

2017

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Chair
Senator Jose Peralta, Vice-Chair
Senator Kevin Parker, Ranking Member

**2017 REPORT OF THE
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Chair
Senator Jose Peralta, Vice Chair
Senator Kevin Parker, Ranking Minority Member**

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February 9, 2018

Honorable John Flanagan
Majority Coalition Leader
New York State Senate
Room 330, NYS Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Flanagan:

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Energy and Telecommunications during the past year. I am pleased to submit to you the 2017 Annual Report of the Committee's activities.

New York State's energy and communications infrastructure is directly related to the economic vitality, education, health, quality of life and overall prosperity of our citizens.

I have been proud to work with all of the members of our Committee in a bi-partisan way to ensure the adoption of energy and telecommunications policies that benefit all New Yorkers. I would specifically like to thank Senator Kevin Parker, the Ranking Minority Member, for his hard work and dedication to the Committee.

I appreciate the confidence that you have shown in me and look forward to working collaboratively to address the important issues that we will encounter in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe", written in a cursive style.

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator, 47th District
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on
Energy and Telecommunications

Legislation

The Energy and Telecommunications Committee reported 31 bills from committee in 2017. Of the 31, 23 were reported to the calendar and eight were referenced to a committee of secondary reference.

In total, eight committee bills were chaptered into law.

Chapters

- **S. 688 Ortt** - Includes geothermal energy systems within the meaning of the term "qualified energy efficiency services" for purposes of on-bill financing under the Power NY Act of 2011.
- **S. 1121A Funke** - Creates a state information technology innovation center or iCenter to develop and demonstrate technology solutions with potential benefit to the state and its citizens.
- **S. 3745 Griffo** - Establishes the electric vehicle charging tariff.
- **S. 3746A Griffo** - Establishes the affordable residential green building program.

- **S. 4497 DeFrancisco** - Extends provisions of law relating to establishing the New York telecommunications relay service center.
- **S. 5190 Griffo** - Establishes the energy storage deployment program.
- **S. 5192 Griffo** - Relates to participation in the targeted accessibility fund.
- **S. 5990A Griffo** - Relates to funding the sustainable energy loan program and disbursements therefrom.

Passed Senate

- **S. 370A Ortt** - Establishes a biodiesel grant program for the agricultural production of biodiesel.
- **S. 1225A Griffo** - Establishes the New York State clean energy tech production program.
- **S. 2455 Hamilton** - Relates to providing the green bank funds including fund programs assisting certain building owners with installing energy efficient upgrades.
- **S. 3144 Ranzenhofer** - Relates to requiring the payment of small business grants within one hundred twenty days of notification of such funding.

- **S. 4423B DeFrancisco** - Directs the public service commission to conduct a study of reforming the energy vision.
- **S. 5126 Griffo** - Prohibits the authority from contracting or purchasing energy when such energy electric transmission line interconnects to a location outside of the United States.
- **S. 5549A Griffo** - Relates to maintaining the continued viability of the state's existing large-scale, renewable energy resources.
- **S. 6160 Parker** - Authorizes the New York State energy research and development authority to study significantly improving high-performance efficiency in commercial office buildings.
- **S. 6244 Bonacic** - Relates to patronage capital contributions, allocations and retirements.
- **S. 6336 Griffo** - Directs the state energy planning board to conduct a study of natural gas reliability.



Bills Advanced to Third Reading Calendar

- **S. 1755A Ortt** - Relates to the location of certain wind electric generation facilities.
- **S. 1854A Croci** - Relates to webcasting of public meetings.
- **S. 4264 Griffo** - Relates to reporting requirements for various classifications of gas leaks by utility corporations.
- **S. 6142A Peralta** - Requires telecommunications companies providing prepaid card services to provide certain levels of call quality.
- **S. 6335A Griffo** - Requires combination gas and electric corporations, the New York Power Authority, and the Long Island Power Authority to provide an annual transparency statement to customers.
- **S. 6399 DeFrancisco** - Provides that the public service commission shall require that all customers of electric and natural gas corporations shall have the opportunity to purchase electricity and natural gas from any supplier.

Bills Advanced to a Committee of Secondary Reference

- **S. 1295 Marcellino** - Relates to payments in lieu of taxes and impacts on school districts.
- **S. 2239 Parker** - Enacts the "Electric Super Highway Act of 2017."
- **S. 2513 Gallivan** - Relates to exemptions from sales and use taxes for certain fuel, gas, electricity, refrigeration and steam and gas.
- **S. 2705 Parker** - Exempts low-emission and energy efficient vehicles from retail sales and compensating use taxes.
- **S. 3254 Parker** - Provides that the use tax on heating fuels shall be suspended during winter months for certain low income senior citizens.
- **S. 5203 Funke** - Relates to public hearings following major power outages.
- **S. 5541 Griffo** - Relates to the powers and duties of NYPA with respect to energy-related projects.
- **S. 6159 Parker** - Relates to production credit for production of biomethane.

Public Hearings

On February 28, 2017, the Senate and Assembly Committees on Energy and Telecommunications held a hearing on the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant Shutdown.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the process and implications of the eventual closure of the Indian Point Energy Center and was an opportunity for legislators to ask questions about this significant development.

The Committee heard testimony from the Executive, Entergy representatives, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NYISO, local officials and labor representatives.

On December 5, 2017, the Committee held a hearing on the New York Prize Program. The purpose of this hearing was to gain insight on the logistics, cost and overall efficacy of the program.



Nominations

The Committee advanced the following nominations to the Senate Finance Committee:

John B. Rhodes, Commissioner and Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Diane X. Burman, Commissioner and Member of the Public Service Commission.

Philip G. Wilcox, Commissioner and Member of the Public Service Commission.

James S. Alesi, Commissioner and Member of the Public Service Commission.

Charles Bell, Member of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Sukanya Paciorek, Member of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Kate Fish, Member of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

John R. Koelmel, Trustee of the New York Power Authority.

Dennis G. Trainor, Trustee of the New York Power Authority.

Michael A. L. Balboni, Trustee of the New York Power Authority.



