

Supporting The Passage Of A09687/S07103A, Requiring Periodical Testing Of School Potable Water Systems And Sources To Monitor For Lead Contamination In Certain School Buildings

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, and Roberts), and The Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee (Chairman Wawro and Legislators Berky, Delaune, Donaldson and Lopez)

Legislator Chris Allen offers the following:

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that exposure to lead can lead to serious neurological damage and stunted cognitive development in children who have been exposed to unsafe levels of lead in drinking water, bathing water and within their environment; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has also determined that adults who have been exposed to unsafe levels of lead can suffer from cardiovascular problems including hypertension, increased blood pressure, decreased kidney functions and reproductive problems; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has further determined that corrective action should be immediately taken towards correcting sources of drinking water and bathing water where it has been determined that levels of lead exceed 0.015 milligrams per liter of water; and

WHEREAS, numerous schools and associative buildings where educational services and educational-based support services are conducted within the State of New York have been determined to exceed the unsafe threshold of 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water; and

WHEREAS, millions of school-aged children, young-adult students, adult teachers, administrative staff, parents and other members of the public are in contact with potable drinking water and bathing water within the thousands of educational-based and associative-based buildings on an annual basis within the State of New York; and

WHEREAS New York State Assembly Bill A09687, also known as the “Lupardo Bill”, and New York Senate Bill S07103A require school districts and cooperative education services within New York State to periodically test and monitor for levels of lead in their sources of potable water; and

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WHEREAS, A09687/S07103A also provide for State Aid to pay for the costs associated with periodical testing and the costs associated with remediation when it has been determined that unsafe levels of lead are found and remediation is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the new testing standards required by A09687/S07103A, and the sourcing of such State-based aid for such testing and remediation for detecting and remediating unsafe levels of lead in the potable water within educational-based buildings, will help to ensure that all students, teachers, administrative staff, parents and the general public will be less likely to be exposed to unsafe levels of lead within potable water within educational-based building within Ulster County and the entire State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature strongly urges the successful passage of A09687 and S07103A within the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Chair of the New York State Assembly Education Committee Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chairman of the New York State Senate Health Committee Kemp Hannon, and all of the Ulster County representatives of the New York State Legislature,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services on June 6, 2016

Passed Committee: Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services on June 13, 2016

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE