



# SUPPORT

## **S. 4169/A. 4019 (May/Gallagher)**

*AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing local water and sewerage authorities to charge fees for surface runoff.*

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 4169/A. 4019 (May/Gallagher), which would amend the public authorities law to authorize local water and sewage authorities to charge fees for surface runoff.

A combination of climate change, increased strain on existing sewer infrastructure, and the growth of impervious surfaces in New York has resulted in an increased frequency of flooding and sewer overflows, stressing the importance of stormwater management. Stormwater fees have been imposed in more than 1,800 communities across the United States. But New York State law has failed to keep up with other states such as Pennsylvania and Maryland in stormwater management, with only one stormwater fee currently levied in New York State, in the city of Ithaca. In New York, stormwater management fees are merged with water bills which requires all property owners to effectively subsidize properties that contribute far more to flooding but use little potable water. Separating the costs of water usage and stormwater management ensure that stormwater runoff fees are distributed equitably.

S. 4169/A. 4019 would clarify statutory authority for water and sewer authorities to impose stormwater fees and create credits for infrastructure, create discounts on the basis of income, and create differential rates based on property classification. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 4169/A. 4019.

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