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BUDGET REVIEW



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
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### Inter-Departmental Memo

To: Hon. Richard Nicoletto, Presiding Officer  
Hon. Kevan Abrahams, Minority Leader  
All Members of the Nassau County Legislature

From: Maurice Chalmers, Director  
Office of Legislative Budget Review

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. Chalmers", written over the "From:" line.

Date: June 21, 2019

Re: Clerk Items 212-19

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Attached is a copy of the Fiscal Impact Statement for Clerk Item 212-19, which is on the Legislative Calendar for the June 24 hearing.

212-19: A Local Law to provide for environmental infrastructure, planning and development.



**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REVIEW  
MAURICE CHALMERS, DIRECTOR  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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**TITLE:** A Local Law to provide for environmental infrastructure, planning, and development.

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION:**

Solar energy infrastructure projects and the introduction of electric vehicles into County operations can have both environmental and financial benefits for Nassau County residents. Currently, Nassau County does not have a long-term plan for the introduction of solar energy installations and integrating electric vehicles into County operations. Proper infrastructure planning of electric vehicle charging stations and other solar installations must be carefully coordinated among various departments such as the Department of Public Works (DPW), Planning Commission, Office of Management and Budget, and Department of Shared Services. These projects will require inclusion in the Capital Budget and four-year Capital Plan. A new section will be added to Article XII of the County Government Law of Nassau County in which the Commissioner of Public Works shall:

- Evaluate County-owned properties to determine suitability for solar power and electric vehicle infrastructure projects.
- Develop and coordinate the strategic planning and development necessary for the construction of solar power and electric vehicle infrastructure projects and for the integration of an electric vehicle fleet into County operations.
- Collaborate with public utilities and pursue available grant funding or incentives for potential projects identified.
- Analyze the potential financial costs and benefits for all projects considered by the Department.
- Provide written status updates to the Nassau County Committee on Planning, Development and the Environment as requested by the Committee.
- No later than the 15th day of September each year, report to the Legislature potential projects identified pursuant to this section.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The implementation of this proposed local law could have an initial upfront cost to the County depending on the manner it is executed. However, over time these costs are expected to be offset by avoided / reduced energy consumption costs and/or the receipt of grant / incentive funds.

For FY 2019, the budgeted Major Funds utility costs are \$34.1 million of which light, power and water is \$15.5 million. With the implementation of these projects, it is expected that these costs would decline, or the future escalation of these costs would diminish. Additionally, the receipt of grant / incentive revenues could offset costs, reduce the payback period and make projects more fiscally viable.

OLBR contacted DPW for their input regarding the proposed local law and they confirmed that no current studies were available and that a new study would need to be initiated to determine the viability of solar energy and progressing towards using electric vehicles. DPW stated that in the past they found that working with third parties was expensive when considering their administrative fees and overhead which impacted the savings. Additionally, calculating the savings was problematic due to how the electric was metered for many of the County buildings. However, the department succeeded in implementing solar projects at two locations (1194 Prospect Avenue in Westbury and at Cedar Creek) under a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) program. The Administration researched using electric vehicles for its fleet about 10 years ago and found that limitations of runtime for the vehicles presented an adverse effect to County operations. However, technology has evolved, and this law would require that studies be done and presented to the Legislature in order to evaluate the final cost/benefit options.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

To the extent that the proposed local law generates new environmental infrastructure projects, it is expected that the projects will have a positive impact on local economic activity and jobs.

**PREPARED BY:**

Lamartine Pierre Jr., Legislative Budget Analyst

**SOURCES:**

Department of Public Works