



SUPPORT

A. 6115/S. 5512 (Paulin/Rivera)

An act to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the "Lead Pipe Right to Know Act."

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 6115/S. 5512 (Paulin/Rivera), the "Lead Pipe Right to Know Act." This bill will make information about the number and location of lead pipes easily accessible to the public and decision-makers, so that state and federal resources can be secured and efficiently disbursed to local efforts to get the lead out of New York's drinking water by removing all lead pipes.

Lead is a poisonous heavy metal that causes significant adverse health effects, particularly in children and experts agree that there is no safe level of lead exposure. Drinking water is one pathway of exposure to lead and a common source of lead contamination comes from lead service lines (LSLs) which are the pipes that connect the city water mains under the street to residences.

In April 2023, the US Environmental Protection Agency estimated that there were 494,000 lead service lines in New York State. Based on this estimate, New York is believed to rank sixth among all fifty states when judged by the number of LSLs. However, a complete, reliable inventory of LSLs statewide does not exist yet. Policymakers need this information to understand the full extent of the LSL problem.

This bill codifies requirements by the US Environmental Protection Agency and guidance from the NYS Department of Health for each water utility to develop a comprehensive inventory of all of the service lines in its system by October 2024, and to regularly update those inventories with new information. It also requires the NYS Department of Health to make those inventories available on the department's website, and to create interactive maps allowing New Yorkers to easily learn their risk of lead exposure.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A. 6115/ S. 5512.

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