



A. 7892/S. 6317 (Englebright/Hannon)

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the septic system replacement fund

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 7892/S. 6317 (Englebright/Hannon), which would allow contractors, at the request of a homeowner, to be directly reimbursed by the Septic System Replacement Fund authorized by the 2017-18 State budget.

The 2017-18 New York State budget allocated \$75 million toward a Septic System Replacement Fund that will reimburse homeowners for up to 50% of the cost of installing a septic system or septic system improvement project that reduces septic system or cesspool runoff into groundwater and bodies of water. Areas that heavily rely on septic tanks often face water contamination from nitrogen and other contaminants that can leak into the groundwater and local bodies of water. New and upgraded septic systems can prevent contaminant runoff but can also be very expensive.

The Septic System Replacement Fund is intended to help homeowners upgrade or replace their septic systems. However, as the program is currently structured, homeowners would pay the upfront cost of a new or upgraded septic system and would be reimbursed for up to half the cost. Businesses that are used to running on an invoice cycle are able to make sizeable upfront expenditures with the guarantee that they will be paid for their time and materials purchased within 60 or 90 days - the same cannot be said of many middle-class families. By allowing contractors, who in most cases have greater financial flexibility than homeowners, to file for a reimbursement through the Fund, many more New Yorkers will be able to afford upgrading their septic systems and protecting their drinking water.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 7892/S. 6317.

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