Implications**

55 This bill has no fiscal implications.

56

57 **Effective Date**

58 This law will go into effect one academic year after its passage.

59

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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 3

Bill #:SL-17

1 **Sponsors:** Lauren Andersen, DeAnna Faison, Justin Iorio, Joseph Mazzarella

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend § 120.16 of the New York State Penal Law to make hazing in the first
5 degree a class E felony.

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

7 **Purpose**

8 To increase the penalty for hazing in the first degree. Hazing is a problem that is on
9 the rise. Current legislation does not define or punish offenders of this crime
10 appropriately.

11

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions**

14 **Class E Felony:** Ranges from no jail with probation or jail for up to 4 years.

15 **Section 2:**

16 § 120.16 Hazing in the first degree.

17 A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course
18 of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any
19 organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct,
20 including, but not limited to, ~~making physical contact with or requiring~~
21 ~~physical activity of such other person, which creates a substantial risk~~
22 ~~of physical injury~~ causing serious bodily injury or risk of death to such other person
23 or a third person and thereby causes ~~such~~ injury.

24 Hazing in the first degree is a ~~class A misdemeanor~~ class E felony.

25

26 **Justification**

27 Hazing is far too common on college campuses and an under reported incident.
28 95% of cases did not report their hazing experiences to university officials. While
29 not all hazing cases can be defined under this law, our efforts are intended to bring
30 justice to the worst offenders of this crime. This is an issue more prevalent than the
31 public eye realizes which is why attention must be brought to it.

32 **Fiscal Implications**

33 This bill will increase the sentence of this crime therefore costing the taxpayer more
34 money per year by minimal amounts. On average it costs 62,000 dollars a year to
35 house a prisoner in New York.

36 **Environmental Implications**

37 This bill does not include any direct environmental implications to the state.

38 **Effective Date**

39 This bill will go into effect on August 1, 2021.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 3

Bill #:SL-19

1 **Sponsors:** Zarib Alam and Gabriel Hoglund

2
3 **An Act To** Amend NYS Labor Law §240(1) to include comparative negligence in the
4 liability of gravity-related (falling) work injuries.

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

7
8 **Purpose** By Labor Law §240(1), otherwise known as the Scaffold Law, a
9 contractor/employer is fully liable for the injury of their workers in gravity-related
10 accidents despite the worker's own negligence in the accident. By amending this
11 law to include comparative negligence, the fault of both the worker and the
12 contractor/employer shall be considered, resulting in fairer accountability.

13
14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1**

16 **Gravity-related injury:** the injury of an individual resulting from the falling of
17 construction materials or the individual falling due to the improper use or function
18 of construction equipment.

19 **Absolute liability:** full liability of a contractor, owner, or agent in the gravity-related
20 injury of their workers, regardless of the injured worker's negligence.

21 **Comparative negligence:** consideration of fault for both the worker involved in a
22 gravity-related accident and the contractor, owner, or agent overseeing such
23 worker.

24
25 **Section 2**

26 **Labor Law §240**

27 1. All contractors and owners and their agents, except owners of one and two-
28 family dwellings who contract for but do not direct or control the work, in the
29 erection, demolition, repairing, altering, painting, cleaning or pointing of a building
30 or structure shall furnish or erect, or cause to be furnished or erected for the
31 performance of such labor, scaffolding, hoists, stays, ladders, slings, hangers,
32 blocks, pulleys, braces, irons, ropes, and other devices which shall be so
33 constructed, placed and operated as to give proper protection to a person so
34 employed. In gravity-related worker injuries, the fault of the worker is to be
35 considered along with the fault of the worker's contractor or owner as comparative
36 negligence.

