



SUPPORT

A. 3368-A/S. 742-A (Brindisi/Ritchie)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of chemical flame retardants

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 3368-A/S. 742-A (Brindisi/Ritchie), which would prohibit the use of chemical flame retardants in residential upholstered furniture.

Chemical flame retardants began to be added to residential furniture in the 1970s out of a well-intentioned and understandable desire to prevent house fires. However, we now know that chemical flame retardants are both ineffectual in suppressing fire and hazardous to human health. Exposure to furniture containing chemical flame retardants can lead to elevated levels of such chemicals in the bloodstream, particularly for children. When chemical flame retardants combust they are dangerous to firefighters and may be associated with an increased risk of cancer.

A. 3368-A/S. 742-A would ban the sale of new residential upholstered furniture containing chemical flame retardants and require residential furniture to meet a safer open flame flammability standard. This bill would protect the health of children and first responders.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 3368-A/S. 742-A.

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