



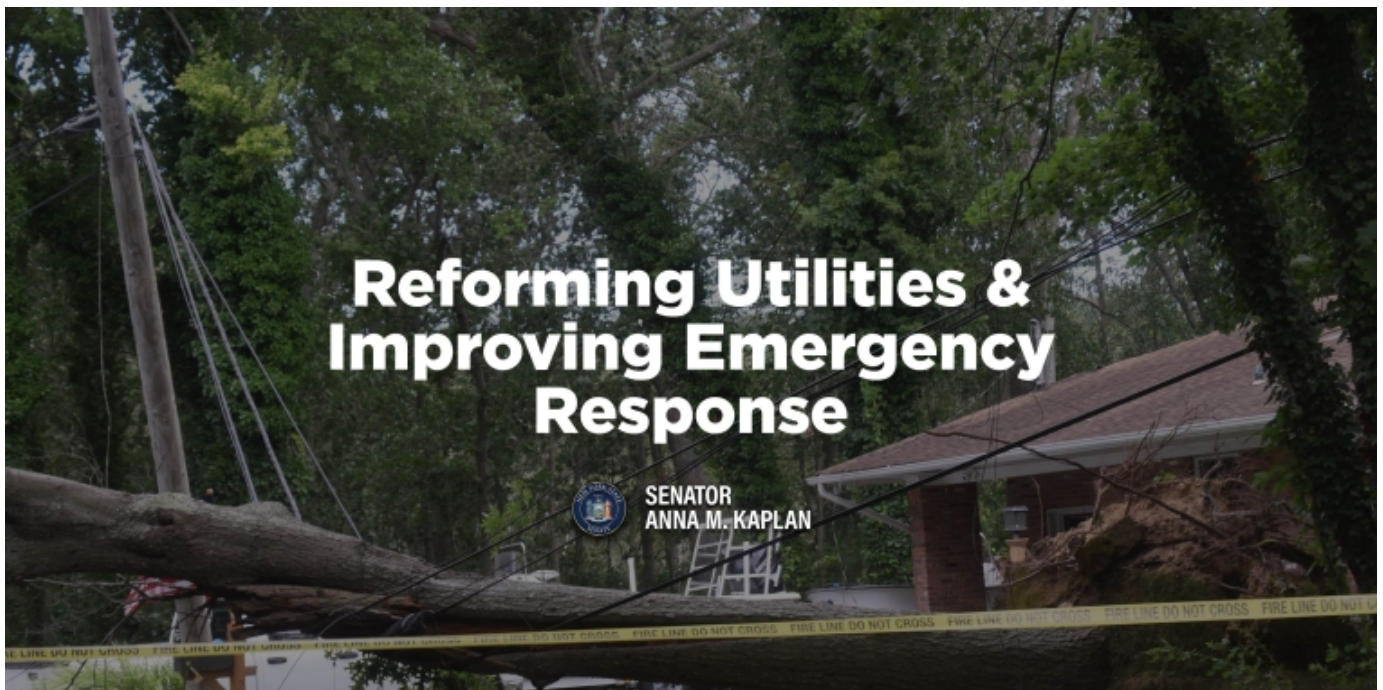
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

## With Hurricane Season in Full Swing, New Law Takes Effect in NY to Improve Storm Response Efforts by Utilities

ANNA M. KAPLAN July 25, 2022

| ISSUE: **TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS, EMERGENCY STORM RESPONSE, STORM RECOVERY, STORMS**



*Legislation by Senator Anna Kaplan was introduced following PSEG-LI's failed response to Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020.*

*The new law, which was just signed by the Governor and takes effect immediately, requires electric utilities to submit a plan for review on how they will coordinate with other responding entities during an emergency response situation*

**CARLE PLACE, NY (July 25, 2022)** – Last week, **Governor Kathy Hochul** signed legislation by **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-North Hills) and **Assemblyman Nader J. Sayegh** (D-Yonkers), [S.932a/A.3258](#), to improve storm response efforts by utilities and ensure that problems seen during the failed response to Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020 are not repeated in future emergency response situations.

**Senator Anna M. Kaplan** said "During PSEG-LI's failed response to Tropical Storm Isaias, we learned a lot of hard lessons about the importance of thoroughly planning for emergencies, especially coordination between all parties engaged in the restoration and recovery effort. I spoke to so many crews on the ground in the aftermath of the storm who were frustrated by what they saw as a total lack of coordination between other crews and other utilities who were needed on site in order to complete a repair and restore service. By planning ahead, we can ensure a better, more efficient response to the next big storm that hits our Island."

Following Tropical Storm Isaias, many impacted individuals, as well as many crews responding to the storm expressed frustration over the lack of communication that was occurring between the various entities that were responsible for the storm clean-up and restoration effort. It was a common occurrence that crews would show up prepared to fix downed lines, or remove downed trees, only to find themselves unable to complete their work as they waited for another crew to perform tasks that were needed to be done before they could undertake their own task. Workers who were in desperately short supply wasted precious hours waiting for assistance that in many cases never arrived, stalling the recovery effort and leaving residents without power, phone, internet, and cable for far longer than necessary.

The bill, [S.932a/A.3258](#), requires LIPA and electric corporations across New York State to include within their emergency response plans how communication and coordination of efforts shall occur between the electric corporation, their employees and hired crews, mutual

aid crews, other utilities, local governments, and any other entity performing services to assist such electric company.

The new law takes effect immediately.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2021-S932A

Energy, PSEG Long Island; Consumer Protection; Disaster Preparedness; Tropical Storm Isaias; Power Outages

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Requires the emergency response plan of an electric corporation to include plans for how the communication and coordination of efforts shall occur

January 05, 2021

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by [Anna M. Kaplan](#)

Do you support this bill?