37
38 **Justification**

39 As the result of Labor Law §240, known as the Scaffold Law, New York has become
40 one of the worst places for construction in the country. Insurance rates on
41 construction have skyrocketed, with project costs increasing by the millions and
42 much of it being paid for by the taxpayer. The law has become obsolete. It was
43 introduced in 1885, when effective equipment and worker's protection agencies did



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 3

Bill #:SL-19

44 not yet exist. Now, it simply serves as an unjust obstacle for the construction
45 industry. Employers that take the necessary measures to protect their workers are
46 held fully liable for their workers' negligence in gravity-related injuries. The impact
47 of this law is felt everywhere. The Building Trade Employers Association named it a
48 significant obstacle to minority and women contractors. A study by Cornell
49 University found that New York had an average of 667 more construction accidents
50 per year because of the rule. Moreover, New York is the only state to possess such
51 a law. To remedy this clearly problematic statute, a new standard of comparative
52 negligence must be adopted. This will allow the contractor and employee to be
53 equal under the law. In doing so, construction in New York will become more
54 inexpensive and appealing.
55

56 **Fiscal Implications**

57 Labor Law §240 makes the New York construction insurance rate one of the highest
58 in the country. The economic consequences are expected to only become worse.
59 For example, the law is estimated to add an additional \$200 million to the
60 construction of the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and an additional \$300 million to
61 the new cross-Hudson train tunnel project. Repealing it is expected to save the
62 state approximately \$785 million dollars annually and save the New York
63 construction industry an estimated \$3 billion dollars annually. By lowering the cost
64 of developing bridges, homes, schools, and places of work, construction in New
65 York will become more appealing. This will allow our business, employment, and
66 economy to prosper.
67

68 **Environmental Implications**

69 By making construction less expensive, more resources can be dedicated to building
70 with sustainable materials and methods. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity and
71 other disaster relief organizations named Labor Law §240 a barrier to disaster relief
72 following Superstorm Sandy. By amending the law, disaster relief and
73 reconstruction can occur at a faster rate.
74

75 **Effective Date**

76 This bill shall go into effect one year after passage.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 4

Bill #:SL-24

1 **Sponsors:** Allison Hunt, Taylor Fryer, César Perez-Marino, José Perez-Marino

2
3 **An Act To:**

4 An act to amend §40.07 of Title P:New York State Cultural education trust to add
5 onto the existing section an incentive for schools to hold culture fairs.

6
7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8
9 **Purpose:**

10 The purpose of this bill is to institute an incentive for schools to host a culture fair
11 to promote cultural acceptance and diversity within schools and communities.

12
13 **Summary of Provisions:**

14
15 **Section 1**

16 Culture fair- An event where students, preferably at the secondary education level,
17 host a table portraying their background's culture.

18 Incentive- A collective that a school may be provided with in order to instigate the
19 implementation of a culture fair.

20 Trust- A trust is a fiduciary arrangement that allows a third party, or trustee, to
21 hold assets on behalf of a beneficiary or beneficiaries.

22
23 **Section 2**

24 The purpose of the trust shall be to prepare and recommend plans, in cooperation
25 with the commissioner of education, to the director of the budget regarding projects
26 to enhance the ~~public display of the collections and exhibits of the state museum,~~
27 ~~library and archives, and for the acquisition of a new storage facility for such~~
28 collections. knowledge of different cultures through the creation of an incentive for
29 schools to encourage the hosting of a culture fair.

30
31 **Justification:**

32 Even in times such as 2019 which are supposed to encompass acceptance of all
33 kinds of individuals, there is still some discrimination of individuals in various
34 facilities all throughout schools. Society has made strides in the right direction, yet
35 some still feel they are not recognized for who they are. With students having the
36 ability to show their culture to their classmates, and explain to them who they are,
37 the more people will feel comfortable with who they are. Studies also show that
38 with a better understanding of culture at a younger age, people will remain more



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 4

Bill #:SL-24

39 open minded in the future, improving lives in the workplace and helping deal with
40 discrimination.

41
42 In more recent times people are supposed to be more accepting of each other, and
43 yet there is still discrimination in schools everywhere. Society has evolved with time
44 but not all problems have been solved. If students are allowed to show classmates
45 their cultures, and show others who they are, the more comfortable they will feel
46 about themselves. Studies also show that if one understands culture better from a
47 younger age, people would be more open-minded, improving life by dealing with
48 discrimination.

