



SUPPORT

A. 7429/S. 699 (Englebright/Hoylman)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the “Birds and Bees Protection Act”

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 7429/S. 699 (Englebright/Hoylman), which would prohibit the sale of certain neonicotinoid pesticides; and require the department of environmental conservation to review active ingredients of certain pesticides.

Neonicotinoids, also known as neonics, are a commonly used form of insecticide used in both agricultural and urban environments. These chemicals work by binding nicotine or “new nicotine-like” substances to insect nerve cells. Neonicotinoids have been tied to the continued inadvertant loss of pollinators as detailed in a 2020 study published by Cornell University.

A.7429/S.699 would ensure the protection of pollinators by banning the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on ornamental plants, and turf. It would also limit the sale, distribution or purchase by any person within the state of seeds coated or treated with neonicotinoid or any of the affiliated banned active ingredients. This prohibition would take effect in 2025 giving adequate time for the commercial seed marketplace to offer untreated seeds that comply with this legislation. While the bill limits access to these pesticides, there are cases where neonicotinoids will still be available, including in the use of some agricultural products and scenarios where DEC determines that the use of such insecticides are necessary to manage, control or prevent invasive species.

Protecting New York’s pollinators is vital to the health and wellness of all New Yorkers, for that reason the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A.7429 /S.699.

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