

ASSEMBLY, No. 4606

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2018

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SYNOPSIS

Requires State to use 20-year time horizon and most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report when calculating global warming potential to measure global warming impact of greenhouse gases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning measurement of the global warming impact of
2 greenhouse gases and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. Whenever the Department of Environmental Protection,
9 Board of Public Utilities, or any other State agency calculates a
10 global warming potential for the purposes of assessing the global
11 warming impact of greenhouse gasses, the Department of
12 Environmental Protection, the Board of Public Utilities, or other
13 State agency shall use a 20-year time horizon.

14 b. Whenever relevant to assessing global warming impacts, the
15 Department of Environmental Protection, the Board of Public
16 Utilities, or any other State agency shall use the most recent version
17 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Assessment
18 Report, or a substantially similar, more recent report that addresses
19 global warming impacts at a comparably rigorous level.

20 c. Whenever the Department of Environmental Protection, the
21 Board of Public Utilities, or any other State agency performs a
22 socioeconomic impact analysis pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1968,
23 c.410 (C.52:14B-4), and that analysis involves the socioeconomic
24 impact of global warming, the agency shall use the lowest discount
25 rates that are consistent with federal guidelines, including the
26 federal Office of Management and Budget Circular A-94, or
27 successor guidance.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill would require the Department of Environmental
35 Protection and the Board of Public Utilities, or any other State
36 agency to use a 20-year time horizon to calculate the global
37 warming potential used to measure the global warming impact of
38 greenhouse gasses. The bill would also require the Department of
39 Environmental Protection or the Board of Public Utilities, or any
40 other State agency to use the most recent version of the
41 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Assessment
42 Report, or a substantially similar report, when relevant.
43 Additionally, the bill would require the Department of
44 Environmental Protection and the Board of Public Utilities, or any
45 other State agency to use the lowest discount rates that are
46 consistent with federal guidelines when performing a
47 socioeconomic impact analysis pursuant to the "Administrative
48 Procedure Act."

1 Different greenhouse gases can have different effects on the
2 Earth's warming, based on the gas's ability to absorb energy, and
3 how long the gas stays in the atmosphere. The "global warming
4 potential" was developed to allow comparisons of the global
5 warming impacts of different gases, and specifically measures how
6 much energy the emissions of one ton of a gas will absorb over a
7 given period of time relative to the emissions of one ton of carbon
8 dioxide. The larger the global warming potential number, the more
9 that a given gas warms the Earth.

10 The United States primarily uses the 100-year global warming
11 potential as a measure of the relative impact of different greenhouse
12 gases; however, some scientists use a 20-year timeframe. A gas
13 that stays in the atmosphere for a short amount of time will have a
14 smaller global warming potential when measured over a 100-year
15 span than when measured over a 20-year time horizon, and
16 inversely, a gas that stays in the atmosphere for a long amount of
17 time will have a smaller global warming potential when measured
18 over a 20-year time horizon as opposed to a 100-year time horizon.

19 Using the 20-year time horizon furthers a policy to address the
20 impacts of global climate change immediately, due to concerns
21 about how short terms changes in climate may create runaway
22 impacts on temperatures in the future. Current scientific research
23 increasingly raises concern for the potential for irreversible changes
24 in the progress of global climate change, such as the release of
25 methane from frozen tundra that could lock in the worsening of
26 global climate change.

27 The IPCC is the international body for assessing the science
28 related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the
29 World Meteorological Organization and United Nations
30 Environment Programme to provide policymakers with regular
31 assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts
32 and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC
33 assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels
34 to develop climate related policies. IPCC Assessment Reports
35 cover the full scientific, technical and socioeconomic assessment of
36 climate change, and undergo multiple rounds of drafting and review
37 to ensure they are comprehensive and objective and produced in an
38 open and transparent way.