49
50 **Fiscal Implications:**
51 A minimal portion of the existing New York State Cultural Education Trust will be
52 used for the incentive.

53
54 **Environmental Implications:**
55 There are no environmental implications that are in accord with this bill.

56
57 **Effective Date:**
58 This bill will go into effect at the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year.



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 4

Bill #:SL-31

1 **Sponsors:** Aidan B. Wisniewski – Campo, Ricardo D. Sobrevinas, Joshua Rabin

2
3 **An Act** to amend the New York State Criminal Procedure Law §530.45-1 to
4 impose certain modifications for a securing order

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

7
8 **Purpose:** Assure that defendants convicted of Class A, B, C, D and E felonies
9 committed against those under the age of 18 are subjected to a securing order and
10 immediate fixed bail post-conviction and before sentencing.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1:** Definitions

14 Securing Order: An order of a court committing a defendant to the custody of the
15 Sheriff or fixing bail, where authorized, or releasing the defendant on his/her own
16 recognizance or releasing the defendant under non-monetary conditions to assure
17 the defendants return to court.

18 Fixed bail: A court fixes bail when, having acquired jurisdiction over a defendant of
19 a principal, it designates a sum of money and stipulates that, if bail in such amount
20 is posted on behalf of the defendant and approved, it will permit him/her to be at
21 liberty during the pendency of the criminal action or proceeding involved.

22 Order of recognizance or bail: A securing order releasing a principal on his own
23 recognizance or fixing bail

24 **Section 2:**

25 1. When the defendant is at liberty in the course of a criminal action as a result of a
26 prior order of recognizance, release under non-monetary conditions or bail and the
27 court revokes such order and then, where authorized, fixes no bail or fixes bail
28 in a greater amount or in a more burdensome form than was previously fixed
29 and remands or commits defendant to the custody of the Sheriff, or issues a
30 more restrictive securing order, a judge designated in subdivision two of this
31 section shall set fixed bail against defendants eighteen years or older convicted of
32 any class felony committed or attempted to have been committed against a person
33 less than eighteen years of age upon conviction and before sentencing. ~~upon~~
34 ~~application of the defendant following conviction of an offense other than a~~
35 ~~class A felony or a class B or class C felony offense as defined in article one~~
36 ~~hundred thirty of the penal law committed or attempted to be committed by~~
37 ~~a person eighteen years of age or older against a person less than eighteen years~~
38 ~~of age, and before sentencing, may issue a securing order and release the~~
39 ~~defendant on the defendant's own recognizance, release the defendant under~~
40 ~~non-monetary conditions, or, where authorized, fix bail or fix bail in a lesser~~



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Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 4

Bill #:SL-31

41 ~~amount or in a less burdensome form, or issue a less restrictive securing order,~~
42 ~~than fixed by the court in which the conviction was entered.~~

43

44 **Justification**

45 Under the existing provision of the "Bail Reform Bill of 2019" potential criminals
46 that commit egregious offenses are readily released on recognizance. This
47 amendment ascertains that criminals who commit offenses to minors (under 18
48 years of age) are held accountable for inflicting harm and unjustified acts on
49 adolescents. The extent to which New York, and the rest of developing system has
50 sought to alleviate the misfortunes regarding the judicial system has been well
51 intentioned. Seeking to lower burdens on low income offenders is noble by
52 appearance. Though, by enabling perpetrators to escalate further crime on innocent
53 children we open the prospect for further crimes to be committed with the passage
54 to potential freedom. Criminal Justice reform begins with fundamentally reducing
55 incarceration. Inevitably, by allowing criminals that commit crimes on minors we
56 jeopardize public safety and infringe the vow to keep our communities and youth
57 secured. As a result of the growing unrest of crimes committed by children, we
58 should be fostering initiatives that assure the preservation of our youth.

59

60 **Environmental Implications**

61 There are no environmental implications from the passage of this bill.

62

63 **Fiscal Implications**

64 Cost per prisoner in the state of New York amounts to \$65,355

65

66 **Effective Date** This act shall take effect immediately.