



A. 9545/S. 7268 (Gottfried/Rivera)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to school potable water testing

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 9545/S. 7268 (Gottfried/Rivera), which would require increased testing frequency for lead in public school drinking water, guarantee free tap water, remove the possibility of exemption from testing, lower the lead action level, ensure laboratory reports are disclosed publicly, and enforce training for sample collectors.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization, children are tremendously at-risk from the harmful effects of lead and there is no safe level of exposure. Lead poisoning causes long-term symptoms such as learning disabilities, aggravated behavior, and decreased cognitive ability. In 2016, 82% of New York schools tested found at least one drinking water source above the State action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead. A. 9545/S. 7268 would lower the standard to 5 ppb, closer to current scientific best practice. Presently, testing is only required “periodically”, but this legislation would require annual testing to further secure the health of all students.

Current state law exempts school from testing if their pipe materials are comprised of less than 0.25% lead, making them “lead-free.” A. 9545/S. 7268 would remove exemptions for these schools. It would also require lab reports to be accessible and posted online so that parents know the status of their children’s schools and require training for all personnel involved in testing to guarantee quality and accuracy. Lead contamination is a threat to children and exposure through drinking water may cause more children to become sick - this legislation would improve New York’s lead regulations and further protect children’s health.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 9545/S. 7268.

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