



A. 5779/S. 1028 (Ryan/Rivera)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the definition of elevated blood lead levels

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 5779/S. 1028 (Ryan/Rivera), which would lower the legal definition of elevated blood lead level from greater than or equal to 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood to greater than or equal to 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood.

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control lowered its definition of a blood lead level of concern from 10 micrograms per deciliter to 5 micrograms per deciliter, based on a growing scientific consensus that there is no safe blood lead level for children and that 5 micrograms per deciliter is the level at which an intervention is required to prevent irreversible harm. According to the CDC, in 2014 more than 8,000 children in New York State had blood lead levels between 5 and 9 micrograms per deciliter. Under current testing guidelines, these children do not receive the medical intervention they require to prevent the permanent negative health consequences of lead exposure.

A. 5779/S. 1028 would lower New York State's definition of elevated blood level to the CDC's recommended level and require that the Department of Health automatically consider further lowering the definition should the federal Department of Health and Human Services recommend a lower definition in the future. This bill would protect children's health and continue New York's national leadership in addressing lead exposure in children.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 5779/S. 1028.

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