



NYPIRG SUPPORTS

LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM NO: -09 CONTACT: Laura Haight PHONE: 518-436-0876

A.7281

IN ASSEMBLY, BILL NUMBER 7281. INTRODUCED BY M. OF A. ROSENTHAL, ALESSI, ENGLEBRIGHT, PAULIN, LUPARDO, CAHILL, BROOK-KRASNY; (M-S): BOYLAND, BRENNAN, DELMONTE, DESTITO, DINOWITZ, GABRYSZAK, GALEF, GLICK, GOTTFRIED, KOON, V. LOPEZ, McENENY, MILLMAN, O'DONNELL, ORTIZ, PHEFFER, STIRPE, SWEENEY, TOWNS

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the public service law, in relation to enacting the healthy, safe and energy efficient outdoor lighting act

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

This bill establishes a comprehensive program in New York to limit light pollution and require energy efficient outdoor lighting. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with NYSERDA, to develop lighting efficiency standards for outdoor lighting.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

A great deal of energy is wasted due to inefficient outdoor lighting. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), 30% of the United States' outdoor lighting is reflected skyward or wasted. This waste results in both higher energy costs for providing the lighting and increased pollution from the power plants that generate the wasted electricity. The burning of fossil fuels contributes to acid rain, ozone-smog, soot, mercury pollution and global warming.

Energy efficient outdoor lighting fixtures direct light downward, to where it is needed, rather than skyward, where it causes light pollution and wastes energy. This legislation is an important energy efficiency measure that will save money for rate-payers and tax-payers alike, and fits in with the state's "15 by 15" goals of reducing energy consumption 15% by 2015.

NYPIRG strongly supports this legislation.