



SUPPORT

S. 7354/A. 9576 (Hannon/Gunther)

Drug Take Back Act

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 7354/A. 9576 (Hannon/Gunther), which would require drug manufacturers to operate drug take back programs approved by the Department of Health in order to safely dispose of unused medication. It would also require chain pharmacies to collect drugs on-site or by mail as part of manufacturer-operated drug take back programs.

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.

S. 7354/A. 9576 would require drug manufacturers and chain pharmacies to operate drug take back programs at no cost to consumers, thereby greatly reducing the negative environmental impacts of pharmaceutical waste.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 7354/A. 9576.

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