



SUPPORT

S. 4630/A. 5418 (Kaminsky/Englebright)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the regulation of chemicals in upholstered furniture, mattresses and electronic enclosures.

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 4630/A. 5418 (Kaminsky/Englebright), which would prohibit the use of hazardous chemicals contained in flame retardants to be used in upholstered furniture, mattresses, and electronic enclosures.

Flame retardants are a group of chemicals which are used on furniture and electronics in order to prevent fires. Unfortunately, these chemicals have numerous health and environmental impacts. Additive flame retardants are blended with the polymers in materials, and can leach into the environment through wastewater from manufacturing facilities or from disposal of these products, and can enter the human bloodstream from day-to-day exposure to flame retardant products. Once in the environment or the human body, flame retardant chemicals can be difficult to break down, so they can persist and accumulate for many years. Large-scale exposure to flame retardants are associated with negative impacts on the immune system, infertility, cancer, and adverse effects on fetal and child development. In addition, when flame retardants burn, such as in a house fire, they release carcinogenic chemicals into the air, threatening the health of fire fighters.

S. 4630/A. 5418 would ban halogenated, organophosphorus, organonitrogen, and nanoscale flame retardants chemicals in reupholstered furniture beginning December 31, 2022; in new mattresses beginning December 31, 2023; and in electronic displays beginning January 1, 2024. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 4630/A. 5418.

Contact:
Patrick McClellan
(212) 361-6350 x 209
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

