

ASSEMBLY, No. 6238

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 20, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs BPU to establish rebate program for purchase of electric or battery powered leaf blowers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning leaf blowers and supplementing Title 48 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation or order to the
8 contrary, beginning with the next comprehensive resource analysis
9 conducted pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 12
10 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60) following the date of enactment of
11 this section, the board shall establish a program to provide rebates
12 to residents and businesses for the purchase of electric-powered or
13 battery-powered leaf blowers. In establishing the program, the
14 board shall take into consideration the environmental benefits of
15 reducing the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the State.

16 The board shall determine the appropriate level of funding from
17 the societal benefits charge for the rebate program, the types of
18 electric-powered or battery-powered leaf blowers eligible for a
19 rebate, and the form and manner for residents and businesses to
20 apply for a rebate. The board shall advertise the availability of
21 rebates pursuant to this section in the same manner that it advertises
22 the availability of incentives for the purchase of energy efficient
23 appliances through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program.

24 b. As used in this section:

25 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities.

26 “Gas-powered leaf blower” means a leaf blower that has a two-
27 stroke or four-stroke engine and uses gasoline or a gasoline and oil
28 blend as fuel.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to establish a
36 rebate program for the purchase of electric-powered or battery-
37 powered leaf blowers. In establishing the program, the BPU is
38 directed to take into consideration the environmental benefits of
39 reducing the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the State. The bill
40 requires the BPU to determine the appropriate level of funding for
41 the rebate program, the types of electric-powered or battery-
42 powered leaf blowers eligible for a rebate, and the form and manner
43 for residents and businesses to apply for a rebate. The board would
44 advertise the availability of rebates in the same manner that it
45 advertises the availability of incentives for the purchase of energy
46 efficient appliances through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program.
47 The rebate program would be funded through the societal benefits
48 charge.

1 Gas-powered leaf blowers emit high rates of pollutants,
2 including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides,
3 hydrocarbons, unburnt gasoline, and fine particulate matter. For
4 example, the amount of carbon monoxide emitted from a typical
5 backpack gas-powered leaf blower for just one hour is equal to the
6 amount of carbon monoxide emitted from the tailpipe of an
7 automobile operating for over eight hours, and, for the other
8 pollutants, the amounts are even greater. The chemical pollutants
9 that gas-powered leaf blowers emit may contribute to smog
10 formation and acid rain.

11 In addition to environmental consequences, gas-powered leaf
12 blowers are also associated with occupational health concerns.
13 Gas-powered leaf blowers send dust and other small particles into
14 the air for considerable distances, including, but not limited to,
15 animal feces, trace quantities of heavy metals such as lead, and
16 allergens such as pollen and mold. Gas-powered leaf blowers also
17 generate noise at a decibel level capable of causing hearing loss in a
18 short amount of time.

19 There are alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers, including
20 leaf blowers powered by lithium-ion batteries, which produce zero
21 emissions and less noise than gas-powered leaf blowers. This bill
22 would incentivize the purchase of these environmentally-friendly
23 models.