



ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

S.6944 (Marcellino, et al.)

Summary

This bill would amend New York State Tax Law to provide a sales tax exemption for certain energy efficient appliances through April 1, 2013. To be eligible for the exemption, an appliance would have to meet the Energy Star criteria established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. Specifically, this bill would exempt the following appliances from sales tax if they have received the Energy Star designation: clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, freezers, programmable thermostats, and ventilating fans.

Explanation

Energy Star is a voluntary identification program designed to promote the use of energy efficient products. The Energy Star label is now included on more than 50 product categories, including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, and home electronics.

Home appliances account for a major portion of residential electricity demand and water use. Energy Star appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models. As a result, homeowners realize significant savings on their energy bills over the life of an Energy Star identified appliance. However, more efficient models such as these often require a larger initial investment on the part of the consumer.

By exempting certain Energy Star products from sales tax, this bill provides an incentive for New Yorkers to purchase more energy-efficient appliances. By encouraging the replacement of inefficient appliances with more efficient models, overall demand for electricity and the emissions generated by power plants providing that electricity will be reduced, resulting in improved air quality for all New Yorkers.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

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