



Contact:
Alison Hirsh
New York League of Conservation Voters
NYS Policy Director
(212) 361-6350 x 209
ahirsh@nylcv.org

**Memo in support of
A. 7438 (Rosenthal)/ S.4364 (Marcellino)**

The New York League of Conservation Voters is writing in support of A. 7438 (Rosenthal)/S.4364 (Marcellino), to establish the “Health, Safe and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Act.”

Increasing scientific and experiential evidence demonstrates that misdirected, unshielded, excessive or unnecessary outdoor night lighting has major detrimental effects. Energy is wasted when illumination is used excessively and inefficiently, causing unnecessary health-threatening emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Such emissions also pollute the state’s waters and contribute to climate change. Misdirected and unnecessary outdoor lighting can invade privacy and lessen the enjoyment of owners of adjacent properties as it crosses property lines.

In this bill, NYSDEC, in conjunction with NYSERDA, would be required to develop efficiency and efficacy standards for new and replacement outdoor lighting by state agencies and public corporations, and to provide guidance for roadway and public grounds night-time lighting by local governments through the preparation of model ordinances.

This proposal defines light trespass – a term applied only to private property situations – and outlines a means for applying this principle in order to reduce fugitive, blinding glare. The measure also empowers the NYSDEC commissioner to identify particularly appropriate areas intended for the establishment of “dark sky preserves” to protect wildlife and enhance night sky viewing. New York residents would be informed of energy savings and other advantages of efficient and well-planned outdoor lighting through educational materials distributed via required billing notices by electric service providers.

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports this bill.

