



SUPPORT

A. 387-B/S. 6750 (Gunther/Hannon)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to disposal sites operated by pharmacies

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 387-B/S. 6750 (Gunther/Hannon), which would require chain pharmacies to implement collection programs for prescription medications.

Prescription medications are designed to alter or suppress biological processes in the human body. These effects can easily disturb the environment when thrown away in landfills or water waste. Multiple studies have shown that medication waste in water systems can negatively affect marine life. These, and many other possible effects, can harm delicate ecosystems.

Further, according to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, some compounds not easily removed during conventional wastewater treatments can persist in drinking water supplies and ultimately contaminate tap water. According to a 2008 Associated Press investigation, pharmaceuticals were found in the water of 24 major metropolitan suppliers.

A. 387-B/S. 6750 would require chain pharmacies to create easily accessible collection programs for unused prescription drugs. This would greatly reduce the negative environmental impacts of prescription pharmaceutical waste.

The New York League of Conservation Voters therefore supports A. 387-B/S. 6750 and urges its passage.

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