



ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings: Major Benefit Substantial Benefit Beneficial

A.2654 (CUSICK, ET AL.) S.507 (LANZA)

Summary

This bill would require that New York City landowners be notified and hearings be held when an activity is proposed in a nearby wetland requiring a permit under Sections 25-0402 and 24-0703 of the state's Environmental Conservation Law.

Explanation

Wetlands are important for wildlife habitat, shoreline protection and flood prevention. They protect the state's water quality by filtering sediment, nutrients and other pollutants from runoff and also provide filtration for drinking water supplies.

Those living adjacent and nearby wetlands can be a wetland's best advocates. These neighbors recognize and understand the benefits that wetlands can provide, such as homes for birds and animals, as well as a wetland's ability to absorb stormwater runoff and prevent flooding. But all too often, nearby landowners are unaware that an application to develop in wetlands has been submitted until they see wetlands being disturbed.

This bill would strengthen New York's tidal wetland protections by requiring that hearings on an application be held within 60 days, as is already required for freshwater wetland permit applications (with certain exceptions). The bill would strengthen both tidal and freshwater wetland protections by requiring that property owners within 1,000 feet of New York City wetlands be notified by certified mail of the application and the public hearing.

This bill would require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to hold a public hearing on permit applications to develop in a tidal wetland in New York City, unless no local objection has been made to the application or the agency finds that the activity is minor and will not disturb the ecological integrity of the wetland. The bill provides for a local government or the DEC to hold a hearing on permits to develop a freshwater wetland.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

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